

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)

Dr S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of 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 !Nawatisseb	<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 Boois	<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>
Dr P Mushelenga (Mr)	<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 Uutoni	<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, Arts and Culture)</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)
Dr S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	(Prime Minister)
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	(Deputy Prime Minister)
Dr S Ankama (Mr)	(Deputy Minister)
Ms P Boois	(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>
Dr P Mushelenga (Mr)	<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 Ya Ndakolo	<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 Swartbooi	<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 Iipinge-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 P Haingura	
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
01 MARCH 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have been informed that Honourable Agnes Limbo has been appointed as the Chief Whip of the RDP in the National Assembly (*applause*) I think many will agree that, because of experience and long service as a Member of Parliament, she will make use of her experience in dealing with critical issues that require calmness and the ability to reason in order to find win-win outcomes. Congratulations.

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

TABLING: REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Town

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TABLING OF REPORTS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

Council of Khorixas for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not know I skipped the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I think technology has contributed to whatever happened, but I now call upon the Prime Minister please.

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the:-

- (i) Annual Report of the Public Service Commission of Namibia for the Year 2014/2015; and
- (ii) Annual Report of NIPAM for the Year 2014/2015.

I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We have done away with Reports and Papers. Notice of Questions? Honourable //Gowases, you have the Floor please.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

01 March 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON //GOWASES**

QUESTION 26:

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of March 2016, I shall ask Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Honourable Tjekero Tweya the following question:

My concerns are towards issues around service delivery by Telecom as a National Telecommunication Service Provider.

May I quote from the Budget Speech of Honourable Tjekero Tweya, the Minister of Information, and Communication Technology on Vote 29 delivered on the 22nd of April 2015, Page 14.

“All Namibians have the right to information and our SOE’s that are responsible for providing these services, will focus all their energies to accelerating service delivery for all our people in all corners of our beautiful country.”

According to the World Bank Report, technology has improved access to financial services in developing countries and have the potential to lift millions of our people out of poverty.

Let me quote an SMS from the *Republikein* dated 28 January 2016, from a frustrated customer.

“Wat gaan aan by Telecom? My Internet – Wi-Fi konneksie werk al vir 3 weke nie. Ek maak 20 oproepe per dag, maar daar is geen ‘Technicians’ om my te help nie, swakste diens in Namibia.”

Having said this, my questions are:

1. How is it possible that all these promises to ensure modern and reliable infrastructure, free flow and access of information to communities and increase network coverage to reach out to all corners of Namibia seems like a far-fetched dream to some Namibians?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KAPOFI**

2. How is monitoring and control of effective and efficient implementation of the policies and execution of duties done, if the final product does not reach our poor of the poorest societies?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON MEMBER: *Dankie Juffrou (laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Notice of Motions? I take note of the Minister for Presidential Affairs. You have the Floor.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 2nd of March 2016, leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of remuneration and other benefits to the President and his or her spouse, and the Vice-President, and his or her spouse; and to provide for incidental matters.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on to the next item - Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements. We move on to Honourable John Mutorwa.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT IN TERMS OF
RULE 89 OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BACKLOG OF
ALLOWANCE PAYMENT FOR CASUAL LABOURERS**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you Comrade Speaker for giving me the Floor to make a very brief Ministerial Statement.

Comrade Speaker, two weeks or so ago, you gave me an opportunity to provide some information in this House to the Namibian people with regard to the delays that were experienced in the paying out allowances to casual labourers – people who perform very important national duties and responsibilities during the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreak, and I promised to provide a Progress Report, which I am doing now today.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry wishes to notify the general public and labourers in particular, that the backlog of allowance payments for casual labourers who had assisted the Government and the Nation during the Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccination Campaign has virtually been resolved.

We did receive approximately 800 cheques from our Colleagues from the Ministry of Finance recently, for paying out to the labourers. These cheques were already sent to the Regional Offices of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry on the 18th and 19th of February 2016, hence, the casual labourers who assisted the Ministry during the FMD Outbreak are advised to collect their cheques at the said Offices in their respective areas of jurisdiction. I also handed over a cheque yesterday at one place, and when I look at the faces of the workers, they were very happy.

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I would, therefore, like to express our profound and sincere gratitude, first to my Colleague, Comrade and Friend in front of me here, Honourable Carl Gustav Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance who was very helpful. When I called upon him, he prevailed on his colleagues – and through you Honourable Minister, also to your officials, that at least we have in a way now resolved this very important issue. I would like to call upon those labourers who may still have some problems here and there, just to directly contact their Regional Supervisors so that we can attend to those issues that may remain and pay what is due to them. The Statement was signed by the long serving Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Abraham Nehemiah, and publicly conveyed through this Chamber, by John Mutorwa. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Minister, I must say that you undertook to do precisely that and, of course, in partnership with your Colleague, you have done it. All those who were interested in this particular subject matter will be delighted to hear the positive outcome. Thank you. I do not have anyone on my list, so we shall move on.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF
GOVERNMENT ENTERING INTO PUBLIC PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO
HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH ON PRIVATE AND STATE-
OWNED LAND**

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**DEBATE ON THE POSSIBILITY
OF GOVERNMENT ENTERING INTO PUBLIC PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
HON NUJOMA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the possibility of Government entering into Public Private Partnership with relevant stakeholders to harvest unwanted bush on private and state-owned land.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. When the House adjourned on Wednesday, the 24th February 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Muharukua. The Honourable Minister of Land Reform adjourned the Debate and I now call upon him to take the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker for giving me the Floor.

I rise to make my contribution to this important Motion tabled by Honourable Muharukua. When the Honourable Minister was motivating his Speech, I was just thinking aloud because I thought he was reading from a Report which was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and some partners, but nevertheless, when he was quoting the figures there, I think I have also read something about that from that Report that was presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and NAU – Namibia Agricultural Union.

I think comprehensive work has been done already, but it is a good thing. We have to unlock that great potential of invading bush. As a small farmer, I have been travelling around the country and I have seen some people embarked upon this de-bushing with their tractors and immediately thereafter, in the following, you see the resurgence of the same bush and new species coming out again. If one tries cleaning with the Bull Dozer, you will see the reappearance other species. There is the green bush, which comes out normally after you have cleaned and then the invader bush grows again. I think there is a lot of potential, which we can unlock,

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and sell these products. There is a lot of demand in the world – in Europe, they need coal and it is important that we strategise so that we can get the best prices.

I do not know, even with the normal de-bushing carried out by our labourers – I have a neighbour in our area who did that extensively for maybe four years but the bush grew back afterwards and with that came a new terrible green specie is very difficult to handle. We, therefore, need to devise strategies and conduct better research to see how we can really optimise on this very, very lucrative market, if we can create one.

Then the second thing I wanted to mention is the fate of our labourers who work on these farms. Perhaps we have to devise better ways to look after them. When one looks at them, you would say some of maybe contracted tuberculosis, these people look terrible.

It is a very, very important Industry for Namibia. We can unlock the potential, and as Honourable Muharukua was saying, we have a lot of cattle in the country and if we can get rid of this bush, we can create additional space for our animal to graze and multiply the animals, because the Meat Market is so important.

However, we need to work together, the Private Sector and the Government should work together to take advantage of this tremendous potential. We will be able to export more cattle to many countries, I understand that more countries are signing up as potential export markets for our beef. China is about to conclude their agreement. The United States of America also wants our beef. I remember when the Senators visited Namibia and they were very impressed with our beef in terms of the taste, etcetera. I heard the lady who just posed a question, Madam //Gowases was speaking Afrikaans and I wanted to say that, if you go to other countries, in Afrikaans – *die vleis smaak soos 'n lap. Daar is geen smaak nie, jy kan sous insit, of wat insit, maar dit smaak net soos 'n lap. N mens kan dit nie eet nie. So, ons het die beste vleis!* (Laughter)

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For those who never had the opportunity to study *Afrikaans die bombastiese taal* (laughter)

HON MEMBER: *Afrikaans die lewende taal!*

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: *Afrikaans die lewende Taal, yes.*

HON MEMBER: *Afrikaans ons Moeder Taal!*

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: *Nie onse Moeder Taal nie, ander mense se Moeder Taal (Laughter)*

What I was just saying is that when you go to some other countries and you taste their beef – it is terrible. It taste like a piece of cloth, there is no taste. I do not know what those animals graze on there. We have the best grass. It is, therefore important that we expand this Industry, making sure that we create more space, because the challenge now is that the land is getting smaller as the rain fall it is getting less and less every year.

We really have to sympathise with our farmers, give them the necessary support and the necessary subsidies for them to survive. That is one of the best ways to bring up our children. You know, some of us grew up in the an environment where we used to see the South African Police with their short Safaris on a daily basis – *met die lang kouse* (laughter) It is because they were eating proper beef while some of us would only manage to eat

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matangara now and then (*interjection*) No, not from the dumpsite
(*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: *Afvalvleis!*

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes, *Afval*. However, what I wanted to say is that – young man I support you. Let us look for better ways as to how we can utilise that we have and make sure that we benefit from the resources of this country, in that way, contribute to the GDP and economic wellbeing of our people, because the President is always telling us about the *Harambee* Policy.

We have to reduce the inequality in our country. We have to fight poverty and I think this is also a strategy that we can reinforce to fight poverty and make sure that we take good care of our children – so that they grow well and not stunted, in order for them to enjoy the benefits that we can create through this Industry. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Uutoni Nujoma, your intervention reminded me of something – I was at the farm over the weekend and my neighbour invited me over for cup of tea. We drove on his farm, the de-bushing you are talking about – I think you need to see this Honourable Members – on the one side where he has carried out de-bushing, you see how the grass is growing, but on the other side where he is still needs to de-bush, you see can see a thick bush. The grass is not growing the same way as on the side where he carried out de-bushing.

For farmers to flourish, manage the farm, to grow and be profitable, you

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need to carry out de-bushing, but it is not an easy exercise. It requires resources and the knowhow.

My feeling is – this is something that the Honourable Members need to witness with their own eyes what it means, for you to be able to appreciate. In a way, I am simply saying, I wish there is an opportunity for the Honourable Members to be invited to some big commercial farms so that you can see the benefit of doing something like this, however, I am not pushing the agenda. I am simply saying even that even for small farmers like some of us, de-bushing is becoming absolutely essential.

With that, I call upon Honourable John Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker for giving me the Floor to make a contribution to the Motion under discussion.

Well, I thank Honourable Muharukua for bringing the Motion to Parliament and for motivating it. I was not here, so I did not listen to your Motivation. Nevertheless, the subject matter of bush encroachment in our country is a national problem as we all know, which negatively and very seriously affect the carrying capacity of the land, including the productivity of cattle in particular, but also other livestock that are to graze on the grassland that has been encroached by bush. It is a national problem, everywhere you go, the farms are bushed encroached.

However, Honourable Muharukua – maybe you thought you are bringing a new idea that is very good to Parliament that people can refer to in the Hansard and say – *if Honourable Muharukua did not bring that to Parliament, nobody would have thought about it*, in that particular respect.

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However, I must inform you that you are unfortunately late, nevertheless, your contribution is appreciated. The Government has long been seized with this particular issue, not only seized passively – in 2010, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry also involving the farmers themselves directly, through the Agricultural Union and the Namibian National Farmers Union. After extensive research, deliberations and meetings, we were able to bring to Cabinet, which is the Government of the Republic of Namibia a Draft Policy on Rangeland Management and Strategy in our country, in 2010.

Cabinet did deliberate on that particular issue 2010, and eventually approved the document. I remember that I also brought that document here in the National Assembly for information and use by the Honourable Members. Since then the Agricultural Unions – NAU, NNFU, with the support of some other international organisations, have worked out an implementation strategy how to now to translate that strategy into an implementable programme. At the beginning of last month, February, I was able to address a workshop of these farmers in Otjiwarongo where they have invited different farmers, again to take this subject matter forward at a practical, level in accordance with that Policy on Rangeland Management and Strategy.

My contribution, as my Colleague who spoke before me, is simply to appreciate that the more we discuss this particular issue, the more awareness is created and it is in that particular respect that I would like to appreciate Honourable Muharukua for bringing the Motion here, because it only raises the importance of the subject matter, but also to create awareness among the general public that the issue of bush encroachment in Namibia is a national problem, particularly in a country that is producing beef for export to various markets.

It is important that we must find a way, both the individual level as the Speaker was saying that there are farmers who are really doing a lot on their individual farms, expensive as it is, because we are a beef producing country.

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Therefore, in as far as the referral of the Motion to the relevant Standing Committee is concerned, we from the Sector of agriculture welcome that. We have no problem. The only appeal that we would like to make is that that particular Committee, the Natural Resources Committee's Chairperson – I do not know who is the Chairperson – but all the same, we are saying loud and clear from this Chamber that it is a very important subject matter and I am very sure that the Honourable Members who serve on that Committee, in your consultations to get inputs from various Sectors, will only enrich what the Government is already trying to address on this particular problem.

It is not an issue that will require any politicking. It is a straightforward issue. If the bush is on the farm, you can see it is there, whatever Manifesto you would like to quote, it will not help you. I am just addressing Honourable Muharukua – it is a good Motion for us to deal with and I think the referral to that Committee is also very good, because it is an economic issue. The longer we take to find solutions to de-bush encroachment, the more problems we will encounter.

Comrade Speaker I just felt that I needed to say this:- We do not have any problem and I do not want to prescribe to the Committee, but there are people who are already doing something – the Namibian Agricultural Union and the Namibian National Farmers Union are doing quite a lot, therefore, when you are going to consult, please ensure that some of these people are among the first on your list to call and find out what they are doing and how Parliament can enrich and strengthen what they are already doing. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also stood up to give my moral support and everything to the Motion and to the important topic of bush encroachment.

I also thank the Mover of the Motion for bringing that Motion up, because now at least we are more informed about the problems that we are facing as a country as well as the respond that the Government is attempting to put in place to mitigate this serious matter.

Honourable Speaker, agriculture is a very critical Sector for Namibian economic development and I believe that as we speak now, we have not reached the fullest potential of agriculture. I also believe that industrialisation without food security is a serious challenge. We cannot industrialise, because you are not allowing people to be productive, since they are more concerned about their livelihood and what they are going to eat the next morning. Therefore, I think to tackle bush encroachment is no longer something that we have to think about, but it is something that we have to do.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, bush encroachment have reduced the productivity of land in Namibia by anything between 40% to 50%. Now what does that mean? It means that the land yield and the productivity of land has gone considerably down. That is forcing farmers who are in some of these areas where bush encroachment is becoming a critical problem to acquire more farmland, because the situation is such that, land that used to have a carrying capacity of 500 cattle, has now become so unproductive that it can only carry 250 cattle. If the farmer wants to maintain that level of capacity he will have no other choice, but to acquire another piece of land.

Therefore, it is a serious threat and this threat, in my opinion, can be turned into an opportunity. I think that is what Honourable Muharukua have stipulated eloquently that, it is important for us to tackle this issue, because it has become a national issue.

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Honourable Speaker, I also thank the two previous Honourable Ministers who spoke, because now we know at least that the Government is actually attending to this issue of bush encroachment (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Only now?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes, only now, because we are not in the Caucus. We do not caucus together, the caucus is an exclusive activity to that side.

It is very important for us, because Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry mentioned an intervention that took place in 2010 and we are now in 2016. Therefore, I think the more we wait, the more this problem is going to become unbearable. It has also been proven, Honourable Members, that this issue cannot be tackled by an individual farmer, because the cost is just too much and an individual farmer does not have the capacity to do so. That is why I support the Motion and I really think that it is also prudent for one to say that the acceleration of this Motion to come to a workable solution, is a must for Namibia, because sometimes we think that we are going to do well on industrialising Namibia, but the pre-requisites of industrialisation, in my opinion, is agriculture and is food security. Therefore, the more, and the faster we move towards food security, the quicker we can attain industrialisation.

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

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Hinda, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also rise to support the Motion.

Unfortunately, I was not here when it was moved and the Honourable Member promised to give me his submission that I have not seen. However, I would still like to make my contribution. I want to say that I fully agree that the combating of bush encroachment is an important matter. The invader bush substantially reduces the carrying capacity of agricultural land and also contributes to the desertification according to the Ministry of Environment. I just wanted to highlight that it has different stakeholders and there is lot of efforts being made in this regard.

Since we had a special fund that was heavily subsidised for de-bushing, at the time when I was on the Agribank Board in the late 90s, I am aware of the bush encroachment problem. One can access a loan at Agribank, perhaps the Honourable Minister of Finance can enlighten us on that, but at the time, one could access a loan on as little as a 4% interest rate, it was heavily subsidised because of its importance.

All I am trying to say is that it is not a new matter, there have been proposals by the Desert Research Foundation and I believe the National Planning Commission, also at the time when I was the Commissioner, I am aware that they have implemented a project to combat bush encroachment. Perhaps just to emphasise, the one of the Desert Research Foundation was mainly focused on a rural poverty reduction programme, because they included the aspect of de-bushing in the rural areas.

Of course, funding still remain the biggest challenge, but I think it could be revisited to see if, from a commercial perspective, the Agricultural Bank will not be able to avail funds, in case they have discontinued such a project.

I also want to add that, when you travel in areas that are adjacent to

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commercial farms and you are about to reach communal farms, by just looking at the grazing area and the bush, you can literally tell that you are about to entered the communal areas. All I am saying is that the need for bush encroachment is not only for commercial areas, in fact, a greater need exist in the communal areas.

I do see de-bushing as something that can contribute to employment creation, and thus, serves as an additional tool for poverty eradication. So many studies have been conducted to determine the cost/benefit for it. While I agree with the benefits that can be derived, I would want that further analyses are carried out to find the correct approaches to be taken so that it is not only limited to commercial areas, but also include communal areas, where the crisis is bigger and the need for de-bushing is much higher. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ithete.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, let me also join the Colleagues who are supporting Honourable Muharukua's Motion.

Honourable Speaker, I first want to start by saying that the Industry of those who are engaged in de-bushing is a commendable Industry, however, there is something that we do not do, and that is recognition. We do not recognise the colleagues or the fellow citizens engage in this Industry, especially the workers. Nobody speaks about their health condition, nobody speaks about their accommodation and nobody speaks about the risk that they are taking when carrying out de-bushing activities. What do of the workers do with these bushes after de-bushing? Some of them engage themselves in Charcoal Industry, which results into veld

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fires, and again, one needs to take into account the considerable amount of smoke that is inhaled by these workers, but we do not give as much attention to them as we do with mining, for instance. When it comes to mining, nobody will be allowed to go underground without a wearing a helmet or the safety boots. Nobody is allowed to fish in the deep sea without safety clothes. However, when you go around our farms, you will find people performing jobs that risk their health without wearing any protective gear, and this happens every day. Farmers do not look after their workers although activities such as de-bushing that the workers carry out, increase the value of their farms, grazing, increase productivity, as well as the carrying capacity of their farm. They make more money, but do not pay their workers additional money to compensate for the risk they take with their health.

I am in supporting of your idea for the Government to subsidise this initiative, but there different avenues and facilities in place to assist Government in some of these areas, for example, Agribank that was just now alluded to. This is one of the ways Government is trying to assist our people in the Farming Industry, where they can go to Agribank and acquire loans at low, affordable repayment rates..

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I wholeheartedly support the Motion, with a proposal that those who are facing challenges can approach Agribank as a Government Institution, which is ready to assist. Thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for

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giving me the Floor. Like Honourable Mutorwa has said, this is a topic that comes a long way, this is by no means a new topic.

Comrade Speaker, I am rising to bring the issue a little bit in context. If we merely discuss this Motion in terms of a possible Subsidy Scheme, which I take is the main course we are taking, then we are falling far short of what is needed to be done to improve our productivity in the Livestock Sector. I am saying that, Comrade Speaker, because there has been extensive research on the causes for bush encroachment and the overwhelming evidence is that the main causes are the current farming practices. It is not caused by desertification or climate change or whatever, but by the current farming practices. What happens in a simplified way – you put cattle onto a piece of land and the cattle eat grass, and by replacing all the animals that were normally in that ecosystem, that eat bush, you have a factor that disadvantages the growth of grass and advances the growth of bush significantly. This scenario simplifies what is happening.

Therefore, the farming practice is the cause, whether that is correct or not it does not matter, but it is farming practices that need to be addressed. The research also looked into a whole host of ways on how to fight bush encroachment. Mixed farming, for instance, with goats, game and cattle has been used, they used fungal diseases or they sprayed these species with agents that cause diseases in the plants and the plants die. They used herbicides, mechanical methods, fire – they used many different methods to fight bush encroachment. What makes it more complicated is that it is not only a single plants specie, but a variety of plants species that invade and encroach when the ecosystem is changed.

I, therefore, think that the covenant of bush encroachment must be dealt with in a very integrated and concerted manner to get rid of it. However, we must start with the farming practice, because as Comrade Utoni said, if you have cleared your piece of land from bush and you do not manage it, ten years later you have the same problem. You have a *de facto* waste

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your money and your efforts to fight bush encroachment. I think that is an important aspect we have to look into.

The second aspect that I want to raise is that bush encroachment is portrayed as if it is just a curse or as a problem, but I believe that it can be turned around into an opportunity. It is a resource that can be utilised to the economic benefits of the farmer and there are a number of ways to do that. There are examples where these invader bushes were converted into cheap wood and they make furniture out of it. We have Scandia Kitchens in Windhoek that use acacia cheap wood to make very beautiful kitchens. This wood can use for charcoal production and as firewood. It can also be used for biogas or fuel – Ohorongo Cement and the Tsumeb Smelter use that.

When we talk about financing it, it is not necessarily a subsidy that is needed, it can finance itself and one can even make profit out of it, if one utilise that resource properly.

Thirdly, the Motion proposes a PPP approach and I do not quite understand what it means, unless you mean that the Public Sector pays and the Private Sector gets the money and the gain. I do not think that that is what one needs to necessarily propagates. A PPP arrangement is ideal where we have a win- win situation – where the Public Sector gains and the Private Sector gains, that is, where there is overall economic gain. For me, the best approach to tackle this resource or this problem, is to build an Industry around it, and if there is some need from the Government or its entities to assist the creation of that Industry, that would justify the financial support, but also support in term of capacity and otherwise. If you just put money into the removal of the bush and think you have solved the problem, I think you are far from the truth and you are probably going to engage in a wasteful exercise rather than a beneficial one. If we talk about PPPs, my suggestion would be that it has to be in the direction of creating an Industry, creating economic opportunities for the poor, for the communal farmers or the communities that live around the area where this

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resource is in abundance, and that we have value as much as possible to this resource.

Honourable Speaker, I think the question that arises is – what is the Standing Committee going to do with the Motion? I am not so sure whether that approach is the correct one. My proposal would be to refer that back to the Ministry of Agriculture, because that is where the Institutions are that did all the research. There are a host of papers that need to be looked at, that informs what the research has shown and what the possible ways are to address this matter. We can then take the next step and either ask the line Ministry or a combination of entities to formulate a Policy around the utilisation of this resource. I do not really understand what the Committee is going to do with it than just to debate on it and bring it to the House, my concern is that there will not conclusion on that. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Esau.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker for the Floor. At the outset, let me first declare my interest that I am also a farmer and a victim of bush encroachment in the area where I am farming.

Secondly, I would also like to register my support to the Mover of this very Motion – the Motion of debating on the possibilities of Government to enter into Public Private Partnership with relevant stakeholders to harvest unwanted bush on private, as well as State-Owned land.

To my recollection, when I was still the Deputy Minister of the then Ministry of Trade and Industry, a study was conducted by the very

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Ministry on this very issue, that is, bush encroachment. This study done in collaboration with the National Development Corporation (NDC). I, therefore, propose that when the Committee to which this Motion is to be referred to, is going to meet, they should perhaps try to at least call in the Ministry of Trade and Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, for the Committee to be informed about the study and the conclusion of that very study.

Getting to the Motion itself, I believe that the Public Private Partnership Terms of Reference should be properly defined. We know that when you talk about Private Partners, they have their mode of doing business, and Government is also having its way of doing business. As Government, we want to see that at least in this specific relationship, jobs are created. Therefore, when you talk about fighting this bush encroachment, it should be labour intensive. We do not want to see that you introduce capital-intensive methods of fighting these bushes. We also want to benefit in that sense by creating jobs to at least fight this unemployment that we are faced with.

I know that people will talk about productivity, they will talk about efficiency, but we should also look at how we can fight this burden of unemployment and the evil of crime at the end of the day.

Getting to the funding – I think in this relationship, this matter was touched on by the previous speakers. We have the SME bank, the Development Bank and, we have the Agriculture Bank. The funding should really be mobilised from those very Institutions, but when you fund a project like this, where we have Private and Public Partners, this funding should go hand in hand with training in terms of capacity building. At least people should know that when funds are availed for such a project, they should know how to apply those specific funds. They should not go out and then start buying luxury item, they should rather spend the money on the tools that are required and on their wages or salaries that they need to earn from this venture.

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Lastly, in fact, I once more, want to register my support for the referral of this Motion to a Committee as it was supported by the Line Minister of Agriculture. I am supporting this as well, because that is where you can bring people on board and get their inputs on this very Motion and it would have been enriched by the time it comes back to the House. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also want to declare my interest (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: You are not a farmer.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: However, as it was just now declared, from that side, I am not a farmer.

Honourable Speaker, bush encroachment was discussed extensively in this House. I want to zoom in on Public Private Partnership and on that one, I just want to refer to the Honourable Minister's Speech on the Budget, on Page 7 and it that says – "*the Public Private Partnership legislation is due for tabling in this House once the legal certification process is finalised...*" and it goes on.

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Yes, we may discuss Public Private Partnership without having any guidelines. Once we have gone through that proposal by Honourable Minister of Finance, we will have a framework of Public Private Partnership where we can unlock all sorts of potential in this country. Two things I want to mention is that in these PPPs, we need very innovative thinkers - people who can think of all sorts of things and then apply their minds and come up with a winning formula of creating products.

The second one is – opportunities are also available to Namibia and Namibians within the Public Private Partnership, but as Honourable Esau said, each has its own objective of how they operate. I think when that Policy or legislation comes, we will have the definition or a pathway on how to proceed with this engagement between the Public and the Private Sector. Finally, I just like to reiterate your words Honourable Esau, that it must be a win-win situation, because if one partner is winning and the other one is losing, it will be a divorce, and an ugly divorce.

Our Private Sector as well as our Public Sector need to look objectively at how they want to fulfil their sometimes-opposite objectives of doing business, but we need to go through this path with the definition that we will get through a Policy and Legislation that is coming, to which we will also add our input, as well as encouraging our people to think innovatively so as to come up with various solutions and various industries, and to take the opportunity without exploiting each other.

With these few words, I support the idea – I know that bush encroachment is very specific, however, I am not talking in general, but about Public Private Partnership opportunities and the way forward. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Kandjoze.

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HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first also add my voice to the support of the Motion and I also declare my interest as a farmer.

However, I am actually rising to add my voice, particularly from the perspective of energy creation and energy self-sufficiency. The invader bush as per the argument of Comrade Calle Schlettwein is harvested, can be pelletized and used as an input to power generation.

There is immense potential for us as a country that does not produce most of the energy generation modes, except for the sun and the wind that we have in abundance. A private investor conducted extensive studies on invader bush in the Otjozondjupa Region that looked at the cycle from harvesting that invader bush in a particular spot, clearing almost all of that particular communal land, pelletizing that, putting up a power station, and the source of that generation is the invader bush. Our country could, therefore, look at that very source as a mixture of power generation in future. Certainly, this way of using that invader bush has illustrated that on a 15 years cycle, from start to almost clearing a defined area, by which year you are almost finishing, you start from scratch. So, you have a perpetual source of bush that you can harvest to actually use the same piece of land for pelletizing that invader bush. The opportunities are enormous for labour and job creation. There are absolutely great opportunities to spread such harvesting through all the communal areas and all farm land at broad based level.

From the Ministry of Mines and Energy's viewpoint and myself, this is a project that should be looked at and investigated from a Private Public Partnership perspective, such that, if Government is to be involved, this is one source that can produce and give us energy self-sufficiency amongst many others.

I, therefore, rise to support that, and perhaps at the Committee stage, there is enough ground to cover with entrepreneurs in the country who have

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undertaken enough studies and are currently still busy with further research. Certainly, opportunities present themselves to those who own land to seize them and say – *I am making my buck here today*. Those logistics should be carefully looked at and brought into the framework of our Law. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Nekundi.

HON NEKUNDI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, I rise to contribute to the Motion as presented by Honourable Muharukua.

In supporting that Motion, I think it is very important that this subject matter is brought to this House, considering the understanding from the Minister of Agriculture, water and Forestry, Comrade Mutorwa, that extensive research has been carried out in this area to manage bush encroachment.

What we are all agreeing here is that harvesting invader bush is an economic factor in itself, that requires attention. At the same time, we all agree that it is one area that is capable of creating the much needed employment in general, but particularly for the youth who are struggling to make their ends meet by trying to find employment out there. I think this is a critical element of the Triple P – Public Private Partnership, which involves two stakeholders, that is, the Public Sector and Private Sector.

The State or the Public Sector, of course, has an interest to ensure that employment is created, our economy is diversified and this Industry is well managed.

Industries of such nature, if well managed, have the potential to export

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some of the commodities that the country will have in surplus to other foreign markets that would enable our country earn foreign currencies and at the same time, help to narrow our trade deficit, as well as narrow the balance of payment that our country is very much in need of.

We must also understand that, if this Industry is well managed and well coordinated, it will have a whole range of value chains which will in turn create a lot of economic spin-offs. The same industry will be able to diversify our economy, in meat production, charcoal production, energy production, etcetera. This Industry will also create a substantial revenue stream that will benefit the State and help enhance infrastructural development. The State will also be in a position to create an environment where – the Charcoal Industry, and other Industries that will be established as a result of harvesting invader bush – are regularise for the Private Sector, which obviously brings about well established and managed Industries where employees are ensured of secured jobs, well protected in terms of their health and are well remunerated in accordance with the with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.

I have just learnt through the contributions of my Colleagues that this bush encroachment is recurrent, meaning that the invader bush grows again after being harvested. This is an indication that indeed, we have an Industry that will be able to sustain itself, and by so doing, create a sustainable economy with sustainable jobs and, of course, sustainable earnings. At the end of the day, we will be able to create jobs for our people who are so much in need.

In that regard, I will possibly agree with Honourable Calle Schlettwein (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Who?

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HON NEKUNDI: Yes, that one – that if we all agree that the research has already done, and it has great potential for our economy and all the related to matters that are important to our country, then it is crucial that we expedite the process, by pushing this Motion to the Line Ministry in order for the Ministry to coordinate with other Agencies of the State, such as the Ministry of Poverty Eradication, Agribank, as well as the Private Sector. We could also include the Namibian Development Corporation (NDC) to create, where possible PPPs that would result in the establishment of relevant Industries in strategic places around the country.

Having said that, I support the intention of the Motion, and moving forward, I suggest that we follow Comrade Calle's proposal. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes, Honourable Minister, you have the Floor please.

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

Honourable Members of the National Assembly, this topic is very important for us, the Public and Private Sectors, as well as for our workers in Namibia. Most of us are in agreement that the Private Sector and the Government are speaking the same language – that of ensuring food security for our country. Both the Government and Private Sector will be happy when the country's overall production increases and food security is taken care of.

It is also very important that sustainable jobs are created that will enables

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our workers put bread on their tables at the end of the month.

The fourth factor worth considering is that of the power generation, as was eloquently explained by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. The Private Sector and the Government are both in need of energy, which means that we have a common goal and have the willingness to engage in initiatives that will create a win-win situation for both parties.

The other issue that we probably need to consider is how we can collaborate in Public Private Partnership initiatives. As owners of sizeable farm land and owners of the wood, since they are overwhelmed by bush encroachment, the Private Sector requires funds to turn the challenges that they are faced with into profitable and beneficial opportunities
(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes? Point of Order – Honourable John Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Minister, may I pose a question?

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Yes.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Now on the issue of who owns the wood on the farms – in the communal

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areas, where we all come from, who is the owner of the wood there and how did it come? *(Laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: Let him answer.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: If I have the title deeds or a lease agreement and I have fence around that land, the wood on that land is automatically mine. I can definitely use that wood for my own production, it is mine. When it comes to a commercial farm, the wood would still be mine.

However, the issue that I want to talk about is the commonalities that exists between the Government and the Private Sector, where everyone is eager to solve problem, because both parties are willing to meet each other half way where everybody, that is, the Government, the Private Sector and workers emerge as a winner.

My emphasis is on that we need to think out of the box as opposed to our old way of thinking that Government cannot give funds to the Private Sector. As I said earlier, the Private Sector and the Government's goals are centred around production and food security. These are the common goals that I am talking about. But we have to think about how we can benefit from each and ensure that each one wins at the same time.

Government should thus, avail funds to the Private Sector. Private Sector can in turn invite the Government to assist with proper organisation of the workers, so that, once the invader bush that belongs to the Private Sector of the farm owners has been harvested, it automatically becomes the property of Governments. The Government will then be entitled to use it

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for energy generation purposes and everybody will be benefiting. Everybody will be able to make money and nobody is going to lose, whatsoever. The energy will be available and the employees will also receive their fair share in terms of the employment that is so created. Since this will ensure an increase in production, it will ensure that everybody is happy. Nobody will be saying – *I have lost money*, or something of that sort.

That is the main reason why I am saying, let us think out of the box so that we can come up with the best possible solutions to assist each other, but more importantly, make sure that everyone benefits, food security is attained, the production capacity is increased, money will be flowing to all stakeholders and sufficient energy is generated to meet the country's energy requirements. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members..

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

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I first have to apologise because I missed the opportunity when the Motion was introduced.

However, I am just wondering, when we are talking about encroachment – who is actually encroaching on what? Is bush encroaching on us or are we as human beings encroaching on the bush? (*Laughter*) I have a specific reason why I am asking this question, Honourable Speaker. One of the reasons why we do not get rain is because we are destroying plantations. We call this names like bush encroachment and invader bush – but invaders on what, if the bush was there before us.

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I think we need to be careful, especially in this era that we are overwhelmed by climate change, so that we do not get bogged down in discussion that are literally have destructive effects to our plantations, and consequently to our environment through contributing to increased carbon emission. We are all aware that the carbon dioxide that we breathe out is used by the plant to make food and then in the process the plants generate the oxygen that we breathe in. It is a true fact.

I was just reading small book written by a Professor at Cambridge, and that Professor was literally angry at humanity, that we are the most selfish specie on earth, which is completely inconsiderate of other species. Five species have been extinct from the face of the planet, we are facing the sixth extinction, and we are suspecting that it may be caused by humanity, one way or another.

My Colleagues, without being politically biased, I want to caution that when we talk of chopping down plants, we must consider planting plants. This is the remark I wanted to make. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think it is maybe the reason why most of you have recommended that the matter must be referred for further investigation, to be assisted by research and further input by other stakeholders.

I think you are more or less in line because that sort of input will come in at the point where there is a further reflection on this particular topic. Whether we refer it to a Committee, the Line Ministry, etcetera. That is the aspect that I want to take up with the Mover of the Motion.

However, for now, in the absence of further contributions, I would like to call upon Honourable Muharukua to reply.

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HON MUHARUKUA**

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Perhaps at the outset, I would like to express that I am indebted to the sort of contributions that the House has made, more so, because this issue is an issue that affects all of us in one way or another.

I for one, do not possess a free-hold land, I do not own a farm, therefore, I have no conflicting interest in this regard.

However, be that as it may – *Honourable Mutorwa*, in fact, I wish that the Honourable Minister was here when I moved the Motion, but unfortunately, the day that I moved the Motion, he was here and then he left. (*Interjection*)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
I had to run out to attend to urgent matters.

HON MUHARUKUA: Oh, is that so? Good. I have actually acknowledged that the Motion is not reinventing the wheel at all. The Motion is proposing to bring together two initiatives that are existent exclusively, one being by trade and the other by farmers, by pulling them together with the energy and the imagination of the youth, in order to embark on a Mass De-bushing Project.

One is not hoping to gain any sort of credit for brining the Motion to the House, however, I believe that we will win collectively if we champion the development and environment of our people.

One aspect that most of the Honourable Members did not touch on is the aspect that the Honourable Minister of Fisheries touched on, and that is

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the aspect of job creation with a point in mind that must be labour Intensive, but not only must it be labour intensive, it must also be semi-mechanised. I used the example of the Charcoal Industry to say that, if we increase our Charcoal Industry fourfold, thereby adding semi-mechanised ways of doing things, we could actually create 21,000 jobs for Namibians. The Motion actually looks at that.

Perhaps most of the things that were said in support of what I indicated in the Motion, I still happened to think that it is prudent and it is only right that Parliament investigate and engages all the stakeholders, including the Government through the Committee and refer it back – if the Committee sees it fit that the discussions must commenced on the issue, that it should be so done after the Committee had duly consulted, and that should then give Parliament the opportunity to discuss.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. If I understood you correctly, I think you are saying, let the matter be referred to the relevant Committees and there it will involve all stakeholders, including the relevant Ministries that should have a major role in further deliberations of this important topic. Is the House in agreement that we should do that? Thank you very much.

However, I also wanted to say Honourable Muharukua, I also thought that Honourable Mutorwa, Honourable Schlettwein, a couple of other Colleagues and Honourable Ithete made very useful contributions. They highlighted some issues that I thought should not be lost, and I am just quickly going to summarise them.

I liked the emphasis on the need for coordination with all stakeholders. No one should be left out, and we should actually have a check list of the

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need to make sure that we do that, and in particular, the Agricultural Union. There was also a very strong emphasis on the need to look into the wellbeing of the workers. In other words, we need to bring out those aspects relating to the conditions of the men and women who work in this Industry, the Farming Industry.

Then I also liked the question of farming practices – As the Honourable Minister was speaking, I was actually looking at myself on the question of overgrazing and overutilization of the land to a point where it is no longer profitable. Those are the obvious issues, but I mean there are so many others as well. I, however, thought it is worth highlighting some of those issues.

The Motion, therefore, stands referred to the relevant Parliamentary Committee. Do we have any timeframe? We live it to them to deliberate, maybe we do not want to put pressure on them, and then they report back to the House in due course. Agreed? So decided and is done. Yes, Honourable Ithete please.

HON MEMBER: We are done!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have noticed that there is a mix-up with the time that is allocated to different Political Parties on the timetable that was provided. Can we maybe ask the officials to correct that?

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HON SPEAKER: Can we take it up informally with the officials? I am sure we will be able to correct that.

Honourable Members, I think we should call it a day. Can I suggest that we adjourn the House and reconvene tomorrow, at the usual time?

The House stands adjourn until tomorrow, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:10 UNTIL 2016.03.02 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
02 MARCH 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Yes, we put that aside and move on. Oh, yes, Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: I will come to that in a little while.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Okay, thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The First Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**FIRST READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON KAPOFI**

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you
(*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Bill first, Honourable Minister.
Thank you.

The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

**FIRST READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL [B.2 – 2016]**

HON SECRETARY: Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill
[B.2 – 2016].

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Does the Honourable Minister Move that
the Bill be now read a Second Time?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I so Move,
Honourable Speaker.

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**SECOND READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON KAPOFI**

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Minister to take the Floor.

**SECOND READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL [B.2 – 2016]**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Yesterday I moved the Motion in which I announced my intention to table the *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill* [B.2 – 2016] today. I thank you for giving me the Floor to table the Bill.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the payments of remuneration and other benefits to the President and his/her spouse and to provide for incidental matters. Once promulgated, it will repeal the *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Act, 2012* (Act 15 of 2012), which did not make provision for the remuneration of the Vice-President, because the position of Vice-President did not exist then.

The Bill was drafted to bring into effect, the Provisions of *Third Constitutional Amendment Act* of 2014, which provides for the appointment of the Vice-President by the Head of State. In accordance with that Law, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, designated Dr Nickey Iyambo as the Vice-President of the Republic on March 11th 2015.

Some of the main Provisions in the Bill include remuneration payable to the President and the Vice-President, allowance payable to the Presidential Spouses and Medical Aid. These disbursements will be made out of State Revenue Funds and will be exempted from tax.

Honourable Speaker, our Government is committed to transparency and

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**SECOND READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON KAPOFI**

accountability. It is for this reason that the remuneration of our Head of State and Vice-President is subject to Debate here in our Parliament by the elected representatives of the Namibian people. This is in line with the principles of checks and balances as provided for in the Supreme Law of the land.

Last year, some Members of this year raised questions about the legality of the remuneration of the Vice-President since no legislation to that effect was in place. I wish to reassure the Honourable Members that nothing unlawful or illegal was done. To ensure that nothing untoward is done with respect to the remuneration of the Vice-President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob issued a Proclamation through which the Vice-President was declared as a Political Office-Bearer in terms of Section 8 of the *Public Office-Bearers Remuneration and Benefits Commission Act, 2005* (Act 3 of 2005). This made it possible for a determination to be made regarding the Vice-President's remuneration and benefits. This Bill, which I am tabling today will give full legislative effects to the action taken by the President last year.

Comrade Speaker, it should also be noted that in determining the remuneration of the Vice-President at that time, the President acted on the basis of the recommendation by the Public Office-Bearers Remuneration and Benefits Commission, which recommended that, with effect from 21st March 2015, the basic salary payable to the Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia be 10% above the remuneration payable to the Prime Minister of the country. The Bill proposes that the remuneration payable to the President be at 15% above the remuneration payable to the Vice-President.

Comrade Speaker, I wish to emphasise that the promulgation of this Bill establishes a legislative framework for the remuneration of the Vice-President and his spouse as contemplated in the Proclamation issued by the President last year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the subject matter of this Bill

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**SECOND READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON SHIXWAMENI**

has been raised from this House before. In September last year (2015), I provided significant details on this matter in my reply to questions raised by Honourable Venaani.

Since this is a straightforward subject, I appeal to the Honourable Members to favourably consider this Bill. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you once again for your attention. I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. That was short and sweet. Any further discussion? I have the Honourable Shixwameni - you have the Floor.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to ask the indulgence of my Commissar, so that we discuss and finalise this Bill on Tuesday, next week?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. If there are no other comments, I know that that may coincide with the Budget Debate, but if we could have that as the first item, maybe we could clear the way. I know the timetable is going to be a little bit crowded, but can we agree to handle that as the first item? *D' accord*. Thank you.

The Second Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion?

02 March 2016 **RATIFICATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER
ON VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF DECENTRALISATION,
LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
HON SHANINGWA**

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I so
Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to.
Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

**MOTION ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE
AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE VALUES AND
PRINCIPLES OF DECENTRALISATION, LOCAL
GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to
table, for ratification by this august House, the African Charter on the
Values and Principles of Decentralisation at Local Development.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, trends at both the continental
and global levels continue to highlight the importance of organising
development from the bottom up, as well as the role that Regional and
Local Governments play in bringing about an advancing solution for
poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Our commitment to participatory democracy, governance and
development is underpinned by Charter 12 of our Constitution and the
subsequent enactment by this august House of the *Regional Councils Act*,
1992 (Act 22 of 1992) and the *Local Authorities Act*, 1992 (Act 23 of
1992) and the *Decentralisation Enabling Act*, 2000 (Act 33 of 2000),
which follows the adaption of Decentralisation Policy in 1998.

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As a Member of African Union (AU), Namibia through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is a Member and has been taking part in fora and activities on Decentralisation and Local Government matters such as the All African Ministerial Conferences on Decentralisation and Local Development.

At its Third Extraordinary Meeting held on the 13th to the 14th September 2013, in Dakar, Senegal, the All African Ministerial Conference on Decentralisation and Local Development hosted a consultative process of African Member States, including Namibia, which culminated in the development of an African Charter on the Values and Principle of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development.

Namibia was represented by the Ministry and by the Minister of Urban and Rural Development and the Ministry of Justice. The Charter was subsequently approved and adopted at the 23rd Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government, which took place from the 26th to the 27th of July 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The Report and Decisions of the 23rd Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government, were tabled before the Cabinet of the Government of the Republic of Namibia on the 28th of October 2014, and Cabinet Decision No. 18/28.10.14/006 authorised Namibia's accession and ratification of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation and Local Development.

Namibia stands to benefit immensely from this process through knowledge sharing, benchmarking and decentralisation, local governance and local development principles and practices with the fellow AU Member States.

Honourable Members, it is in this connection that as Minister responsible for Decentralisation and Local Governance, rise to table for ratification by this august House, the African Charter on the Values and Principles of

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ON VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF DECENTRALISATION,
LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
HON SHANINGWA**

Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development. The ratification of this Charter does not have any financial implications given that Namibia is already a Member of All Africa Ministerial Conferences on Decentralisation and Local Government.

Honourable Speaker, to this, there is annexure of objectives that will, of course, help the Honourable House to understand. The objectives of this Charter are only nine, and I would like to read them. The objectives of African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation Local Governance and Local Development are:

- To promote, protect and act as a catalyst for decentralisation, local governance and local development in Africa;
- To promote and champion local governance and local democracy as one of the cornerstones of decentralisation in Africa;
- To promote resources mobilisation and local economic development with the view to eradicate poverty in Africa.
- To promote a shared understanding and common vision of Member States on matters relating to the decentralisation, local governance and local development;
- To promote the core values and principles of decentralisation, local governance and local development;
- To guide policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the continental, regional States and sub-national levels on the decentralisation, local governance and local development;
- To encourage effective coordination, harmonisation and knowledge sharing with Member States and among regional economic communities on decentralisation, local governance and local

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

development;

- To promote the association and cooperation of Local Government or Local Authorities at the local, national, regional and continental levels; and
- To promote Civil Society, Private Sector and people participation in the decentralisation, local governance and local development initiatives.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, this is the Charter. I so Move and submit. Thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussions? Yes, Honourable Van Den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to ask the House to postpone the ratification of the African Charter on Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development to Wednesday, if there is nobody else who wants to take the Floor - just for afford myself sufficient time to peruse and familiarise myself with the details.

HON SPEAKER: I have taken note of that request. Are there other Members who wish to contribute? Yes, the Honourable Sankwasa.

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HON SANKWASA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, as much as I would have agreed under certain circumstances with the Honourable Member who is proposing a postponement, I have some reservations when it comes to budgetary issues.

We need to discuss the Budget, because the more we delay the Budget, the more we delay Government service delivery. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I suppose the Member would like to pronounce herself on the ratification of this important document. Do you still hold the view for us to take it up on Wednesday - is that what you are saying?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: There is a certain Clause that I would like to investigate, therefore, if it is possible, not today.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We take note that. The discussion on this important subject matter is deferred until Wednesday when the Honourable Member would like to contribute fully. So that is it.

In light of the fact that we do not have any other items on our agenda, I would like to call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

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ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I understand there is still something.

HON SPEAKER: Did I miss anybody here?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I suggest that the House adjourns until tomorrow, at 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely. Thank you very much. Of course, tomorrow we will have a very clear agenda before us and I will have to comply. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:10 UNTIL 2016.03.03 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
03 MARCH 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Yes, Honourable Dienda please.

HON MEMBER: Does the Honourable have her voice back?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 27:

HON DIENDA: I hope so. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 10th of March 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism the following:

It is widely being reported in the local media that the KORA Awards that was set to take place in Namibia this year, may now be cancelled, accordingly. I ask the Honourable Minister the following questions:-

1. Is it true that the KORA Awards will be cancelled, and if not, when are they scheduled to take place?

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAPOFI**

2. What are the reasons behind the reported cancellation of the hosting of the KORA Awards in Namibia?
3. How was the money required to host the KORA Awards raised and funded, and from which Organs of the State bodies did this money come from?
4. What was the amount set aside by either the Ministry or the Namibian Tourism Board for the hosting of the KORA Awards and what portion of this has already been expended?
5. Should the awards be cancelled, who will be liable for refunding the money that has already been expended by the Namibian Tourism Board the Ministry and the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation in anticipation and preparation for the awards?

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Yes, Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**RESPONSE TO A NEGATIVE REPORT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL**

03 March 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAPOFI**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Speaker, in line with our Government's commitment to promote and live by the values of transparency and accountability, I tabled the *Presidential Remunerations and Other Benefits Bill* in this Chamber yesterday, for discussion by the Elected Representatives of the Namibian people.

The purpose of the Bill is to provide for the payments of remunerations and other benefits to the President and his or her spouse and the Vice-President and his or her spouse, and to provide for incidental matters. Once promulgated, it will repeal the *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Act, 2012* (Act 15 of 2012), which did not make provision for the new position of the Vice-President.

Comrade Speaker, I rise to respond to a negative report in one of the local newspapers following the tabling of the Bill. I wish to start by providing a brief context to my Statement (*interjections*) There is quite a lot of noise – maybe the people are protesting, I do not know.

HON SPEAKER: Can we allow the Honourable Minister to continue?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, twenty-six years ago, following a protracted and bitter struggle, we established an independent and democratic State with a Constitution that guarantees citizens and all those between our borders, Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms, including freedom of association, freedom of expression and other Rights. During the past two decade, our country made significant progress in terms of governance and consolidation of the enjoyment of Human Rights and Freedoms. As a result, Namibia has received international recognition and accolades in the areas of press freedom, governance and tolerance.

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The 1991 Windhoek Declaration on the Freedom of the Press in Africa set the stage for the adoption of World Press Freedom Day by the United Nations. For successive years, Namibia has been ranked highly by Reporters Beyond Borders as the country with the freest media in Africa, and number 16 in the world.

Similarly, in terms of governance, former President Pohamba was awarded the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Leadership in African Governance, last year. The recently released survey by Afro-Barometer ranks Namibia as the most tolerant country in Africa across a variety of variables.

Comrade Speaker, these achievements did not come by default, they are outcomes of deliberate Policies by successive Namibian Governments to promote good governance and pursue Policies that promote the wellbeing of our people. The progress we have made has won Namibia great admiration from around the world. It is unfortunate, that some Namibians choose not to see these positive developments. As Namibians we expect Media Houses and Journalists to adhere to journalistic ethics in their reporting.

Comrade Speaker, following the tabling of the Bill, I was appalled like many Namibians, by reports in one local newspaper today. The newspapers chose to make derogatory remarks about the President with a headline – ***‘Geingob Hits Pay Dirt.’*** What is the purpose of such a headline? Is it deliberately design to portray the President in a negative light and to tarnish his name and reputation? Where is the journalistic ethic of reporting objectively and without bias? Where is the respect that must be given to the Holder and to the Office of the President of our Republic? The newspaper owes the Namibian people an explanation.

When references such as ***‘Millionaire President’*** are made in the same breath as the Bill on the Presidential Remuneration, an impression is created that the President benefits unduly from the State. It is neither fair, nor correct for the newspaper to foster such a blatant mistake and view.

The newspaper even went as far as trying to show the discrepancy

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HON KAPOFI**

between the remuneration of the current President and that of former President Pohamba. This attempt is mischievous and disingenuous by reason of context alone. I urge newspapers to desist from making any efforts to drive an artificial wedge between Namibian Leaders, former and current. This kind of reporting makes one shudder.

Comrade Speaker, the kind of reporting we see in today's Namibian Newspapers does nothing else, but to cast aspersions on the Holder of the highest Office in the land. The Nation expects that the fourth estate be a full and constructive partner, working hand in hand with Government Institutions to build a common Namibian House by objectively informing and educating the public about issues of national interest.

The tabling of the *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill* demonstrates our Government's commitment to openness and transparency. There is nothing to hide about salaries and benefits payable to the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister or any other. These benefits are determined, not by the President, Laws have been enacted and institutions have been established to fulfil this task.

It is mind boggling that even a magnanimous gesture by the President to donate part of his salary towards the efforts to combat poverty is being questioned. The President has made a commitment and he will live up to it, there should be no question about that. He has decided to lead by example and all Namibians of good will follow his example to help others in whatever way we can.

It is a sad indictment when a newspaper uses its position to denigrate our National Leaders and treat them with contempt and disrespect. We expect better from journalists. We expect basic decency, fairness and professionalism from them. (Applause)

This is what they have signed for in the Media Code of Ethics, which states amongst others that – *every journalist shall strive to report news and events accurately, fairly and with balanced.* The Code of Ethics also obliges journalists to give due regards to the possible negative effect to the

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**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DIENDA**

subject of the article or broadcast. As much as the fourth estate plays its role as a watchdog, it has a duty to report fairly, accurately and professionally.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we reject these aspersions with the contempt it deserves. (*Applause*) I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes please.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, since the Honourable Minister was saying that what is in the newspapers are lies - I just want to ask the Minister one question.

As a Member of Parliament, I also do not know what is the exact salary of the President per year. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, are you willing to respond to that question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DIENDA**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Yes. The President's salary is not a secret. If you do not know - I do not know whether you do not know (*laughter*) I also do not know whether you want to know and why, because the President does not know yours? He does not know yours, why would you want to know his?

HON SPEAKER: Can I say something? I think what the Minister is saying is that, if you really wish to know the information, you will be able to have access to a source that will help you to get to know the salary.

HON DIENDA: That the President does not know my salary, I agree and understand, but it is also my Right as a Member of Parliament to obtain that information, because the Honourable Minister stood up in this House and said what is reported in the media is a lie.

Therefore, as a Member of Parliament I want to know what the truth is then. If that is a lie, what is the truth - that is what I want to know from him, and that cannot be a secret.

HON SPEAKER: What I think is interesting is that we are now going to discuss and make the Article in that particular newspaper a debating point. Some of us have not even read that particular Article and I think for now, I would suggest that we leave that aspect.

The Minister responded to what he would characterise as a distortion and I think we should leave it at that. If we want to discuss the President's salary, we have an item on the Order Paper for next week, we are going to get there, and perhaps that would be the appropriate time for us to get into some of those issues. Can we leave it at that?

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**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUHARUKUA**

Honourable Muharukua?

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, just at the outset, I did not read that Article, so I do not know what is there.

However, I just want to address one thing that is perhaps at the concern of many and it is the fact that in Namibia we politicise the salaries of politicians to the extent that politicians almost have to feel apologetic for earning a salary, forgetting that people are also rendering a service, to the extent that at times we do not want to openly admit and freely say – *this is how much I earn*. The moment we do not do that, it leaves people out there with no choice, but to start making assumptions, accusations and say unwarranted things.

I really think it is about time that we start educating our people that a politician is also just a person doing a job. I am involved in politics now, but I come from my work like everyone else who is employed. It is not as one receives a gratuity for many who are politicians – I presume there are many business people, farm owners and so on. We must, therefore, start educating our people so that they can also know that people are do receive their dues in return for services rendered. I will dare say it in public that if you look around the world, Namibian politicians are underpaid. I am not saying anything about the President, because I do not know, but I am speaking in general terms.

I think we must start engaging in conversations that make people aware that politicians ought not to be apologetic for earning a salary.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON BEZUIDENHOUT / HON SWARTBOOI**

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I do not have any detailed questions. However, what I want to ask the Minister is, in light of the reflection of the report, would it be considered to escalate the complaint to the Office of the Media Ombudsman, which is actually an Institution that was created to deal with matters of this nature in this country? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I think that is one option - where we feel that we have been misrepresented, the Minister reserves the Right to refer that matter to the appropriate Institution that is capable of making the necessary judgment, a I think you are basically alerting the Minister to look into this possibility. We all have to act within our necessary boundaries, governed by certain Conventions and Rules, obviously.

I will leave this to the Minister to deal with it as he deems fit. I call upon Honourable Swartbooi please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much.

I am extremely pleased by the statement made by Honourable Muharukua, which statement I think perhaps differs with what the DTA of Namibia says outside this House around the question of salaries and benefits of Political Office-Bearers.

I would like to ask him whether the position he has taken here, is the official position of the DTA of Namibia, and if so, the Namibian people deserve to know the true stance of the DTA of Namibia regarding the matter of salaries and remuneration, which they seem to be contradicting depending on the avenues and platforms available.

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HON MUHARUKUA: I am already done!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Speaker, can he answer please? (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: I know Honourable Muharukua is not a person who shies away from a challenge.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I am glad to answer my Learned Colleague and Friend's question, although I had already sat down when he asked the question.

You see, the DTA is a Democratic Party. I am entitled to have my view and air it. The DTA is not one of those Parties that will tell you – *this is what you should say in Parliament* or what you should not say, therefore, this is my personal view and I can freely express myself without any repercussions from the DTA whatsoever. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Well, I think we leave it at that and I call upon the Attorney-General.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, yesterday after the Bill was tabled, I had the opportunity to spend thirty-five minutes with the Journalist in question. I have never seen such a blatant expression of an agenda that I witnessed yesterday. Mr Shinavene failed pay heed to what

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I tried to tell him. There is no agenda. Firstly, he was insinuating that the President determined his salary increment himself, something which is totally not true. I tried to explain to him, but the agenda came out in today's paper.

The Media Ombudsman that you are referring to – I had the opportunity to sit a Konrad Adenauer Stiftung arranged platform. The gentleman says to me that Namibians, and particularly the black people, are financially and economically worse off today than they were at Independence. This is the person you want us to go to? I had previously written and complaint about reporting to this Journalist in question's Newspaper, *The Namibian*, and copied him, but did not receive, even a single response, no action was even take, nothing. These fourth estates regulate themselves, they say what they want to say and the moment you talk about Media Regulation, even in the context of elections – I was consulting them during elections, telling them that – what you can write can instigate the Nation to the precipice of war. But I was condemned by some column called *The Rambler* which loves to write about me every Friday. Every Friday – last Friday I was there, and this coming Friday I will be there as well. These people have an agenda.

It is clear that maybe the Opposition is failing in their duty and they want to occupy that platform unelected. I would rather deal with the elected officials here who apparently have democracy in their Parties and can air their views, and I agree with him fully. Namibians ought to know that we are not here because we do not have anything to do with our lives, we are here to serve. Maybe some of us are just here to have an agenda as well, I do not know. However, I am talking about the Party I represent, and hopefully the Official Opposition and the other Opposition Parties here. The reality is, if you do not look after your Politicians, you are also contributing to corruption. They preside over things, if you pay them peanuts, will they not put their pockets in the trove? Those are the issues.

Now with regard to the issue of the President's remuneration, this is regulated by Law according to Article 33 of our Constitution, I think –

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you can that check, its either Article 32 or 33, but it is there and it says that an Act of Parliament will determine that – it is pegged on the salary of the Prime Minister. We introduce this Act because of the Vice-Presidency that was created.

I do not understand where and why somebody would want to publish such, on the World Wide Web – self-defeatist – against your own country, you write things like “*Millionaire President*,” and the like? I do not understand this, if the President is a millionaire, we should be happy and feel good about that, because he did well! This are the PHDs we are talking about – the Pull Him Down syndrome. Why can he not be an individual whom we are treating as our First Citizen and you deal with that on its merits? I am talking here about the author of the article and that newspaper, which our Party helped create, by the way, they seem to have forgotten that. It has an agenda and that agenda should be clear to all.

And if Honourable Muharukua finds that he has no protection in the DTA after making the statement he made, he is welcome here. Thank you very much. (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Order! Order! I call upon Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Order! (*Interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: Order please!

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Am I protected?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I can protect myself, I am black belt holder, but I do not want to use that at this platform (*laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, I do not think that we need to be emotional about this, I can see my Colleagues on the other side of the aisle are becoming very emotional (*laughter*) There is no reason to be emotional.

I think the Honourable Minister has brought up an issue that is important, he wanted to basically respond to it, and he did it in a right way. However, the subsequent remarks that were made, in my opinion, became an emotional issue.

Honourable Speaker, when I was listening to the Honourable Minister, the question that went to my mind is – what is the factual incorrectness of the report? Because the report, for instance, also mentioned the issue of the President being a millionaire. Is that a lie?

HON MEMBER: It is fictional!

HON KAVEKOTORA: Let me just finish what I am trying to say. That is not a lie, because on the declaration of assets, the President declared his assets and if you look at the amount indicating his net worth, the President is indeed a millionaire. Therefore, I think when we attack the media, we

also need to be factual from our side. There is no reason for us not to be factual, if we want the media to be factual. That is one thing that I want to put across.

If there is structural incorrectness in this whole report, I think it is really incumbent upon the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, the Office of the President itself and the Presidency to take the matter up. However, when there are factual items, you do not need to mention these items as if they are factually incorrect, because there is nothing wrong with calling the President a *millionaire*. The President himself has declared himself as a millionaire.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think we should get back to the item before the House. We have expressed ourselves sufficiently on the subject matter.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2016]**

HON SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill* [B. 1 – 2016].

HON SPEAKER: There is seem to be a bit of a confusion – The Order of the Day before us is basically the Resumption of the Debate on Second Reading of the *Appropriation Bill*. (*Interjection*) Yes, indeed.

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HON MUHARUKUA**

When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Muharukua adjourned the Debate and I would now like to call upon him to take the Floor.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you once again, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Fellow Namibian men and women, as the Honourable Minister of Finance said, by referring to a famous quote – *The National Budget is not just a book of figures and numbers, but it is rather a window into the soul and heart of our Nation's priorities (interjection)*

HON MEMBER: Widow?

HON MUHARUKUA: Window, yes window.

HON MEMBER: Not widow? (*Laughter*)

HON MUHARUKUA: It is the window through which the Namibia Nation can see where their chosen Leaders are taking them.

We all want to alleviate socioeconomic hardships and move towards economic freedom for all Namibians, thus to say, we all want to see a developed and prosperous Namibia. The beauty of our governance system is that we may differ on the best path to take towards realising our

common objectives. However, we should not differ out of a sense of obligation, the good must be applauded just as loud, as the bad is condemned.

Leaders must be bold enough to suffer the discomfort of applauding political opponents for a job well done, and to receive deserved criticism for shortcomings in leadership. For such discomfort is meagre compared to the capital price paid by those who preceded us.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Member, with that in mind, I note with interest that at no point does the Honourable Minister make reference to any Political Party in his Budget Speech. I view this in the light of the current President's agenda of national unity, as opposed to, a dispensation distancing itself from past failures.

Further, I note the Honourable Minister makes no mention of the fabled Vision 2030. This is a sign of a drastic change of course, and an admission that we must begin to re-evaluate our development goals and re-align them with the socioeconomic realities of our people.

The goal to bring prosperity to all the corners of this country requires us to build a strong economy propelled by industries, value addition, reduction in imports, diversification and efficient utilisation of resources.

In the past years, we have experienced high economic growth. Indeed the slow-down in economic growth that we are experiencing now calls for our nation to live within its means. Therefore, the recognition that our National spending should be curtailed is viewed in a positive light and welcomed accordingly.

The Nation cannot continue spending frivolous sly. Last year alone, our total debt went up by 70% and the continued issuance of debt certificates is unsustainable, because the increasing cost of servicing debt is another notable concern.

In his Budget Statement last week, the Minister indicated that growth for

the Financial Year 2015/2016 would be 4.5%, growth for the Financial Year 2016/2017 is now expected to be 4.3%. However, during the 2015/2016 Budget Statement, it was said that growth for the Financial Year 2016/2017 would be 5% and as recently as November in the Mid-Term Review, it was said that growth for the Financial Year 2016/2017 would be 5.5%. In the space of under 5 months, we have gone from 5.5% to 4.3%. Honourable Minister, these and the actual economic growth patterns are telling a story – our actual growth for this and the next Financial Year is overestimated.

In addition hereto, SACU revenue dropped well below expected figures in the Financial Year 2015/2016, so much so that Namibia has to repay close to N\$3 billion into the SACU Pool this Financial Year. Furthermore, on the eve of our Budget, it was announced by the South African Finance Minister that South Africa would reduce its SACU contribution by 20%. Given that SACU Revenue comprises a third of our total revenue, such a reduction will have a devastating effect on us and it will prove difficult – if not impossible – to fill this void with other revenue sources.

Honourable Minister, the growth slowdown will be sharper than the Government is projecting. It is, therefore, prudent to inform the country to brace itself for real financial turbulences. I foresee further expenditure cuts and that our people are likely to be hit hard by the state of our economy.

I refer in this regard to two remarks made by the Honourable Minister:

1. the biggest employer, the Public Service, will not increase its size;
2. the Public Service will only raise salaries up to par with the inflation rate.

Hard times are coming for ordinary Namibians. Unemployed youth will find it harder to get a job, now more than ever. The grandmother who is receiving a living allowance from her daughter should expect less. Those

of us who support and sustain extended family members will find it hard to alleviate the need of the poor.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is also not quite correct that Government should carry the burden of feeding the Nation alone. The Private Sector must weigh in and play its part.

Indeed, at the dawn of the Global Financial Crisis 2008/2009, Namibia pursued an Expansionary Economic Policy, resulting in high economic growth.

TIPEEG (Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth), as a tool of the Expansionary Economic Policy presented an opportunity to boost the economy's production capacity. TIPEEG and other policies and projects, such as Mass Housing, failed to provide the boost required for the expansion of the Private and SME Sector, that could sustain the economy when the Government is unable to spend at the rate previously seen. TIPEEG only succeeded in creating overnight millionaires and *tenderpreneurs*. Nepotism, corruption and the self-enrichment of the well-connected elite denied Namibia an opportunity to create a self-sustaining permanent Industry that would continue to create job opportunities after the initial capital injection from Government. Therefore, whilst the Expansionary Economic Policy shielded Namibia from the blow of the global financial crisis; poverty, economic inequality and unemployment remained and still remains the order of the day.

Government did not take certain critical decisions required, nor did it prioritize investment in certain Sectors and Industries that today would have been in a better position to help Namibia to stabilise the economic slowdown and, thereby reducing the severe effect of the new consolidatory Fiscal Policy on the ordinary Namibian.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our State Coffers and the Namibian people are now paying for the sins and greed of a few.

Over the years we have seen continued expenditure on many non-

productive expenditure items, however, in positive news, the Minister appears to have admitted that continuing to waste public resources on non-productive and unnecessary consumptive expenses is no longer sustainable.

As a result, one would have expected more cuts on all low-impact expenditure that would have minimal positive effect on our economic growth. Highly consumptive, but non-productive expenditure should have received more attention, Honourable Minister. More remains to be done to alleviate the pressure exerted on the Government Coffers by the bloated Public Service. This will go a distance in reducing the Government's operational Budget from its current level of 86.2% of the total Budget. As earlier indicated, strengthening the Private Sector and SMEs is an answer in this regard.

With the right priorities, we could use the restricted funds that we have to run a productive Budget that will have maximum positive impact to our economic growth.

Further, it is also a cause for concern that the State, given the express concerns about the size of Public Service Expenditure, did not reconsider the continued burdening of the State Coffers via the retention of the so-called A-Team; and the continued duplicity of a plethora of Deputy Ministers, including Honourable Royal (*laughter*) (*interjection*) if I was radical, I would have said, *Royal Must Fall* – and Permanent Secretaries in certain Line Ministries. The resources that we are using to retain these positions could be better served for the creation of jobs. The interest of the Namibian people should never be substituted for political expediency.

Government cannot in good conscience say that we are seeking to reduce public service expenditure, whilst at the same time, under the helm of this very administration, we have seen not only unnecessary duplicity of positions in certain Ministries. Further, we also see this in the Government's creation of what have essentially become purely administrative Ministries, in the Ministries of SOEs and the Ministry of Poverty Eradication, both of which deal with cross-cutting issues. Of

particular concern, is that the Ministry of Poverty Eradication, which was sold as the beacon of hope for the poor, has effectively become no more than a workshop to brainstorm ideas. When does implementation begin?

If, as Government, you dedicate a large amount of money over an extended period towards a certain activity or Ministry, this money should be seen not only in the transformation of the lives of the recipients of the funds, but also in the service that they render to the public. Then you know, that there is real value for money.

The Ministry of Defence is a Ministry that has consistently received priority in budgetary allocations and is comfortably within the top five as far as budgetary allocations since Independence. Over the last two Financial Years, the Ministry of Defence has been allocated the second highest Budget portion of all Ministries, with only Education topping it. This Financial Year, Defence is once again a priority area ranking third amongst all Ministries with an allocation of N\$6.6 billion and over N\$20 billion over the MTEF.

Honourable Members, I am not saying we must disband or contract our military or armed forces. That is not what I am saying. What I am, however, saying is that these sort of investments should be seen to create a leaner and meaner military force, capacitated and equipped to reflect a 21st Century Force, because that is what Namibia needs. This sort of investment must be seen to create a Dual-functional Army.

Namibia periodically continues to experience droughts and floods, and yet we do not make use of our service men and women to offer humanitarian services to the populace during such periods. A readily available dual-function army to serve in all emergencies would have saved the Namibian people and Government huge amounts of money. (*Interjections*)

Am I protected, Honourable Speaker?

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HON SPEAKER: Yes, you are protected, continue.

HON MUHARUKUA: Especially from the General (*interjection*)

HON SPEAKER: Let us have order please!

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. A readily available Dual-function Army to serve in all emergencies would have saved the Namibian people and Government huge amounts of money – it is not to a desirable level, and that is what we are addressing. (*Interjection*) I was just applauding and you wanted me to join SWAPO, now you are interjecting me (*laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a new Dual-functional Armed Forces is immediately required, if we are to derive value for money from our continually high allocations to the Ministry of Defence. Namibia is not in the financial position where we can afford to carry costs for purely insurance purposes alone. It is for this reason, that I propose that we move towards an Army with special divisions, which deal and are properly trained to be progressively active during peace times.

HON MEMBER: What do you know about the Army?

HON MUHARUKUA: I was in the Army before.

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HON MEMBER: Which Army?

HON MUHARUKUA: I was I PLAN, KOEVOET and SWATF, like many of us around here (*laughter*)

We have a shortage of teachers and emergency services staff nationwide, these are some areas where specially-trained and skilled members of the Army can be utilized so that the money we continue to pump into the Armed Forces bears real fruit.

Accordingly, I would hope that the next budgetary provisions would reflect a move towards a Multi-functional Army.

Honourable Members, the emphasis placed on Defence is not the only Achilles heel towards a more responsive impactful Budget that will address our developmental needs and directly address the needs of our people. The Agricultural Sector and the Energy Sector are not getting the required attention.

The Budget of the Ministry of Mines and Energy over the MTEF Period has been slashed from an estimated N\$5.9 billion last year, to just N\$1 billion over the MTEF Period. Additionally, the Ministry's allocation for the Financial Year 2016/2017 has been reduced to a mere N\$330 million. One can only deduce that the Kudu Gas-To-Power Project is now officially off the table. Whether this is due to the scuffle between various Government heavy weights, as they jostle for power amid competing and conflicting interests is not at issue today. What remains relevant, however, is that Namibia needs to find an avenue to generate its own power. The heavy dependence on South Africa as far as energy provision goes, is unhealthy and does not bode well for our industrialisation trajectory.

I was hoping that the Government was considering feeding our national grid with solar energy. Power supply is a growing concern in SADC.

Countries like South Africa from whom we buy the bulk of our power are already experiencing power shortages and are already under nation-wide load shedding. It is thus only a matter of time before they reach the stage where they simply do not have enough power to sell to us. It is time we invested in Renewable Energy as a country and seek to harness alternative form of energy that will help us cope with the impending energy crisis. It is, therefore, imperative that individual interests and greed do not rob Namibians of an opportunity of surety of electricity, and moreover, cheaper electricity. The lack of political will to link sources of Solar Energy to our national grid will cost this Nation dearly.

It is common cause that the production of energy and food security are both very vital for development and poverty eradication.

The Agricultural Sector directly contributes to the daily sustenance of around 45% of our population, and indirectly to close to 70% of our population. Given those numbers, and especially given the anti-poverty drive and its close relation with food security, and in line with the DTA 2014 Manifesto, the Government must be applauded for allocating the 2nd highest portion of the Development Budget towards Agriculture. Honourable Minister, that is commendable.

Many Namibians rely on communal farming. Therefore, any attempt to alleviate poverty without accompanying Fiscal Policy prioritisation of development initiatives aimed at enhancing efficiency, productivity and sustainability in the Agricultural Sector, will inevitably fail.

We have a social responsibility to empower our communal farmers and ensure that real value for money, increased profitability, access to more diverse markets is attained for communal farmers, both sides of the Red Line.

The absence of a buffer zone between Namibia and Angola remains a concern, as it continues to deprive our GDP of huge revenues, and unconstitutionally prevents many Namibians from fully part-taking in socioeconomic activities in Namibia at par with those south of the Red

Line. That is a reality. I would hope for more direct financial investment and political will in expediting the creation of a Buffer Zone between Namibia and Angola, to ensure that all farmers are at par with each other in an independent Namibia.

(Interjection) Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, and General Namoloh *(laughter)*, as has been the case for the last few years now, the Social Sector once again retains the biggest chunk of Government expenditure. I am fully in agreement with Government prioritising social responsibilities. What has been lacking, however, for the past 25 years, is the yielding of quality service from the investment. Long queues, medicine shortages, the unavailability of doctors, the lack of professionalism and etiquette from staff and the low levels of hygiene at our medical facilities continue to jeopardise the quality of Public Health Service.

Moreover, one would hope that the highest allocation to the Education Sector is accompanied by a review and overhaul of our school curriculums. Nations from which we copied, what was then best practices, are now doing things differently now. The Namibian Education System must, therefore, follow suit and put emphasis on producing young people who have skills and practical knowledge of what they learn in school. Information Technology has to be one of the major investment areas in our schools and Tertiary Institutions.

It is important that we do not simply continue to *throw money at the problem*, but that investment in the Social Sector is accompanied by the appropriate Policy Amendments. Although the Honourable Minister indicated that it is important to tackle the institutional culture within the Public Service, we are yet to see the formation and implementation of policy reforms that will move our Public Service towards the best that it can be.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, there is an old OvaHerero saying which says – *Ondunge imue vazewanajo, yarwe isa kumbwae yoe.*

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Loosely translated this says - one idea you must have, and get the other from your peer.

This means, always heed to the concerns and ideas of your peers or those in a position to advice you.

I see and I applaud the Honourable Minister for expressing the intention to create a Youth Venture Capital Fund. Further, it is also commendable that Secondary and Primary Education are free. The DTA of Namibia championed these issues during the 2014 elections campaigns. Thank you for taking our advice. *(Laughter)*

Although somewhat limited by the projected inflation hikes, we are partially satisfied with the increase in the Old Age Pension Grant from N\$1,000.00 to N\$1,100.00 per month. But we nonetheless, urge the Government to increase same to N\$1,500.00, so as to limit the effect of the foreseen price increases of daily commodities on our pensioners. Once again, it is an idea of the DTA of Namibia that the Government is implementing. We thank you very much and we applaud the Minister. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Simataa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

I would like to advance a few comments and observations on the Budget that was tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance last week.

First of all, I would like to commend the Minister of Finance for tabling a Budget that adds momentum to our Nation's outwards journey to

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prosperity. It is reassuring to note that spending priorities set in the Budget tabled, are perfectly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

And as has now become customary, substantial budgetary allocations to Social Sectors such as Education and Health, is applauded.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these Sectors are the bedrock of a vibrant, a shared, an inclusive and a prosperous Nation that all of us cherish. Unlike what has been recently said by Honourable Muharukua, the increase in Old Age Pension – although nominal, affirms our Government's long cherished desire to guarantee the livelihood of our Senior Citizens. By the way, the SWAPO Party Government has already given an indication that over the next Medium Term, there will be a steady increase in these allocation, so it has never been a DTA desire (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: There is a Point of Order.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Deputy Minister, Simataa, please be clear. You are saying that the Government has given an indication that it will increased gradually, to what figures? (*Interventions*)

HON SPEAKER: I think he indicated, but let the Honourable Minister speak for himself.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

I believe that Honourable Muharukua is a Learned Colleague who can read in terms of documents that have been placed at our disposal, so I am not going to give you an answer, as a good Teacher, I will give you homework and say read the document.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our pitch to address poverty will get better traction, if we at the same time tackle pervasive societal tendencies that threaten to derail our noble efforts. Such tendencies range from the low premium some members of our society attach to the advancement and wellbeing of fellow citizens, to the abnormally skewed spending patterns of the targeted beneficiaries, particularly on items that only drive them deeper into the bowels of poverty. I am convinced that throwing more money at the poor without addressing deep-rooted poverty drivers, will not yield lasting results. To avoid relegating some of our communities to eternal poverty, we must unpack the current poverty architecture in different segments of our communities and flex and our interventions accordingly.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, given the bulging unemployment rate and the imperative for skilled and entrepreneurial youth, the emphasis placed on TVET in the Budget presented by the Minister, in my view, bodes well for our Nation.

In view of the centrality of TVET to both the 2030 national and global development agendas, we must seize the renewed focus and revitalise the Sector both in terms of reach and relevance of Programme Offerings.

Pertinent issues such as articulation of TVET Programmes and recognition of skills and qualifications within the borders of Namibia and equally, across borders of Namibia, must be addressed.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, in the interest of time, (*interjection*)

HON MEMBERS: No, no!

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: The intended partial listing of some State-Owned Enterprises on the Namibian Stock Exchange, Honourable Minister of Finance, is a welcome development which once realised, will not only provide fiscal relief to Treasury, or unleash investment opportunities to ordinary Namibians, however, only those with investment appetite; It will also provide the much needed freedom or flexibility to such entities to raise the requisite capital to pursue their strategic objectives.

Comrade Minister, notwithstanding these laudable benefits, and is as much as Government will still remain the majority shareholder, we will have to tread cautiously and guard against the likelihood of private shareholders diluting the primary objectives for which such entities were initially established.

Honourable Speaker, those are the few comments that I wanted to advance and I thank you very much for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Karupu.

HON KARUPU: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my single honour to rise in this august House and address you on this very important post-budget hearing, which seeks to interrogate the 2016/2017 National Budget Statement, presented to this august House by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Calle Schlettwein, on the 25th of February this year (2016).

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to first and foremost, commend the Minister of Finance and that of National Planning Commission, the Consultants and their Team for drafting this important piece of legislation and for being innovative in identifying some areas on

which policies are to be made to curb possible threat to our economy.

As you are all aware, the 2016/2017 National Budget was presented under the theme – ***“Towards Pro-growth Fiscal Consolidation,”*** which simply means that now than ever before, our Government has to tackle the economic challenges facing Namibia from all angels fronts. It is no coincidence that this theme is in sync with the Namibia’s declared war on poverty - as enshrined in the Vision 2030. The emphasis, Honourable Members, is on inclusive growth - where ***No Namibian Should Feel Left Out.***

To this end, I call on all Members to critically aim at seeking a deeper appreciation of the policy measures proposed in the 2016/2017 National Budget, which are to:

- assess the impact of the proposed Budgetary measures on the key Sectors of the economy and on the ease;
- interrogate the extent to which the Budget restores confidence in the economy in order to attract Foreign Direct Investment; and
- Ensure that the proposed measures responded to the new real needs of our people.

As indicated in the Budget Statement, the 2016/2017 National Budget was presented against a backdrop of numerous economic challenges and the Honourable Minister must be seriously commended for a job well done on putting together a credible document that is clearly stating how the economy will navigate these challenges.

The major task ahead, therefore, is to translate the proposals put forward in the Budget into tangible action to ensure macroeconomic stability and higher GDP growth in 2016 and beyond. It will be important, then, for this Honourable House to thoroughly cross examine the budgetary proposals to ascertain whether they facilitate the achievement of the above objectives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a Budget is an effective Policy tool for national resource distribution and management to attain the desired optimal economic growth and development and as such, the Honourable Minister's Budget contains well balanced and aligned priority spending. It is against these backgrounds that I would like to give some of the major highlights of how well the Budget is aligned and highlights commendable key priorities of the 2016/2017 Budget.

Firstly, the Honourable Minister should be commended for maintaining a strong fiscal discipline under difficult challenges. The Budget proposes a notable spending cut equivalent to a 1.6 percent reduction from the previous year's Budget and a 7.3 percent cut from the indicative ceiling for the Financial Year 2016/2017 as proposed in the previous MTEF. This gives us a total Budget of N\$66.00 billion, equivalent to 34.9 percent of the GDP. Members should appreciate Government's decision to come up with effective Programmes and measures that ensured such a disciplined Budget.

Furthermore, the Minister should be commended for delivering a Budget that is very conservative and tight and informed by challenges that the country is faced with, which include slowdown in the revenues, unemployment, drought and alias remained strict and tight.

Honourable Members, the need to be disciplined can never be overemphasised, because these are difficult times and the world economy is also not performing, minerals are on the decline and the eminent drought, hence the need to be disciplined.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is imperative to come up with a well aligned priority spending model, and the tabled Budget just did exactly that, Honourable Muharukua.

To boost Economic and Infrastructural Development, the Budget proposes an allocation of 22.2 percent of the total non-interest expenditure or some N\$13.56 billion to the Economic and Infrastructure Sectors. This money will be used for investment in growth enhancing infrastructure,

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including in the Logistics, Water and Energy Sectors. These funds are earmarked for key projects such as the rehabilitation of the national railway, the on-going expansion of the Port of Walvis Bay, several national roads, water infrastructure, the Mass Housing Programme and increased funding to the Public Financial Institutions for Private Sector support and SME Development.

Social Welfare Development is our Government's top priority, thus over 46 percent of the total non-interest expenditure was rightfully allocated to the Social Sectors to protect and improve on the achievements we have made in the areas of Education, Health, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare as well as the Housing Sector.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to ensure that our hard-earned Independence is protected an amount of N\$13.01 billion for the Financial Year 2016/2017 was rightfully allocated. The Budget has ensured a continued investment in peace, public safety and the Rule of Law.

Administering peace and justice does not come cheap and, therefore, the Budget has made the rightful allocation of N\$6.03 billion to the Public Administration Sector to support effective governance and efficient administration of the Public Sector and functional realignments to the structure of Government.

HON MEMBER: Yes, tell them!

HON KAURUPU: It is my strong conviction that once all the proposed measures and program are fully supported, the long-term survival of our economy is guaranteed. Inflation, unemployment, poverty and income inequality will be a thing of the past, Honourable Muharukua. My humble request goes to the executors of the Budget; all Public Offices, Ministries and Agencies to prioritise their expenditures on the activities that will

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change the poorest communities of this country's lively hood. I urge them to execute their mandatory duties to their upmost best and insure that no cent earmarked for the development of the community is send back to the treasury.

Let me conclude... (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: No, please, we want you to continue telling them!

HON KARUPU: ...By encouraging each one of us to focus our energies on proffering solutions rather than fault-finding so as to guarantee through the oversight, representational and legislative mandate, we as Parliamentarians have a role to play in making 2016 a year of economic growth and success.

The people of Namibia expect that we should on their behalf, ensure that public funds are fully accounted for. Political affiliation should not and must never prevent us from critically looking at the Budget whose eyes and ears see, nor hear any political tentacles. We are a solidly one anchored Parliament. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KARUPU: And I thank you, Honourable Speaker. (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you very much. The next on my list is

Honourable Katoma. You have the Floor.

HON KATOMA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to contribute to the Budget Statement of the Honourable Minister for 2016/2017.

I would like to commend the Honourable Minister of Finance and the entire team for tabling the 2016/2017 Budget at the appropriate time. I am also equally glad to note that the 2016/2017 Budget made provision for the increment of the Old Age Pension from N\$1,000.00 to N\$1,100.00 per month, respectively. This is indeed, a commendable effort made by the caring Government of the SWAPO Party under the capable leadership of His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob.

While commending the good progress achieved thus far, much still needs to be done, if we are to meet the clarion call of His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, which says and I quote – “*No Namibian Must Feel Left Out,*” we must, therefore, strive to, with our meagre resources at our disposal, provide essential services such as health and sanitation, education, road infrastructure, water, communication infrastructure, employment opportunities and many other equally vital services to our people.

Basic Education – while commending our Government on its efforts to fulfil the Constitutional requirement of a free Primary and Secondary Education, and given the fact that this Sector is allocated with a biggest chunk of our National Budget with an amount of N\$12,794,882,000.00, it is still much to be desired that, the created conducive education environment is maintained by constructing more schools, more classrooms at the existing schools and hostels – and most importantly, renovate the old classrooms and the replacement of the prefabricated classrooms with the conventional ones. I have visited some schools namely, Oshaala Combined School, where I found the prefabricated classrooms to be in an intolerable and very dilapidated state.

Agriculture, Water and Forestry – with the total allocation of N\$2 billion this Financial Year and subsequently N\$2.5 billion over the MTEF period, a significant number of Development Projects will be carried out, however, Namibia as a dry country needs a lot of efforts to conserve and harvest water resources., one would like to see that efforts to store water are explored over the MTEF period, one of which is, the deepening of the Olushandja Water Reservoir, which currently serve as a reservoir of the whole North Central Regions, such as the Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions, respectively. It is very essential that this facility is considered as it place vital role in this Sector, hence, my plea that the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, under its Programme Code 8061 called Water Resource Management, includes these noble initiatives.

The other equally important and long suggested initiatives is the rehabilitation of Olushandja or Otamanzi Earth Canal and the supply of water to this facility thereof. As a country, we usually are faced with persistent drought situations, which to a certain extent result in severe water shortages for both human and livestock. This canal plays a vital role by supplying water to communities living alongside this water channel, especially during the drought and difficult times, hence, the need for the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to consider this noble request.

Youth and Sport – youth development is one of the Sectors which need serious consideration, if we are to build a productive future generation that we will all be proud of. Of course, significant activities will be carried out under this Vote 27, which includes **Programme 1 - Supervision and Support Services** under which, the activity like constructing the Ministry's Headquarter is. **Programme 2 - Construction and Maintenance of Sport Facilities**, for example, the Eenhana, Okakarara and Outapi Sport Complexes. **Programme 3 - Maintenance and Renovation of Nkurenkuru Sport Complex** and **Programme 4 - which is Youth Training and Development**, that entails the construction of Youth Development Centres at Otjiwarongo, Mariental, Opuwo, Nkurenkuru, Rundu, Swakopmund and Frans Dimbare. One would like to see this Programme expedited to reach out to many youth at rural areas of our Republic and we would also

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like to see that all Sport Codes are fully supported in terms of funding to enable them to perform and make us proud as a Nation. My wholehearted appreciation goes to the Brave Warriors, Brave Gladiators, the Boxing Academies, Football Clubs, Rugby Clubs and others, for the tremendous efforts made thus far – keep it up!

Despite these achievements, lots of efforts still needs to be made from the Ministry's side and Corporate Organisations, business personalities and private individuals to support sport, financial and materially.

Honourable Members, when investing in sport, one is actually contributing to the efforts of poverty alleviation and reduction, the social upliftment of our youth and most importantly, the immense contribution to the wellbeing of the youth segment of our population. I am glad to note that a significant number of sponsors is being recorded, a generosity which is sincerely appreciated. These organisations that supported and are still supporting sport activities financially and materially are doing a tremendous job worth emulating, hence, I am sincerely encouraging other organisations to emulate this good example of supporting sport.

With these few remarks, I rest my case and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, next on my list is Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am just rising because I do not see anybody else rising to make a contribution and I see that on the list here, we still have 85 minutes.
(*Laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I take this opportunity to

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contribute to the ongoing discussion on the National Budget Statement for the Financial Year 2016/2017 that was presented by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Gustav Schlettwein.

I would like to register my support for the Budget and further extend my appreciation to the Honourable Minister, Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and their entire Team for an inclusive Budget.

I believe the National Budget Statement, which was tabled against the backdrop of consecutive droughts, has accurately identified the challenges and harnessed opportunities to turn the direction of our economy to respond to poverty eradication by addressing unemployment, extreme inequality and low economic growth.

Honourable Members, Namibia's economic prospects are intertwined with other regional and global economic developments, as we all know. Considerable risks to the global recovery efforts still remain, and global volatility and structural imbalances are far from resolved. The pace of economic growth has slowed in many countries, but as a Nation we cannot allow ourselves to be complacent. The currency fluctuations *vis a vis* the international trading currencies, as well as the plummeting commodity prices are indeed exerting extreme pressure on the local economy. In turn food prices have escalated, placing a burden on the most vulnerable in society.

I also heard last night on TV that the petrol price and diesel prices have gone down a little bit, which will help to ease the burden on the economy and probably the food prices will also go down a little bit. However, we must appreciate the fact that oil prices are going down and we should make use of this opportunity to buy more diesel and put them in our storage facilities to help us when the prices goes up again – this is a good time to buy more oil. It is good time, and if you are an economist buy more during this time.

Unfortunately, we do not have the storage capacities yet, but I am sure my dear Friend Derek is making sure – putting pressure on our Local

Authority there, to make sure that we have enough storage for capacity.

Our exports have seen substantial decline in global demand and in prices, particularly in China and India. The effects on our economy are apparent. As a Region, growth improved moderately in 2014, to an average of 4.5 percent compared with 4.2 percent in 2013. The GDP growth slowed remarkably in Southern Africa due to strikes in the Mining Sector. Just recently – since October, the Minister of Fisheries will agree with me, that the Fishing Sector also experienced strikes, which have also affected our fish exports. We are also faced with Energy shortages and low investor confidence.

However, poverty remains high across the Region although growth is projected to go up a little bit, maybe up to 5% by 2017, due to increased infrastructure investment, increased agricultural production and services. The other Colleagues who spoke before me, have adequately provided the figures.

Alongside global challenges and risks that could impact on the domestic economy, Namibia also faces socioeconomic and structural challenges that need to be addressed urgently. These structural challenges and reforms are clearly articulated in (NDP4), which also informs the Budget in terms of inclusive growth, partnerships amongst role players in our economy, priorities in education and infrastructure investment, employment creation and the building of a capable and development oriented state.

Our economic growth depends on our ability to convert the **Harambee Prosperity Plan** as articulated by His Excellency, the President Dr. Hage Geingob in December last year, into actions that deliver on the promise for a better life for all.

Let me just speak a little bit about the Ministry of Education. Within the Social Sectors, Education was allocated **N\$16.2 billion**. This investment, in my view, has a multiplier effect to the growth of our economy in perpetual terms.

Although Namibia has made strides in the provision of training in technical fields through the Namibia University of Science and Technology and the University of Namibia, more still needs to be done in the areas of Survey and Mapping, Valuation and Land Use Planning. Those are the issues that are under my command. I urge our Institutions to seriously include these specialised areas of study.

With regard to Health – the health of our Nation is important as it is linked to development. The Sector strives to bring quality medical services in the Public and Private Sectors. The 2016/2017 Budget sets aside an allocation of **N\$7.23 billion** to Health and Social Services, a slight increase from last year's allocation of **N\$6,49 billion**.

While health care funding continues to shrink worldwide, health needs are constant, increasing exponentially through the challenges posed by **HIV/AIDS** and recently by the upsurge of cancer. In comparison to other countries, Namibia's health indicators are better, but our people expect an affordable and quality health care system, hence the need to recognise the current efforts made in this Budget towards health care and the introduction of a biometric card within the Public Service Medical Aid. As a country we should also interrogate the current status of our Health Sector, where we continue sourcing medical supplies from other countries, thus making the provision of essential drugs more expensive. I have here in mind that we are sourcing these HIV/AIDS drugs from a country like Uganda and other countries. It is important that we devise ways to bridge this gap by working towards the local manufacturing of essential drugs whilst in the process also creating job opportunities.

I think we can do that – it is possible to do that. I think we have a drug factory in Otjiwarongo, which produces vitamins and most of these essential drugs are imported from outside. We should think out of the box and make sure that we create small and effective manufacturing plants for HIV/AIDS drugs. This will help create jobs as well. I do not know why – if India can do that in Uganda, why can we not do it here? We are just importing everything. The day when nobody will be willing to supply us we will start dying like (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Flies?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: No, not flies, like mosquitoes – like the Zika Virus and all these diseases transmitted by .

I insist that we must start thinking of establishing our local manufacturing of pharmaceutical products. There are really countries that are willing to help us – Cuba and the rest of the countries are willing to do that.

The allocation of **N\$2.9 billion** towards Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare for socio-economic challenges should be applauded. Although Namibia's economy has been experiencing positive growth, youth unemployment is still an issue that requires a multi-pronged approach.

Increased access to cheap finance for individuals and small and medium enterprises will create opportunities to grow their economies. Politically, as it was stated here by my Brother, the young man here, Honourable Muharukua – he confirmed that politically, Namibia has obtained peace, security and stability, ensuring a conducive environment for a thriving multiparty democracy, which is a prerequisite for more investment. This allocation will contribute to projects aimed at social re-alignment and bringing dignity to our communities.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, at this juncture allow me to focus on a key issue with a crucial and imperative role to bringing about socioeconomic empowerment, and that is the land issue. The Agricultural Land Sector only received a total of N\$130 million under the Financial Year 2016/2017 down from N\$1 billion under the Financial Year 2015/2016, out of which N\$327 million, down from N\$807 million under the Financial Year 2015/2016, is allocated for Land Acquisition and Farm Infrastructure Development – a figure that is way below the demands to implement one of the most important Policies within the country. The Land Redistribution Programme has the potential to respond immediately to the goal of Poverty Eradication, if fully supported by adequate

resources. However, I appreciate the socioeconomic framework under which this Budget was formulated and the demands to accomplish *more with less*.

Honourable Members, investment in public infrastructure, increased agricultural production and an active Service Industry are identified as key drivers for economic growth. To this end, this Budget has prioritised key projects in the economic and Infrastructure Sectors. The expansion of the Walvis Bay Port, the building and rehabilitation of the national railway and road networks, water infrastructure, logistics, energy and the Mass Housing Project. A total of **N\$44, 75 billion** of non-interest expenditure has been allocated to the Economic and Infrastructure Sectors over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to stimulate economic growth and thus address poverty. Investment in these Sectors will spearhead growth.

It is my humble view that this Budget will address its stated objectives and provides an appropriate response to the stated challenges and defines a path for socioeconomic prosperity for our people.

I am also having in mind the Kudu Gas Project – something we must really not just brush aside. It is a resource that we have in this country and we need to find ways to curb this resource. Instead of building Power Stations and other Oil/Gas Stations and whatever - where we will be required to import raw material again, it just makes sense, and I again insist that, we must revisit our Kudu Gas Project, because it is a resource that we have.

Once again, Comrade Speaker – I do not want to take too much time, I congratulate the Minister of Finance and his team for tabling the 2016/2017 National Budget and I fully support it. *Merci beaucoup, mbatja ndankie, okuhepa! Kararee nawa (laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Just a few suggestions for us to reflect upon. Every day we discuss the Budget, Honourable Members, I

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am sure, you take note of the fact that we will be having a programme with all the Political Parties in Parliament listed in terms of the time table, when they will be expected to contribute to the Budget.

As you know, today being the 3rd of March, what we have on our list for this afternoon is DTA, RDP and SWAPO. We had contributions from SWAPO and from DTA. We are supposed to have contributions from RDP, but unfortunately, they have indicated that they wish to do so next week Tuesday. I am worried about this, because when you miss the date allocated to you, you are likely to forfeit your time. However, we do not want that to happen, so if we could have Members who wish to speak this afternoon, that will save our Colleagues from losing their time, because they will be able to make use of the time next week without losing this particular time that is allocated to them.

I am, therefore, inviting Members who wish to take the Floor to do so, that will really go a long way in assisting our Colleagues from the RDP.

HON MEMBER: Why can we not go for tea, and allow them to prepare in the meantime?

HON SPEAKER: If we go for tea, we will miss the opportunity already. I am assuming that it is a question of making use of the time, and I am sure there are Colleagues who are ready with their contributions. I have one or two who already indicated their willingness to do so and that will really be much appreciated. Honourable Dienda, I noted that you wanted to make use of this time.

On the issue relating to questions, we have decided that we will not do justice to those questions, if they have to be rushed and I would rather find time allocated for that when we are done with the Budget. Yes, Attorney-General?

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HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On that issue, I understand that the intent is to allow us an opportunity when time will be accorded for the questions and answers to be rendered fully, but seeing the mood of the House now, and the fact that we are struggling to make the time meet these objectives, can we not perhaps take some in batches? Some of them may be questions that are easy to answer, and some can be stood over – I am just suggesting.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, but then we assumed that there are going to be many of you who would like to take the Floor on the Budget so we did not even make that particular provision for us to engage questions and answers, so what we are left with now is purely to concentrate on the Budget. Therefore, if I could have one, two or three Members who are interested to volunteer, that will take care of the request from the RDP. Yes, Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I think it is not that we did not want to take our time, and I would also not want to forfeit the 45 minutes allocated to us compared to 250 allocated to the Ruling Party (*interjections*) *Puratena* (listen), if the paw paw hits the fan, and we have to talk without proper preparation, I am prepared to do so.

HON MEMBER: How much time do you need to prepare?

HON SPEAKER: Let me still see – I think I can see some faces of people who might want to also partake, because if there are, then I do not want you to do this under pressure. None at all? Yes, Honourable Muharukua, do you want to come in?

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HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The General said I must do NAMCOL, so I am redoing it.

Honourable Speaker, I just want to add something to what the Minister of Land Reform has said and to perhaps draw emphasis to what he said that, his Land Ministry is charged with – including my Friend here, the Minister of Labour.

HON MEMBER: Are you asking questions again?

HON MUHARUKUA: No, I am not asking questions, I am adding.

HON SPEAKER: No, no sorry, in terms of the record your comments will be so misplaced and I just do not know how it relates to (*intervention*)

HON MUHARUKUA: I thought the Honourable Speaker said the time is open to anyone?

HON SPEAKER: No, I meant it is open to the people who have not made contributions.

HON MUHARUKUA: Okay. It is alright.

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HON SPEAKER: I am looking at this side.

HON MEMBER: Why do you not ask, Honourable Murorua?

HON SPEAKER: No, he is coming. Well Honourable Kavekatora, I think you can have a go.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I have to qualify my contribution to the Budget that I am speaking without basically, having the opportunity to put my thoughts together, therefore, you have to bear with me. However, that is something that we have been doing with Honourable Tweya when we were at Telecom (*laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, I want to (*Intervention*)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, can you use your microphone?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I think the staff members there in front of you are supposed to help you. (*interjections*) If there is

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nobody to take the Floor – Comrade Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Yes?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: It is seemed like I was talking to myself. I think I want to assist.

What we normally do is, if there is nobody who wants to speak at that time – either being afraid that if they contribute they may attack somebody here that will lead to a provocation, like he has just started pointing fingers at Honourable Tweya, which will result in a situation where the media may intervene and write up something bad, I propose that he adjourns the Debate and he will be the first to take the Floor next week Tuesday.

I am just saying this so that we follow the procedures. Thank you, Comrade Speaker. (*Applause*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think there is a willingness to accommodate the Honourable Member.

They do not want you to labour under duress. Therefore, take your time and come back well prepared.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: With that, may I adjourn the House, since I do not have anybody asking for the Floor?

The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, the usual time. Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:30 UNTIL 2016.03.08 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
08 MARCH 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as we all know, today, the 8th of March 2016, the Year of our Lord, is dedicated to observing Women's Day all over the world. We extend our warmest congratulations to the women of Namibia and the world. (*Applause*)

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable !Auxab please.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 28:

HON !AUXAB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 10th of March 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Obed Kandjoze the following questions:

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HON !AUXAB**

The ten (10) years sales agreement of 2015, between the Namibian Government and De Beers Company demonstrates the Government commitment to ensuring that diamonds from Namibia play a key role in the socioeconomic development of the country.

1. Can the Minister share with the House how the Cabinet demand of 30% rough diamonds produced by Namdeb Holdings to be supplied to local factories has been embraced in the agreement?
2. What is the name of the Government own Company that will supply these diamonds to the local factories; when has it been formed and what is the name?
3. Can the Minister explain to the august House, how many local companies have been chosen under the new sales agreement and what are their names?
4. Can the Minister explain to the august House, why 15% of Namdeb diamonds will be sold outside the new sales agreement?

QUESTION29:

HON !AUXAB: Honourable Speaker, on the same day, I shall ask the Minister of Justice, Honourable Albert Kawana the following questions:

The goal that the President of Namibia, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob has set for his Government to achieve is not in-line with the Apartheid Laws that are still existing in our Law books. Namibians needs Laws that will help give them increase access to land. To do justice to this noble deed, some Apartheid Laws need to be changed or amended in Namibia's Law books.

1. Can the Minister inform this august House how he has strengthened the Directorate of Legislative Drafting to recruit additional legal

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drafters to embrace the task at hand?

2. May the Minister further appraise this august House on the progress made with regard to coordinating with other role players in the justice system to repeal the Laws to free the Namibians from the colonial bondage to access land?
3. How far is the Minister with the reassessment of the effectiveness of the Legal Aid System and when will the necessary reforms be introduced?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on to Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? I do not see any. Ministerial Statements? I will call upon the Honourable Minister !Naruseb.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**ORGANISATION OF THE MASS MEMORIAL
SERVICE IN MEMORY OF 15 ACCIDENT VICTIMS**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members of the National Assembly, as you are already aware, on the 12th of February 2016, around 16:00 a head-on collision between a Quantum Minibus and an Iveco Articulated Truck took place near Casablanca, north of Oshivelo Settlement. In this accident, 15 lives

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perished with the majority of them incinerated beyond recognition.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, following this tragic incident, I directed the respective and functional Institutions within the Road Safety Subsector to undertake, within their legal mandates, a number of activities, which among others include the provision of psycho-social counselling and facilitation of support to the immediate families members of the deceased; initiation of a thorough investigation into the accident to determine the underpinning causative factors and to do all in their powers to assist in the preparation towards the burial of the deceased.

Having said that, Honourable Speaker, I rise to inform the House and the entire Namibian Nation that a Mass Memorial Service in the memory of all 15 victims is being organised to take place, God willing, on the 10th of March 2016, at the scene where the accident took place. As the Portfolio Minister, I will be attending the event.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to extend an invitation to all the Members of this House, if they can, to attend the event also. The number of those who will attend will in a way signify our disapproval of the current rate of fatalities on our roads.

Furthermore, those colleagues who will be able to join me for the Memorial Service can contact Ms Cecilie !Hausemas, who is the Personal Assistant at the Ministry of Works and Transport at +264811227170 or Ms Rivival Mundundu of the National Road Safety Council at +264810370697.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, a road crash have no respect for status, creed or any standing in society. Today, it could be me, tomorrow it could be you or those you are closely related to who could be affected. Hence, the need for us to be supportive to those on the receiving end.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, you may recall that as Parliamentarians, we took the pledge last year in November to be safe and

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responsible road users, not only while driving our official vehicles, but even when we use the road as pedestrians. We should be advocates for road safety at all times.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, allow me at this point, to appeal to all Members of Parliament and the entire Nation to be aware of the dangers of unsafe road usage and to disseminate correct messages and behaviours in their respective Ministries, Constituencies, homes and wherever they would be interacting with in their daily lives. I want to thank you for granting me this opportunity. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much Minister. I will suggest that you share that piece of information in order for us to circulate the numbers that you read out so that they are accessible to many Members of this House. Thank you very much.

I call upon Honourable Tweya.

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL AT STATE HOUSE HOSTED BY HIS
EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DR. HAGE GEINGOB**

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND
TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a very good afternoon.

From the onset, allow me to use this opportunity to wish all our Mothers, Sisters and Daughters, a happy International Women's Day. As we commemorate the significance of this day, I wish to reiterate our Government's position in supporting Women's Rights, their protection,

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and their participation in the political and economic arenas of our Nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, an event of historic importance took place in our country today. As Minister charged with the responsibility to speak on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, it is my duty to inform the Nation and the world at large, about this event.

As you may recall, Honourable Speaker, when he was President-Elect of our Republic, Dr. Hage Geingob, held a Press Conference on the 2nd of February 2015, where he made a number of important announcements.

One of those announcements was that, once he takes office, he would establish a Presidential Advisory Council, comprising of Namibia's Former Presidents.

Dr. Geingob also indicated during the Press Conference that Former Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers and some Icons of our National Liberations Struggle could be co-opted as members of the Advisory Council.

In providing the context of that announcement, the President pointed out that Leaders, such as our Former Presidents, possess a wealth of experience that should be harnessed to contribute to the socioeconomic development of our Country. He also said that it is important to give due prominence to our former Leaders as a way of strengthening Peace and Stability in our Country.

This is important, because in many African Countries, Former Presidents have not been given the respect and recognition that they deserve.

In the past, some former African Presidents would either be exiled, imprisoned or they may find themselves six feet under the ground. The President underscored the importance of promoting the idea of a "*New Africa*," where Former Presidents live freely and in tranquillity in their

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countries, enjoying respect and appreciation from their countrymen and women. This is what we have done in Namibia. *(Applause)*

Honourable Speaker, I rise to inform the Nation that, the first Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council took place at State House this morning. *(Applause)*

In delivering on the promise he made on the 2nd of February 2015, and to emphasise the importance of this event, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob invited the Founding President Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, and Namibia's Second President, His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, to the Cabinet Chamber where he delivered a Statement. And for those who do not think for tomorrow, the Founding President was accused that he was not planning to retire, this is why the new State House was build, he has never chaired any Cabinet in that Chamber. For the first time today, he entered into that Chamber. *(Applause)* This is unique to Namibia, that the Executive Organ of the State headed by the President, is able to meet with the Former Leaders of the Country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, that this meeting took place today, should be a proud moment for every Namibian man, woman and child.

By operationalising the Presidential Advisory Council, the President has made it possible for our Country to benefit from the rich experiences of our Former Leaders.

Our Founding President, Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma laid the foundation of peace and unity by choosing the path of reconciliation and Nation building. His leadership set Namibia on course, to be known and revered across Africa and the World, as a Nation held together by the pillars of peace, stability and unity.

Similarly, through his leadership, Former President Pohamba helped to further consolidate peace and stability in our country. This enabled us to achieve increased social and economic development in many Sectors. His

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leadership also put Namibia on the map, as a beacon of good governance, when he was awarded the 2014 Ibrahim Prize in African Leadership.

I am, therefore, Honourable Speaker, once more, delighted to inform the Nation that this morning, our President Dr. Hage Geingob hosted the inaugural meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council at State House. I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much for briefing us on that important event. It is indeed a step in the right direction in terms of peace and stability and to consolidates our hard won Independence.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2016]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second reading - *Appropriation Bill* [B.1 – 2016]

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 3rd of March 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Honourable Mike Kavekatora adjourned the Debate and I now have the great pleasure to call upon him to address the House.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. To the mothers of this Nation, Happy Women's Day!

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, you might recall that during my Maiden Speech last year (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Which one?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Last year, I made a comment to say that poverty in Namibia is man-made. The time has come to elaborate on what I meant by that.

Namibia is endowed with so many natural resources that are in high demand in the international markets, yet Namibia is one of the countries with the highest Gini-coefficient in the world. The question are:

- Why is Namibia failing to meet the needs and aspirations of ordinary Namibians?
- Why is poverty still a burning issue?
- Why is unemployment so high and why is the gap between the rich and the poor widening?

HON MEMBER: Do you perhaps know?

HON KAVEKOTORA: You ran out of ideas.

- Why do some Namibians feel left out and why is wealth distribution done in such a discriminatory manner?

Honourable Speaker, in an attempt to give answers to similar questions, an old Professor of the University of Stellenbosch narrowed it down to three main factors. He argued that all these are as a result of leadership, understanding and the decisions Leaders take and the choices they make. Research has also shown that countries can grow their economies and develop faster, if Leaders take decisions in the national interest.

Changing this situation, of course, requires:

- Leadership choices informed by popular needs rather than narrow interests, and take deliberate steps that increase competition and reduce inefficiency and corruption;
- Improving transparency and accountability;
- Ending often politically motivated projects and expenditures; and
- Reducing bureaucracy and simplifying processes and procedures.

We as Leaders must understand that, if we wish to appreciably and sustainably enhance the national well-being of our people, we have to give primacy to investing in productive capacity and allow the Private Sector to play its full role in the economy.

Honourable Speaker, poverty in Namibia is not because the world has denied us the financial means to compete. The modern era of globalisation has afforded Namibia and many emerging markets unprecedented trade and investment opportunities.

Poverty in Namibia is not due to lack of natural resources or agricultural potential. Namibia, compared to some Asian countries, is endowed with export materials, yet these resources have been used only to enrich the elite, spread corrupt practices and divert developmental energies and focus.

Honourable Speaker, one would appreciate the allocation made to the

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, but question the logic of a smaller allocation to this Ministry compared to Defence, for instance. Namibia today is faced with four challenges in the Agricultural Sector that require immediate action, if we are to unleash the agricultural potential of Namibia:

1. Mitigation against the possibility of another Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak;
2. The persistent drought situation in Namibia;
3. Loss of productivity due to bush encroachment on the one hand, and soil erosion on the other, and
4. Lastly, The incorporation of the northern communal areas in the mainstream of the economy.

Agriculture is not only a means of spreading growth into other Sectors and improving the overall social welfare among the many Namibians engaged in agricultural production; it also mitigates development risks. The Namibian economy remains hostage to commodity price fluctuations, given our significant dependence on mining revenue. Agriculture offers the means to some diversity and put in place the necessary conditions that have allowed other countries to pursue and realise their developmental goals.

East Asia's development record, for instance, has illustrated the importance of first freeing up agriculture; and then, on the basis of productivity gains and food security, moving into manufacturing. In Europe, agricultural revolution was the foundation for Industrial Revolution.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on interest payments; Government obligations to servicing debt are budgeted at 4.88 billion in Financial Year 2016 /2017. This equates to 8.5 % of revenue. It is true that it is below the statutory ceiling. However, we are moving slowly

close to that statutory ceiling and actions must be taken now to curb borrowing and stimulate growth.

The impact of the adverse external environment on the revenue generation capacity of our economy, in my opinion, is under-estimated. I do not see the impact of the significant drop in commodity prices being factored in the projected revenue.

Honourable speaker, the anticipated proposals by Government for the partial listing of some of the Public Enterprises on the Namibian Stock Exchange is a welcome move, provided the process is done in an open and transparent manner. We have allowed the politically well-connected to capitalise on their association with the Ruling Party for far too long.

Government should, therefore, consider taking a minority shareholding in most of these commercial State-Owned Enterprises. The argument has always been that by turning State-Owned Enterprises over to private ownership, Government is abdicating its responsibility to the public. Another underlying fear is that of losing political control over these entities. The other side of the coin, however, is that privatisation could lead to economic and financial improvement. Such an improvement will enable the Government to reduce budgetary support, which currently stands at N\$17.23 billion in the current Financial Year. By doing that, we could reduce borrowing and/or loan guarantees, which is the order of the day today.

Honourable Speaker, privatisation of commercial State-Owned Enterprises, if done prudently, is a positive move. Privatisation has a positive effect on enterprise efficiency, leading to improved performance, reduction in Government subsidies, increase in tax revenue to Government and reduction in Public Sector's debts and borrowing requirements.

Honourable Speaker, having said that, I urge the Government to privatise Air Namibia, a non-essential commercial State-Owned Enterprise that is milking government to the bone. With regard to Air Namibia, although its subsidies have not been reflected in the National Budgets before 2007, the

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cumulative bailouts since Independence up to the projected funding in the Financial Year 2018/2019 exceed N\$10 billion. Therefore, in my opinion, any patriotic Namibian should ask him or herself how to privatise Air Namibia successfully, and not whether to privatise.

I listened to many who are opposed to the privatisation of Air Namibia and most of them are citing political justification as opposed to economic and financial consideration. We can still retain our national pride in a cost-effective way by retaining a minority shareholding in Air Namibia. It simply does not make economic sense to continue allocating more Government resources to Air Namibia in comparison to other State-Owned Enterprises like TransNamib.

The argument of retaining a National Airline to carry tourists, does not hold water either. Many of the main developing countries in international tourist destinations did not have National Airlines. For instance, Costa Rica, Peru and the Dominican Republic, these are all countries whose Tourist Industries are growing, but they do not have National Airlines. Therefore, getting out of the airline business will free Government's limited resources – and I must emphasise the point of **limited resources** – to focus on social needs and developing local products and services for the tourist market.

Our focus should be on standardising and streamlining customs procedures to make them more efficient and customer friendly. In the computerised environment of Singapore, for instance, it takes a few minutes to clear a container, which at the port of Walvis Bay one has to wait for anything between two days to six months, or even a year to clear the same container. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Aye kako!

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Tweya, if you do not agree, you are welcome, I will show you exactly what I mean.

Honourable Speaker, the Namibian Railway System is critical for economic growth and the reduction of transport costs. Our transport cost amount to anything between 50% and 60% of the overall logistic cost, way above the global average of 30% – 40%. Namibia's Railway Network is facing avoidable problems, notably the maintenance backlog and lack of investment in the rail network since Independence.

The little investment in rolling stock was so politically motivated that it did not make a significant improvement on Namibia's capacity to move freight by rail, resulting in a mushrooming of trucks on our roads. I have to link up with the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. That is why some of these accidents are happening, we simply have too many trucks on our roads. The impact of this wrong choice led to a rapid decline in the life cycle of our road network. It is against this background that a higher allocation to Air Namibia compared to TransNamib is highly questionable.

Honourable Speaker, I urge the Government to unbundle NAMPOWER. The bundling of electricity generation, transmission and distribution is a wrong approach that leads to an undesirable monopolistic situation which disadvantages all the electricity consumers, including large-scale commercial consumers, as well as private households. A lack of competition in the electricity Sector generally results in lower quality of service delivery. Therefore, it is critical to implement regulatory and policy reforms to restructure NAMPOWER by unbundling power generation from power distribution and supply. The Government must facilitate the entrance of private electricity generating companies to improve service delivery and competition while establishing a truly Independent Regulatory Authority. (*Interjection*) No, how can you be independent in a monopolistic situation?

Honourable Speaker, the current limited participation of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the Namibian Electricity Sector is a bad choice

and must be done away with. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: *Ahawe m'kwetu!* (No, my friend)

HON KAVEKOTORA: *Eeno!* (Yes!). Independent Power Producers (IPPs) contribute an important form of Private Sector participation in Namibia's Power Sector, today it is limited to 5 Megawatts. In the current regime of demand outstripping supply and the high appetite of the Private Sector in the electricity generation Sub-sector, independent power projects need serious consideration. These projects have the potential of becoming a major source of new power generation capacity in Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, I applauded the Minister of Urban and Rural Development when she stopped the construction of houses through the Mass-Housing Project. To my surprise and with a few cosmetic changes, the project has resurfaced again. Again, this is a clear demonstration how politics enjoy preferences over business prudence and economic realities. The Government continues to implement political projects that are inputs driven. Once again, the Mass Housing Project in its current form will not alleviate the housing need of needy Namibians and I do not understand why Government is determined to waste taxpayers money on a politically motivated project.

My message, therefore, to the Honourable Minister is that – *Honourable Minister do the right thing, and do things right. It will not help to do things right, if you do not do the right thing:*

- Come up with a proper definition of the ultimate beneficiaries of this project;
- Come up with a proper definition of the housing market segment you want to engage;

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- Conduct a proper research to better understand the market segment, their economic and demographic realities. As we speak now, there are houses that are already completed in Outjo, for instance, but all them are totally unoccupied for almost a year. That is, missing the point.
- Identify the right implementing partner with the right skills and competencies, and
- Ensure a standardised implementation strategy in order to de-politicise the project.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Finally (*interjection*)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: No, please go on.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I thought that the retired general was asleep (*laughter*)

Let me put the projected 4.3% economic growth into perspective, Honourable Speaker. According to the World Bank; while Africa would grow economically at five (5) percent per annum, in real terms it would still fall behind. In 2001, the World Bank projected that the continent needed to grow at over 7% in 15 years in order to make inroads into its poverty backlog. The challenge for us as Leaders is to find the means to ensure greater economic value from Namibia's comparative advantages, and improved competitiveness. These aspects of economic activity demand good policy and good governance, the right choice by Leaders.

On Education, Honourable Speaker, the combined allocation of 16.2 billion to both Ministries is a welcome move. However, the time has come for education to contribute to the growth of our economy. We cannot spend money and not see the output. The output – is that many of

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these educated people are roaming the streets of Namibia, that is the output. Is that what you want? (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: What is your solution?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Come and see me. I urge the two Education Ministers to become more output driven and respond to the need and expectations of the local Industries. In other words, focus more on quality as opposed to quantity and become more output driven rather than just on numbers. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: On a Point of Order, Can I ask Honourable Kavekatora a question?

HON KAVEKOTORA: I cannot hear you. *Yera eraka* (speak louder).

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Can I ask you a question?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes.

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My question is, it appears that your Speech is politically motivated. It is empty, it is hollow. It appears as if you do not live in a real world. You live in a different world – you are not living in Africa.

What Government is trying to do is to address the legacy of the problems we have inherited from Apartheid, decades of mismanagement of the economy, exploitation and plundering, but you do not take all those factors into account. Say at least something like the Government is doing the right thing my Brother. That is why some other people have left you behind and decided to go. *(Laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: Yes, you may continue.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I think I would understand the input from the Honourable Minister. I remember why you argue that way. There is something in business called the Johari Window.

HON MEMBER: Johari Window? Please explain that to us.

HON KAVEKOTORA: The Johari Window says that there are certain things in you that only you know about yourself, and there are other things that other people know about you. Therefore, the best thing for you to do is to listen, because then you would become a complete individual. That is the first point.

The second point is – and I am also glad that it comes from the Honourable Minister, because the last time you said, you ran out of ideas. If you run out of ideas, obviously, allow other people to come and give

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you more ideas, and look at them more constructively.

Honourable Speaker, am I allowed to continue now?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you. I was almost at the end of my conclusion before the interruption.

HON MEMBER: Talk about new ideas!

HON KAVEKOTORA: Those are all new ideas. You have not privatised Air Namibia; you have done nothing about the electricity companies. Which are the old ideas here? These are new ideas.

Honourable Speaker, let me conclude and I want to conclude by quoting President John F Kennedy who said (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: That is another old ideas! (*laughter*)

HON KAVEKOTORA: I know some of you were not born by then, like the Honourables of South West Africa (*interjections*) Just listen please. The quote is as follows... (*intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: Let us listen, please.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Members might just lose a very important input. I quote, he said – “*Our problems are manmade. Therefore, they must be solved by man. No problem of human destiny is beyond human being.*”

Therefore, If you run out of ideas, please come to some of us, we still have some fresh ideas. (*Laughter*) I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on. I now call upon Honourable Lucia Witbooi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Allow me also to wish all the women, a Happy International Women’s Day. I wish them strength, health and wisdom from above (*applause*)

Coming back to my contribution on the Budget – Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the Budget before us today, allow me to firstly commend the Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their teams for drafting this important piece of legislation and for being innovative in identifying some areas on which Policies are to be made to curb possible threats to our economy.

The consensus among fair and right speaking Namibians is that the 2016/2017 Budget is a positive proof that many of the Government’s key Policies were, and continue to be successful, and are bearing fruits.

The Budget before us, is also a testimony of our Government’s

commitment to fiscal prudence. The fiscal consolidation plan and tax reform measures announced in the Budget Speech, are game changers for the country.

Indeed so, Honourable Speaker, Namibia is measurably better off today than it was 25 years ago, even much better than five years ago, and more so, than a year ago, such that even a blind person can attest to that. Thanks to the targeted fiscal interventions through the various Budgets since the birth of our beautiful Republic.

The Government continues to allocate funds where they are needed and most in line with the pressing matters of the day. In this manner, the Minister should be commended for upholding the Government's inclusive growth agenda in, and via his Budget Speech. At the centre of this Budget is a consolidated pro- growth dimension. The funding strategies proposed in this Budget are the right ingredients that Namibians need to achieve the optimal recipe that will be able to help Government respond to the structural challenges that affect the development potential.

Honourable Members, recognising the importance of Budgets, many Governments undertook to incorporate a gender perspective into the design, the development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes as appropriate in order to promote equitable, effective and appropriate resource allocation; and establish adequate budgetary allocations to support Gender Equality and Developing Programmes that Enhance Women's Empowerment, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action.

As a Parliament, we are the country's most representative institution. We are the people's House and, therefore, have a prominent role to play in the budgetary process. It is within our mandate to scrutinise and evaluate Budget Proposals to ensure that they adequately reflect the Government's implementation of its commitment to gender mainstreaming. To this end, I call all Members to critically aim at seeking a deeper appreciation of the policy measures proposed in the 2016 National Budget.

Honourable Members, from the abovementioned remarks, it is clear that it is important to scrutinise this Budget from a gender perspective. You may wish to ask, why examining the Budget from a gender perspective is so important? The Budget is by far the most important Legislative Act that any Parliament adopts in the course of the year, because it involves the taxation of the people, using the taxpayers' money for the good of the people. It is extremely important, as you all know that the people's elected representatives have an opportunity to debate that and to influence that policy, so that it truly reflects the wishes of all the people.

Honourable Members, the Budget is of course about figures, but it is foremost about people and their needs and who better than us, the Members, the people's elected representatives, know what the people's needs are and can make sure that they are well reflected in the Budget?

If we are concerned, as we are, about the people's needs, we must be concerned with making sure that the Budget is gender sensitive, because the Budget does not, in any country, affect men and women, boys and girls in the same fashion. If a gender balance environment is not achieved, the country becomes a breeding ground for poverty.

Poverty is like punishment for a crime you did not commit. Therefore, Namibians cannot continue to be punished for the crime they did not commit and that is why Government's efforts to eradicate this social evil must be supported by all peace loving Namibians.

In this regard, the Government should be commended for its steadfast focus on the social wellbeing of its citizens. Since Government declared on poverty, substantial amounts funds have been rightfully allocated to the Social Sector. This is in recognition of the fact that, unless the poor mothers are lifted out of poverty, there can never be a Namibian house.

On the pillars of social welfare development, is Education, Health care and Social Safety Nets. On this front, I note with great interest the N\$16.2 billion allocated to Education. This allocation has the potential to enhance access to Tertiary Education by expanding funding opportunities for

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students, and most importantly, support Innovation, Research and Development. I urge Namibians to take advantage of the Government's endeavour to enable every Namibian child to have free access to quality education.

The Government is to be commented on the achievements it has made on the fight against social inequality in Namibia.

As part of the fight against this evil, I commend Government for increasing the Old Age Pension by an additional N\$100.00 to N\$1,100.00 per month. What is even more exciting and encouraging is the fact that Government has already made provision for an additional N\$100 per month in the next Budget cycle.

Government continues to set itself new targets in line with the emerging trends. Hence, the Budget should not be static. This Budget before us is expected to move in line with some of these targets.

HON SPEAKER: Can we allow the Honourable Member to continue?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Amongst the noteworthy targets is a new target for 165,000 out of the 300,000 orphans to be placed on the Grant System by 2018/2019. A new target of 55,000 out of the 956,634 children, according to the Census of 2011, are to be placed in Foster Care by 2018/2019 based on the *Child Care and Protection Act* (CCPA), 2015 (Act 3 of 2015).

A new target of 55,000 vulnerable children living in poverty out of the 956,634 children, as per the Census of 2011, is set to be reached by 2018/2019. It is important for us to make sure that these targets are met by aligning the Budget to them.

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Honourable Speaker, the way forward is clear for us, but we know that it will also be a bumpy road. Our Budget should take into consideration the ever-changing challenges.

Firstly, the daily accidents on our roads continue to leave many families shattered with no hope for a better tomorrow. The breadwinners are stolen from these families, leaving huge vacuums with no one to fill these vacuums. I believe that somewhere in our budgeting process, we can find space to ensure that the pain brought by these road accidents is avoided.

Secondly, the escalating cost of living as measured by the inflation rate, dictates that Social Grants be adjusted and linked to these developments. The latest inflation figures that stood at 5.3% in January 2016, is the case in point. The figures simply say that, every Grant that Government provides has lost 5.3% of its buying power and, therefore, requires that it regularly be adjusted to reflect the realities of the day.

Thirdly, Gender-Based Violence remains a thorn in our flesh. Budgetary requirements need to be beefed up and aligned, so we can better respond to this social evil.

Honourable Members, let me conclude by stating that the Budget before us is a true reflection of our people's needs and must, therefore, be supported and endorsed as a true reflection of what our people really need. Therefore, I encourage each one of us to focus our energy on providing solutions rather than finding fault, so as to guarantee through the oversight, a representational and legislative mandate. We as Parliamentarians, have a role to play in making 2016 a year of economic growth and success.

I encourage all the Members to ensure that this particular Budget and the Budget ahead, incorporate a gender equality dimension into the budgeting process and the policies that underpin it, in order to promote equality between women and man. With this, I support the Bill and I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Let me join others who spoke before me in congratulating the people of Namibia, women in particular, as we mark the 8th of March, which is the International Women's Day. I am more particularly comforted that I am giving this congratulations surrounded by a large number of women. Congratulations, and well done Namibia (*applause*)

HON MEMBER: Also thank the SWAPO Party.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Yes, I congratulate and thank the SWAPO Party for making that possible.

HON MEMBER: *Iyaloo!*

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to congratulate the Minister of Finance and his team for presenting a forward-looking Budget, which clearly tells us that we are on the right track as a Nation

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towards prosperity, as articulated in the 2014 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto (*applause*)

Comrades, you must read it and you will see that that was the focal point and that is why we are doing this.

Comrade Speaker, the Namibian Government, like many Governments, is managing its affairs based on set Laws, Policies, Rules and Procedures. In this context, the tabling of the Budget on the 25th of February 2016, is within the context of those said principles. As a Rule, of course, before the *Appropriation Bill* Budget becomes a Law, it has to be scrutinised by the Lawmakers in both the National Assembly and National Council. Hence, the current Debate on the Budget in this Honourable House.

Honourable Speaker, it is essential to note that budgeting is all about how scarce resources are distributed among competing priorities or Sectors. It must also be noted that money has been, and continue to be a scarce commodity worldwide. As such, budget allocation and utilisation demand financial prudence by applying the concept of achieving *more with less*, and this has been the principle of this Government over the years.

As Ministries do have different missions to fulfil, budget submissions and allocations do differ from one Ministry to the another. Ministerial budget allocations are, therefore, determined by external and internal factors, which the Honourable Members need to understand and appreciate.

Honourable Members, the mission of the Namibian Defence Force is one that is not always easily understood. However, this mission is very demanding as it can determine whether we will live or die, and that is why Defence is known as an extension of Foreign Policy. I have noted that when the Debate of the Budget started, among the first criticism from the Opposition bench was the Defence Vote. The Defence Budget was viewed by some Members as unwarranted given that the country is not at war, but those who have expressed these views against the Defence Budget have made so, I believe, out of not being aware about the Defence and Security issues both locally and internationally. Their criticisms were

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not measured and qualified against the conventional Defence's mission of any country.

As it appeared in the Namibian Sun of yesterday, the 7th March 2016, Honourable Muharukua had the following to say and I quote – “*We are at peace now, which means soldiers are remunerated simply for being in barracks. Why can they not be used to deliver drought relief or to give assistance during floods when there is relief needed?*” First and foremost, this statement made by a Lawmaker should be condemned in the most strongest term, because it is belittling the men and women in uniform who have decided to sacrifice in the Defence of Namibia's Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity (*applause*) (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask my Mother, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations a question?

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Go ahead.

HON MEMBER: Do you ask your mothers questions?

HON VENAANI: Yes, we do. The mother is always asked a question, not the father.

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Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, globally when there are calamities in countries, whether it is the nuclear calamity in Japan, the Tsunami in China or the fires in Uganda, Armies are used to help in calamities.

What is fundamentally wrong to ask soldiers to do extra services for the country that they are prepared to serve?

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Please wait.

HON SPEAKER: Let her respond.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Secondly, such a Statement gives a wrong message to the public as it is a misrepresentation of facts.

It must be underscored that, the Namibian Defence Force is the only instrument of the State that shall serve as the last resort on which the State shall rely on when all security elements of national power has failed.

The Namibian Defence Force is an element of national power charged with responsibility to maintain peace and defend this country and all its citizens at all cost. The Namibian Defence Force, like all the other Defence Forces, is a public good that serve the interest of the people. You will know that over the years and until today, the Namibian Defence Force has contributed immensely to the socioeconomic development and wellbeing of the people of Namibia. (*Interjection*) Listen.

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As Namibia is prone to acute drought and flood, the only guarantor to rescue the Nation from these catastrophes is the Namibian Force. Let me put the record very clear, the Namibian Defence Force has made immeasurable contributions by saving the lives of our people during drought reliefs and floods when the Nation was faced with this disaster and this is why I am saying he is not telling the truth. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Another Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: Now may I ask a question?

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Yes.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Mother?

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Yes?

HON VENAANI: Every year, we are spending the same money as the Americans are spending on Defence in terms of the GDP percentage, (*interjections*) Yes, let us compare – compare apples with apples.

Where is the money going, if you are spending so much on Defence and

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our soldiers are underpaid? Since you are protecting them, why are they underpaid?

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** You see, now you are now coming right, because Honourable Muharukua's statement was so misleading – he was telling the public that the Namibian Defence Force are in the barracks and they should be used during disasters – I am telling the Nation that this has been happening. (*Interjection*)

Now that you are going to the topic of salaries, we can also discuss that, but let me address the misrepresentation that was made in this House and I will continue to say that the Namibian Defence Force has a reputation of ferrying people to the high land during floods. Our Defence Force is also renowned for having transported thousands of tons of food and other necessities to the needy people during disasters. That contribution has been going on for years and even continues today as we are here.

As a person who was assigned to oversee disaster and risk management in this country, I can say with confidence that, even the current drought we are experiencing in this country, one way or the other, the Namibian Defence Force has been a reliable partner in the drought relief management and distribution and people in Regions know this - they know it! One wonders why then Honourable Muharukua is so blind not to see what is happening within the public domain. The Governors are here, they can testify, therefore, they are not just kept there. When they are needed, they are called upon and they are used. (*Interjection*)

HON VENAANI: I did not say they are not doing anything.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** But why
is Muharukua saying it should be done as if it is not being done? Why do
you not appreciate what they are then?

HON VENAANI: I said the must do more.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Then, you
should not mislead the Nation.

HON SPEAKER: I find this conversation very difficult.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Therefore,
opposing the Defence budget allocation is tantamount to gambling with
our own lives and the sovereignty of the Land of the Brave. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes? On a Point of Order.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a
Point or Order; I think this is really a miscommunication and I cannot
help, but conclude that my Young Brother there is deliberately trying to
defend the indefensible.

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I think the point that the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is making is that, if Honourable Muharukua was not aware of the additional duties that the members of the Defence Force perform in serving the Namibian Nation, he could have simply said that, they should, in addition to what they are doing as members of the Defence Force, also perform these other duties, then the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister would have simply said that they are doing that already.

However, what Honourable Muharukua said, which is offensive is that these members are sitting in the barracks, practically idling. That is what is inaccurate and offensive, and I do not think that any Member of this Parliament can really condone that kind of statement from a Member of Parliament, especially when it is made on the platform of this House.

The fact that we are able to stand here and make these statements and do our work here is, because the Defence Force is there. Therefore, for us to make a statement like that is unacceptable and the Honourable Member should just accept that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Somehow, I listened very well to the intervention of Honourable Venaani and the Deputy Prime Minister. I must admit that the clarification that the Prime Minister made is quite helpful.

Can we leave the matter there and let the Deputy Prime Minister continue?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, being the Leader that I am, I always check what my members are saying in order to remain consistent with our policy.

On a Point of Information, Honourable Muharukua went as far as talking about other Industries, like the Engineering Industry that is constructing bridges – that the Army should be transformed into a force that can be

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able to protect our country and also help the socioeconomic development agenda of our country. (*Interjection*) He said that.

Therefore, to quote what the media is saying – that he said the soldiers are idling – the reality is that many of our forces, if you go to Grootfontein and Luiperds Valei, people are just playing cards in the Canteen. Therefore, in relative terms, our Army is idling and that is correct. He has made a proposition that I appreciate as a Leader, because his proposition went as far as asking why can we not use the Army at an engineering level and academic level so that it can help?

If you want to speak about the Army, speak about the salaries of soldiers – the money that you people are spending on hotels.

HON SPEAKER: Order! I think the bone of contention is that, maybe we should consider the fact that Honourable Muharukua might have been misquoted – the reference to *being idle*, is what is being talked about. (*Interjection*) But we cannot generalise.

Let us continue. Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, please continue.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am not surprised by the reaction. I am really not surprised, because the truth is always hard to digest. We have to understand it from that perspective.

I am providing the truth and clarifying to the Nation as a Leader, that the exact issue is that the members of the Namibian Defence Force have been and continue to be used during disasters and they do not only do it locally. When there is a disaster in the neighbouring country, we also go and assist as the Namibian Defence Force. That is something that we have done

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with pride and dignity and we will continue doing so.

Honourable Speaker, this House is also aware of the Defence Industry. I think we all recall the Minister of Defence talking about the Defence Industry that we are developing in this country and the farms are there.

There are Brigades in the Defence Force that can do the work.
(*Interjection*) Honourable Speaker, can you help me manage my Son here? Otherwise, I will become an angry parent at this platform.

HON SPEAKER: Usually a person does not come between a mother and a son (*laughter*), but on this occasion, I better come in. Please continue, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, it is also imperative for the benefit of the Members in this House, especially the Members who might not be aware, to underline and reflect on some fundamental principles on which the Namibian Defence Force operates. Chapter 18, Article 118 of our Constitution stipulates the following – “*There shall be established by the Act of Parliament a Defence Force... to defend the territory and national interest of Namibia,*” and I am referring to these principles so that we understand why we have to allocate a certain amount to the Defence Budget (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: *Veraera!* (Tell them!)

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Because failure to do so, we maybe gambling with our own lives and our territorial integrity.

Another principle is Vision 2030, which stipulates the following and I quote – *“There is a need to formulate and implement a coherent modernisation plan for the procurement of modern military hardware and maintain a credible defence posture that is quantitatively on par with the best Defence Force in the Region,”* and if we are not allocating appropriate resources to this Vote, there is no way we can comply with this statement, which this Honourable House has agreed to.

In the same vein, the Namibian Foreign Policy says the following – *“Without peace and security, no meaningful development and stability can be achieved.”*

Also, the *SADC Mutual Defence Pact*, Article 4 and 6 calls for and I quote – *“Military preparedness, collective self-defence and action to maintain peace, stability and security in the region.”* If you are in the region and you are not prepared, how would you contribute to regional peace and security?

And at the continental level, the African Union has put in place a Security Policy Framework for the establishment of the African Standby Force, which is made of regional Standby Forces. The Regional Standby Forces are operational, and if you are not taking care of your own force, you will not be able to contribute to peace on the continent. These Forces are even being used already. A classic example is the SADC Intervention Brigade, which is deployed in the DRC. It has not taken much time to bring this Force together, because the SADC Standby Force is already in operation. We should not think in isolation, but as part of the global village. We must also think and act globally where it is necessary.

Comrade Speaker, all the above Statements and the Programmes demand a capable and credible Defence Force with a dedicated Budget. We must

be mindful that, even Nations – and I think one Member mentioned it here – that has been in existence for many years are still strengthening their Defence Force to be able to withstand, and effectively deal with defence and security threats. I must also underline this – credible Defence Forces are not only established when there is a real threat hanging over people's heads, but credible Defence Forces are built, anchored on Defence Forces' constitutional mission, assumptions and perceived threat. They are created on assumptions that there might be a security threat one day. Nations that relent and become complacent by hoping that there shall be no emerging national threats shall do that at their own peril and possibly demise. The international political and security system is dynamic and as a Government, we must always be prepared.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, before I conclude, it is important to inform this august House that the Namibian Defence Force has made contributions to peace beyond our borders. Our men and women in uniform, members of the Namibian Force, were deployed in Cambodia, Angola and Liberia for UN Peacekeeping Missions and they have also served, and continue to serve as Military Observers and Staff Officers for Peace Support Operation under the UN and AU.

As your Minister of International Relations and Corporation, I am happy and proud to inform you that wherever our members in uniform have participated, they have performed extremely well and with high distinction and commended to the extent that now and then, we are being asked by the UN or the AU to make contributions to Peacekeeping Operations. *(Applause)*

The deployment to the DRC of the Namibian Defence Force together with other SADC Member States for combat from 1998 to 2001, prevented the fall of that country into the hands of the invaders. It ought to be recognised that the deployment of the Namibian Defence Force and others to the DRC has, to a certain extent, contributed towards the peace, security and stability. If that had not happened, the DRC situation could have been worse than what it is today and perhaps also spill over to the whole Region, and that is why we are there.

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It also has to be understood that contributing towards peace, security and stability is definitely a contribution to the world's socioeconomic development. Honourable Members, we, therefore, need to give our full support to the Namibian Defence Force through encouraging more appropriation to this Vote. They are doing a commendable job for us as a Nation. (*Applause*)

As we are debating this Budget, we must seek a clear understanding to enable us to have a meaningful Debate, a Debate that is based on a clear mission, a Debate that is to inform Fiscal Discipline, effective and efficient utilisation of scarce resources that this Government has been carrying on over the years. We must avoid a situation where we are focusing on political gain as it will not help us.

With these words, I support the *Appropriation Bill* and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next on my list is Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Speaker, let me also join others to say Happy Women's Day to our mothers and daughters, and at the same time beg our men in this country to stop the ill-treatment and killing of our mothers and daughters.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to contribute to the Debate on the Second Reading of the National Budget as was tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance. However, let me first congratulate the Honourable Minister for a job well done. The fact that a National Budget was tabled this early, would allow us ample time to Debate.

Honourable Minister, the National Budget gives us an indication that we are moving forward. In order for Government to make positive changes,

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we need to have the required resources, of which financial and human resources play a very important role.

The voters are not interested in nice Speeches, what they want to see are positive changes in their lives. The National Budget aims to redirect resources to areas identified to be priority areas. It is also important to note that, what Government regard as priority areas, will not always be seen as such by the public out there. The idea of turning words into action is highly appreciated.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Minister, I would like to mention that the 2015 Midyear Budget Review was a step in the right direction. It has helped Government to identify its problem areas and to take corrective action in the shortest possible time.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the 2016/2017 National Budget seeks to address issues, including poverty eradication and to improve the social welfare, which is appreciated. However, efforts to get rid of poverty will not be successful, if some people and groups are excluded from being part of this effort.

The Honourable Minister on Page 8 of his Budget Statement proposed to increase the Old Age Pension, to improve coverage in respect of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle. However, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, excluding some of the poor people will not do justice to Government's efforts. You cannot claim wealth creation and share prosperity for all, but you exclude some people. I am here referring to the exclusion of the former soldiers, such as the SWATF and KOEVOET from our efforts to eradicate poverty. *(Interjection)* Whether you like it or not, we need to include them in the Government efforts to eradicate poverty. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, may I kindly ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON VAN WYK: Yes.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The Honourable Member in his comments on the National Budget began very well by talking about the women and children on this day, particularly women and daughters who are the subject of the Budget, which is a people's oriented Budget.

Does the Honourable Member remember the deeds that were committed by the KOEVOET members towards these very people that he now wants to be part of the Government efforts – not only to be part of, but to be placed at the foreground of activities that are being spearheaded by this Government?

Is it not rather disingenuous for the Honourable Member to continue on that path, to even include groups such as the KOEVOET, which were auxiliary units?

And is the Honourable Member aware that such continued insistence that they are left out, is actually a manifestation of nothing else, but an inferior complex and duty consciousness of those members? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member continue.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me continue. I do not have to answer that question. The war is over and they are part of this country.

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Honourable Minister, the decision to put the idea of solidarity tax on hold and to engage the people on the issue is also appreciated. It is important for people to understand what solidarity tax is and what it aims to achieve.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Government is committed to deliver affordable serviced land and housing under the Mass Land Servicing and Mass Housing Programmes, respectively. The commitment to deliver affordable serviced land is appreciated. However, Honourable Minister, the questions on the lips of the Nation are - when will we see the results and how long is the queue? It is common practice that those who already benefited, will benefit first before those who are really in need will be attended to. I can assure you that those who see this commitment as an opportunity to make big bucks, are on the lookout. What do we have in place to ensure that we reach the targeted groups and that corruption is eliminated?

The Mass Housing Programme, although the idea might have been of good intention, has failed the Nation. It is a plea of the masses out there to bring back the Built Together Programme instead. The Built Together Programme with an increase loan amount and proper administration to eliminate corruption, will yield the expected results. Government should, therefore, reconsider its decision to continue with the Mass Housing Scheme and redirect the funds to re-implement the Built Together Programme. That is what the Nation wants.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, since I will not be in the House during the introduction of some of the Votes, I would like to use some of my time to briefly touch on some of the Votes.

Let me, therefore, start with **Vote 30**, that of the **Anti-Corruption Commission** on Paged 449 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework Handbook of 2016/2017 to 2018/2019. It is indicated that we have seen a decrease in reported cases from 437 in the Financial Year 2013/2014 to 427 in the Financial Year 2014/2015.

Honourable Members, corruption is very high in this country and it is all

over. The question is, do our people really see the need to report cases, as a Nation has lost trust in the ACC? That is one of the reasons why these reports cases have come down. For some, the allocation of funds to the ACC is regarded as a waste of public resources, as the ACC only concentrated on a selected few people, whilst cases such as the misuse of State Resources are only come to light when newspaper report on them.

Vote 03 – National Assembly, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, apart from the lack of human resources, the lack of funds to carry out the oversight function as expected, is of huge concern. Efforts to increase the allocation in the Financial Year 2016/2017, is appreciated. It is, however, not enough and needs to be reconsidered Honourable Minister. It is not fair to the Nation for the Members of Parliament to sit idle, because there are no funds to carry out their responsibilities. The allocation of funds to Committees from a pool is another concern, as the first come first served approach fails to do justice to the responsibility of Members of Parliament and causes the Nation to suffer.

Vote 11 - National Council, the National Council as the House of Review, has an important role to play. However, that House is sometimes not seen as important as it is evident from the lack of resources. Regional Councillors are always blamed for not reaching out to their Constituencies due to a lack of resources. The low execution rate of 54% of its Operational Budget is of great concern as it deprives the electorate of the much needed services and development. It is my plea to the Regional Councils to strengthen their structures and improve on Capacity Building Programmes to equip themselves in order to use funds allocated to the Regions on time and to the benefit of the people.

Vote 28 - Electoral Commission, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Electoral Commission is one of the crucial Institutions in any country and needs to have the required resources to ensure free and fair elections at all times. I am happy to note that provision was made for the implementation of the Voter Verification Paper Audit Trail in the current MTEF.

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Voters' education and continuous registration of voters is an area that also needs attention and financial resources. Honourable Members, these issues can only be attended to if the ECN Regional Offices are constructed and equipped to carry out these functions. Therefore, proper allocation for funds to this Vote is of outmost importance. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Are you discussing all the Votes?

HON VAN WYK: I only touch on the Votes that will be discussed when I will not be here. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Where are you going?

HON VAN WYK: **Vote 5 - Home Affairs and Immigration**, the Home Affairs Minister has achieved a lot through effective management, good Policies and Procedures. The Home Affairs Ministry has shown that we can do it. It can, however, do more with more funds, Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister, thank you for listening, and most importantly, thank you for taking action. In some parts of the country, there is no need for people to complain about not having National Documents. I would like to urge people to make use of the services and facilities provided.

Vote 06 - Safety and Security, that of the Honourable General. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Namibian Police and the Namibian Correctional Services have an important mandate, however, in order for them to live up to the expectations, they need to have the

required financial and human resources. Effectiveness is what the Nation wants from the Namibian Police, in particular. I am convinced that some Police Officers are not serious about their work as there are allegations of corruption and favouritism levelled against them, while some of them apparently assist their friends in criminal networks.

Gender-Based Violence has increased due to the fact that some Police Officers are not doing their work as required. Vote 06 should be allocated the funds needed to make and keep Namibia as a safe country. However, a well-funded ineffective and corrupt Police Force is not what the Nation wants.

Vote 27 - Sports, Youths and National Service, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, one sometimes get the impression that this Vote is not regarded as important. The amounts for sports promotion and support, and youth development is far from enough and needs a serious increase, if we want to become a respected power house in sport and youth development.

Vote 17 - Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this Ministry is faced with many challenges, some of the biggest challenges being that it serves Local Authorities and Regional Councils that are not capacitated to carry out functions as required. The lack of capacity results in services that are not rendered at expected levels.

Ineffective Local Authority Administration, corruption and the quest for affordable service land, just to mention a few, are some of the other challenges. It is important for the Ministry to have at least the required resources at national level to effectively monitor, evaluate, and correct the efforts of Regional and Local Authorities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the plight of Village Councils and some Town Councils is that they cannot cope with the high NamWater bills. Some Village Councils find it difficult to sustain themselves due to various reasons and the only people who suffer are the

poor ratepayers – the poor residents. Some Local Authorities are suffering because of poor financial controls, they should blame themselves and get out of the problems on their own. I, however, suggest that Government should make provision or should consider providing subsidy to Village Councils and some Local Authorities that really struggle to sustain themselves. Such subsidies should, however, be paid directly to the bulk suppliers, as they might use this money to pay salaries.

Vote 08, - Defence, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it has become common practice in Namibia, that Defence is one of the biggest recipients of Government funding. I agree that we should look after our Soldiers and compensate them as they are career and professional soldiers. The Nation, therefore, also wants to see them being more involve in fighting crime.

I, however, get the impression on the other hand, that Namibia has become an employment creation institution for the Chinese and North Korean Construction companies? And that Namibia is compelled to provide as such, therefore, the huge allocation on the development projects of this Vote. The Honourable Minister of Defence should enlighten the Nation on what is going on.

Vote 10 - Education, Arts and Culture, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is good for Government to continue investing in this sector. The aim is to provide quality education to all our children. We always complain that the biggest portion is going to salaries. Yes, in order to get the best results, you need to compensate your workers properly. It is, however, expected from teachers to bring the best out of our children. Government efforts to improve the abilities of teachers might soon start to deliver the expected results, but requires the inputs from all stakeholders. A lack of discipline sometimes makes it difficult for teachers to get the best out of some learners and this has a negative effect on the Sector. Children have Rights, but those Rights come with responsibility, something we have failed to tell our children.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I fully agree with the

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Minister of Education to raise the bar to 27points for Grade 10, and her explanation make sense. I suggest that the issue be debated and that the public be educated as they should understand that as a Nation, we should always reach for the stars. We only need the best for our children and the stakeholders should take note that we will not compromise.

Substandard work on Government and Education Facilities should stop as it have a negative influence on the Education Sector. We cannot always pump money into the Sector in return for substandard work from contractors. As a Nation, we do not want to hear that money was returned to Treasury whilst our children still sits in dilapidated class rooms, tents and even under trees.

Accommodation for teachers also needs our serious attention, to ensure that the Education Sectors recruits the best teachers at all times.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, another issue that needs attention, is the use of conventional classrooms. I am not convinced that our children should be taught in these conventional classrooms. These conventional classrooms are very hot, they are not conducive to the learning environment and should only be regarded as a short term solution.

HON MEMBER: What classrooms are these again?

HON VAN WYK: Conventional classrooms. National and Regional structures should work together to ensure that we deliver and give equal opportunities to all children. Official who fails to carry out certain functions should be called to order. All over the country the Regional Council always complain that we drop (*intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you Honourable speaker. The Honourable Member is talking about conventional classrooms that are very hot inside – I am not quite clear on this convention classroom he is referring to. Can he clarify this?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please do continue.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I was just corrected, they are called unconventional classrooms, these steel structures that are also costing us a lot of money – we should move away from that.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, all over the country, Regional Councils always complain that at national level – contractors are dumped on them and they do not have a say – that contributes to the poor quality of buildings and infrastructure. We should also give attention to these problems.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me quickly touch on a very important issue, that of Traditional Authorities. The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is faced with a lot of problems regarding Traditional Authorities. However, these Organs have over the years and prior to Independence played a very important role in the lives of communities and still need to continue playing their role. Traditions and cultures should be respected, that is what we preach all the time. Why is it that so little is put forward to empower Traditional Authorities? The Council for Tradition Leaders only meets once a year and the question is why? (*Intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

Honourable Van Wyk, in your opinion, why do you think that up to date - 26 years after Independence, the Baster Community has no recognised Traditional Leader in the country of their birth?

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Thank you Honourable Member for the question, I wish I could answer that. I do have the answer, but let me not move to that field now. That is something that the Traditional Leaders and Government should sort out.

Honourable Speaker, can I continue? The Council of Traditional Leaders only meet once a year. The question is why? I would also like to answer the question. It is because there is no money or little money allocated to Traditional Authorities. I suggest that Government allocates more funds to Traditional Authorities in order for them to serve their people. The only other time when we hear about Traditional Authorities is when newspapers report on in-fighting between Traditional Authorities. My plea is that, as a Government, we should give more attention to Traditional Authorities, whether they are recognised or not. It is very important.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it will be unfair not to say something about the New Parliament Building and the amount allocated to the project. It is public opinion that we do not need a new Parliament. It is suggest that we continue engaging our people on this issue. I have recently engaged 67 people on the issue. And all of them were against the building of a new Parliament, the reasons being as follows: (*Intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION [HON HINDA]:** Honourable Speaker, can the Honourable Member inform the House on the matter of (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can you repeat the question again, your microphone was not turned on?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION [HON HINDA]:** I just want to ask a question the Honourable Member.

The public that the Honourable Member is referring to, does he mean are those the voters who voted for him to represent them here? If that is the case, then it is understandable, because from their perspective, this space seems to be more than enough for one or two people who are representing them.

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

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Speaker and thank you Honourable Member for the question.

Yes, I engaged these people through the social media. They are voters and this is what they are saying. Honourable Speaker, the reasons are

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that we need more classrooms; proper health facilities and affordable serviced land. Therefore, their question is, why not directing this money towards these Projects? It is not my question. It is what the people are asking outside.

Honourable Speaker, some other questions are: Why the huge increase from N\$700 million in 2015/2016 to N\$2, 2 billion in 2016/2017 – who will get the tender to construct the building? Those are the questions. If we compare the N\$2.2 billion for a new Parliament to the N\$6.6 billion allocated to Defence, N\$2.2 billion seems to be little money. Keeping in mind that the Chinese will be the contractors, these billions will be leaving this country to benefit the Chinese, why? These are the questions the public is struggling to obtain answers for.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the public is not aware of the challenges with regard to the limited space at Parliament and how it negatively influence the work of Parliament and the work of the Members of Parliament.

HON MEMBER: Then tell them!

HON VAN WYK: I suggest that we provide the public with more information as to why Namibia needs a new Parliament Building. I thank you for listening and I rest my case for now.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. At least, Honourable Van Wyk concluded by saying the public out there do require information and we should provide that information. Thank you very much. We move on to the next speaker.

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HON MEMBER: The Honourable Member is aware of all these problems, why did he not provide the public with such information?

HON SPEAKER: Well, I guess he is looking for reinforcement from other the Members of the House.

HON MEMBER: But he has all the information he wants, he just mentioned that.

HON SPEAKER: Anyway, I call upon Honourable Alweendo. You have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:
Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, I also rise to make my contribution to the Budget and I would like to start off by saying, as elected representatives of the people our main responsibility here is to build the future for the Namibian people and not just any future, but a future where Namibia stands tall among the Nations of the world. A future where all Namibians are moving forward with confidence – confident that their lives and that of their future generation are changing for the better. Not only that their lives are improving in terms of material wellbeing, but also in terms of social wellbeing.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I, therefore, want to commend the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein for

having tabled a Budget that gives us the tools to build that future. It is my view that the Budget responds fittingly to building Namibia's future, especially in the following respects:

1. The Budget emphasises the importance of growing the economy, at least in the long run, as the only sure way to successfully create jobs for the jobless Namibians and thereby addressing the persistent inequality so prevalent in our society today. This would be done by appropriately investing in the right areas of the economy such as investing in certain infrastructures, without which no meaningful economic growth can take place.
2. The Budget also makes it possible for us to continue to build the necessary skills – the skills we need for the future economy. It has been proven many times that countries that have developed their economies successfully, are those countries that have invested heavily in skills development. The world has also changed, such that not just any skill will do for us – what we need are skills that are relevant and also skills that are advanced. For this to materialise, there is a great need for us to fully embrace innovation – innovation in the way we think and also innovation in what we choose to do.
3. The Budget makes it possible for us to continue building a fair and just society, where inclusivity is our watchword. Sustainable development can be assured only when we intentionally nurture a caring society where the strongest among us feel compelled to act in solidarity with those who are weaker; where the minorities do not feel that they are meant to be objects of ridicule by the majority; where the youth are afforded the necessary opportunity to fulfil their ambitions; and also, where the elders feel that their contributions to what Namibia is today is appreciated. A Nation that feels as one – the one that not only recognises, but also encourages the contribution of everyone – is in a better position to overcome the development challenges that lie ahead of us.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as a developing and relatively

young Nation, we are certainly in a privileged position where we do have financial resources – although not sufficient – to enable us to build the future we want. There are countries that are in a precarious position where up to 40% of their Budget is funded with donated financial resources. We, therefore, ought to be proud of ourselves and encourage the Minister of Finance to continue strengthening our revenue collection efforts.

Honourable Speaker, on our part, the ones that are responsible for spending our financial resources on behalf of the people, it is our obligation to ensure that we utilise our resources in the most prudent manner. In the manner that will allow us to do what matters most in the process of building the future our people deserve. We cannot, and should, therefore, not fail them in this regard.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let us also not be tempted to believe that money alone can solve our agendas or development challenges. Not to think that with more money we can somehow deliver the future effortlessly. While it is important to have a Budget that is appropriately framed in building our future, we must also recognise the importance of cultivating the right sets of societal values – values that are conducive to building our desired future. For example, we need to nurture a society that believes in our ability to achieve great things. A society that is not afraid to think big and not prepared to listen to those who tell us that it cannot be done.

We need to build a society that is not too satisfied with the *status quo* – not always contented with things as they are today, but also prepared to think about how things can be tomorrow. To inspire a culture that is less obsessed in instant gratification that, unfortunately, in all likelihood will undermine our long-term potential. To cherish a culture that believes that our existence – individually and collectively – cannot change without taking some personal responsibility and also some risk in acting. And that doing nothing may well be the biggest risk one can ever take. Without these values, Honourable Speaker, our efforts to build a great future will yield less than optimal result.

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I, therefore, support the Budget unreservedly and call upon all of us to make good use of the availed financial resources in the construction of a confident future of all the Namibians. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Dr Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Colleagues, this afternoon or this year rather, I have decided to approach the Budget differently, on a point format. That would be my presentation – very short though. Comrade Speaker, it is indeed a privilege that I have this chance to make a few remarks on the Budget.

I would like to thank Comrade Calle and his team. I do not have any cow to give you (*laughter*) – just to thank you for a well presented Budget Speech and I think I could have even asked my Neighbour here, my Good Comrade Minister, to give you an elephant, but he does not have enough power.

Comrade Speaker, the 2016/2017 Budget is well presented. It is pro-poor and inclusive. A Budgets naturally gives us what we could spend. If we decide just to spend within the limits of what we have, we will be able to overcome the predicaments within our spending. Therefore, generally, a Budget should be understood as giving an overall outline of what could be spent, and not to go beyond the limits.

Many times during the past years, during my tenure at Parliament, I have talked about various issues regarding the Budget utilisation by individual Ministries. It is our Budget and a Budget for an individual. Be it an entity or a Ministry, it is our Budget. As such, I had thought that we learn every year from how we have during the past years and that we should improve to spend just what is within our limits.

As such, I would like to touch on some few points: I always thought it would be to our benefit as a country should we create one major project – it could take five years, ten or fifteen years – just for us own that project. Projects could, for example, be to harvest water, because we receive a lot of floods at times and after six or seven years, we complain there is no water. Maybe that could be the project to embark upon. If we build a mega dam in the likes of what is known around here as Kariba Dam. We could, for example, build something of that nature, but we should then construct it within an areas of good catchments – an area where we could utilise this water for many purposes, where agriculture is one, lodging is another, water sport and many others. That is just one area that we can think of as are contemplating on how best to utilise our Budget.

There are issues of great importance that I think we should look into when we implement our Budgets. I do not necessarily want to talk about what I have been talking about in the past, things like the State-Owned Enterprises – this time I will hedge them, hoping that, with the new Ministry, things will improve and not be like in the past where specific State-Owned Enterprises would repeatedly give you a Business Plan, go and divert from the Business Plan, and then they would come again as if they were the only State-Owned Enterprises in this country. That should be stopped. It should be stopped because I have reasons why I am saying that. It should be stopped, because in actual fact, it is destroys the Budget as a whole. We cannot keep on giving one person above the other. With the new Ministry, I honestly believe that such a trend will come to an end and those who are going to be culprits should be taken to book. They should feel it, because you cannot just tell a person – *do not do it*, he or she keeps on doing it. We keep having the same person repeat the same things, why? Without necessarily mentioning who they are, they know themselves. I think that is one thing that should be taken care of.

The other issues I wanted to talk about are issues such as the youth skills development through training. (*Intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order please.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I quickly want to ask the Chief a small, small question, if he does not mind.

Honourable Chief, you made a very good point about those who get money and they keep coming back and keep changing their Business Plans. What do you say about Political Parties, which have been receiving money from this House and they are not growing in their membership? And they are not even accountable? What do we do with them?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Comrade Attorney-General, that is a very interesting question as well, but you know, when you have a business, whoever funds the business should not just want to fund a business that only comes to pocket and then they come tomorrow again, but nothing happens. I think whoever is doing that should be questioned why you are not growing, because when you use money, it should be used for proper investments and there should be an output.

Comrade Speaker this Budget gives us all a chance to grow, if we want to grow. The possibility is there. Just like in our houses, you cannot eat what you cannot afford. That is one thing.

Within the Budget framework in our various Ministries, I just have a few things that I would like to bring to the attention of all of us in this Honourable House.

Firstly, this has to do with growth. I have experienced and I think you must have also experienced that we want to assist our ordinary people. When we say we want them to grow, we say when you are producing, for example – if you are producing maize or mahangu or whatever, it is

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locally, as a business person our business persons are encouraged to buy from local suppliers, and I am talking about businesses which pay taxes to Inland Revenue on a monthly basis. If I buy from a woman who sells, for example, Marula Oil, I want this woman to grow because she produces Marula Oil, which is a much needed commodity. It is a commodity that is very essential within the market. Now when I am filing my returns to the Revenue Office, I have a problem. My problem is, they are asking you – *where are the receipts? We do not accept these receipts.* What it tells me is not to buy from this woman again. Do not buy from them Marula Oil again, do not buy their goods, do not buy their beans or any of their products so to say, because they have these receipts that are not recognised.

I think if we really want to address poverty and we want to elevate this ordinary man and woman in our communities, if they have the potential to produce this special commodities, even if you want to give add value to our local products, we should be in a position to find a way of how to incentivise or how to add value to their products without necessarily saying - *do not buy from them, because we do not recognise their receipts.* Whoever think is (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: Sorry to disturb the Honourable Member, but you are making a point that is very close to my heart. Therefore, just on a Point of Information, are you aware that our woodcrafters who are here at Eros, from Kavango, if you receive the furniture allowance that we are entitled to – if you want to go and buy a table from them, the system is telling you that you cannot buy from that person because there are no receipts. They are not Nictus – but this is so bad, because this is something that I want from there. I have not even utilised my furniture allowance, but you are told to go and buy from Nictus. That is so bad and we need to really fix

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that problem and I am supporting you to further interrogate that issue. We really need to do something.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Venaani. That is basically the question I have – how we can empower ordinary people to move from where they are and elevate them to where they can partake within the economic sphere or within the mainstream economy of our country.

Secondly, it is an issue of the PPPs or the Public Private Partnerships. In my understanding, I feel this has been going on for too long and it is now time that we should look into reviewing it or bringing it at the level where we should put it in the lime light of everybody, so that we can empower people through the Public Private Partnerships. I think that should be taken as a matter of urgency. I do not want to elaborate more, because it already speaks volumes within itself.

Thirdly, the Youth Skills Training in the Economic Fields – youth skills development is essential. If we want to accelerate economic activities within the country, we need to create growth points and growth points can only be created when you have skilled individuals, particularly the youth.

Once you have exposed them to the necessary skills, they will be able to partner with the Ministry of Trade. You create proper incubation centres and you will see how they will come up on their own. I can tell you – I have a problem, personally, but I do not want to elaborate on it. Let me say this – if you want skilled people, for example, in the Tourism Industry, I am talking about local young Namibians. You know very well that the agents we have are overseas.

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When the Tourists come here, they pay their money there through those agents overseas. Do we have any here in our country? What are we doing, just to create that opportunity?

If you want people, for example, skilled in hosting international events and events that would require a person with a qualification – do we have them here? We normally have a few individuals, if at all there are any, We will go and hire others. Can we create an opportunity, whether in the form of a training centre or a school or college, if you want to call it that way, or just a faculty within one of our Institutions of Higher Learning and then create modules.

I have a problem when it comes to catering, for example, just catering. We have people who are just learning by hook or by crook. These people are doing just good enough. I think we need to do more (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION [HON HINDA]: I am sorry to interrupt my Learned Colleague. Especially, because today is International Women's Day and whilst he is emphasising the importance of skilled development for the youth, could he kindly include the women in his argument? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you, Comrade Hinda. When you talk about youth, youth, is an inclusive term. There are young women as well. There are members of the youth who are women. I do not necessarily want to go into gender issues. We are all one.

However, what I was trying to say is, there is a need for us to look into those issues of bread and butter. If you skill a person, I tell you, that person would not want to come back to you, because he or she has the potential of creating money for himself or for herself. That is why schools should be understood in context. We send people to school, because we want them to think holistically – to be able to do things on their own.

When you are skilled, you are learned, particularly in technical issues or mechanical issues. You would not want to be employed by someone else, but would want to employ yourself, because you can do things for other people. And you would also be able to employ other people too. If we are just giving the youth general education, I think we are doing ourselves a disservice, because these people will come back to us and want to look for employment. If they want to be employed, they can employ themselves with their skills. Let us, therefore, look into the potential of creating colleges that includes some of these very scarce careers that I have spoken about.

The other thing that goes along with training is the NQA. The accreditation of Institutions is taking too very long to complete, just to inform the Institution – *this is where you are*. And also, when they are telling an Institution that it does not qualify, they should tell them – *you do not qualify because of a, b, and c*, and not just that they do not qualify. I think we should look at the team that is there seriously. I do not want us to have an Institution that is there, just to block others because they have the power to block others.

Let us be realistic in our approach, we should be realistic in our approach – tell a person that, *your Institution is not up to standard, because your modules are not outdated or your curriculum is not up to scratch*. Tell the person why you are not happy, so that a person can go and improve upon what is required, so that these Institutions that are that are in waiting that are simply held hostage by the NQA, can start training and skill people who in can in turn start doing things.

I just want to generally, conclude by saying that (*interjection*)

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HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Did you just mention my name?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: No, not General, but generally (*laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I just want to rise on a Point of Order to provide information.

Perhaps the first thing that the House needs to know, particularly the Honourable Member who is currently on the Floor, is the fact that when we talk about skills development, we look at it in three tiers, that is, university bound, technical and vocational training bound, as well as those who are updating their skill or rather their points so that they could eventually, either join the university, or technical and vocational education.

Comrade Member, you will agree with me that for our university bound group, that particular stream has indeed been well developed in terms of advancement for the past years 20. It is the task that the Ministry of Higher Education is seized with, to make sure that technical and vocational education does increase its enrolment going forward. The kinds of areas or professions that you have outlined with regard to event management and tourism, those are skills or professions that are within our technical and vocational education. They are there. All that we need to do is to actually expand the enrolment.

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Secondly, with regard to NQA – NQA is our Regulatory Body that regulates qualifications in our country. It also accredits Academic Programmes. We must also appreciate the fact that in their assessment, it takes a bit of time to actually make sure that you do a good job each time you assess, whether a qualification or a programme. Particularly, with foreign certification, you have to engage universities where people graduated from, to verify that these people did indeed complete whatever courses they were pursuing.

I think we need to be appreciative of what they are doing, but, of course, we expect them to improve. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Okay. Comrade, when we talk about these things, I want us to be very mindful that I do not want us to go to our defence or to apply to our defence mechanisms.

Firstly, if one has to ask how many Event Managers do we have, thus far – Or are there statistics on tourist data, for example? Where are they? I need some information in that regard. I want an Event Manager. We can talk about that at a later stage. However, I tell you, there is a need out there and that is what I am talking about.

Also, when we talk, we should not necessarily talk about this High Education. We are making a mistake, because the people who are unemployed, are not necessarily empty vessels. These are people who did not get the opportunity to go to school, but can succeed, if they are given training modules. I have, especially seen many of these Educational Programmes in various countries and they are successful. Once you train a person – it is not about English like what we speak here, it is more

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about the skill, do not judge a person by the language, no. Try to skill the person and then you will see how this person will perfect what is required to be done using his or her own brains. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: I do appreciate the interventions that the Chief is making very much. I really do.

However, what I want to ask the Chief in relation to accreditation and recognition is this – if I go and study at an Institution that is not accredited by the NQA and I have successfully completed that curriculum, did I learn something or did I not learn anything and, therefore, if the conclusion is that I have learned something, even if, according to the standards of NQA I have not learned anything, have I generally attained an ability to be a productive being?

Can he address us on that, because he is a very good, wise man old (*laughter*) Also, I agree with him in relation to this matter of us perhaps aspiring too much for university education. What is his view regarding community colleges, which part of many industrialised countries, but which is non-existent? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I take both questions then the Chief will deal with them at once?

One more Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: I want to ask the Chief a quest and it touches on the aspect that our people out there *are not necessarily empty vessels*, in his own words, because of the fact that they do not have degrees and those beautiful qualifications that we always believe, if you have that, then only you are somebody.

Is the Chief aware that our Government, has realised the importance of innate skills that our people possess without necessarily having been to colleges or universities, and after having realised that, have provided for skills to be recognised and referred to as prior learning recognition, that we accredit through NQA?

Those are provisions that are available through which we can continue to assist our people. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Both questions are extremely important, Honourable Dr Ankama. Would you like to deal with them? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Comrade Speaker, I thank you and I thank the humble Colleagues who have asked these situations.

Comrade Minister, maybe I should start with yours indeed, and that ties in with my Comrade's first question.

We should understand education in context. I do not know, the way we understand education here is that you have to go to school, but in the olden days or years – hundreds of year back, people had knowledge and skills. These are the skills that are transformed into what we call syllabuses and then you have curricula and the programme of education that you are currently using, that does not include every aspect of skills development. That is the thing. That is why we say, even people who are

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doing woodcarving there, look at what they are doing and ask, how many of them have been in a classroom. Perhaps a very few, if they have been. Ask them whether they have been at a technical college, maybe not at all, but they do these things perfectly, well polished and their creations are state-of-the-art.

Now Comrade, you know you asked a question whether a college or an institution that is accredited is the only best place to study. Skills are just skills. In my understanding, NQA is just a matter of formalisation. You want to formalise, since you want to tie the qualification to money or a salary when you are going to get a payment, or you are going to pay someone else.

If X person wants to have a graduate who has skills, you will ask him or her – *how can I pay you, if your qualification is not even accredited?* That is the only thing, in my personal view, but practically speaking, it goes back to the community colleges. I have seen community colleges all over the world. There are so many places in the world, and I can tell you, these community colleges are doing a marvellous job. Since these are people with practical skills, these people create genuine things.

If the person wants to mould a toilet pot, the person would be in the position to do that because he or she has the skills, and not from a university. If we are all going to the university right now, who will be able to do the woodcarvings, like what we have here – these tables, chairs and all the likes? Do we necessarily need to have degrees to do that? Not necessarily.

All that I am saying is, let us skill our people through proper – whether you call community colleges or vocation trainings centres – as long as these are Institutions of Training.

The more we provide people with skills, the better, because we also ignite or in fact, instil in them the necessary self-esteem, to be able to start businesses on their own without necessarily being employed by you and me.

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Before I conclude, I think the question here is how to go about utilising the Budget that we have to equip as many people as possible to enable us to grow the economy together. I thank you for the chance, Honourable Speaker and I thank you Colleagues for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I now call upon the Minister of Defence, who has waited for too long.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, before I continue, I would also like to join others in congratulating our mothers on their day, that is, the International Women's Day.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to express my profound appreciation to the previous speakers and I am here referring to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, as well as the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, since I did not attend the last Assembly proceedings, in order to inform myself, I was trying to find the Speech of the Honourable Members of this House this morning. Concerning Honourable Muharukua's Statement – it is my responsibility as the Minister of Defence to respond to questions relating to the affairs of the Ministry of Defence. Therefore the best thing you could have done was to take it upon yourself and consult me for advice on the subject matter.

However, Comrade Speaker, without wasting time, I have to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for well job done. They made it clarified everything, therefore, I will not repeat what they said in this House, in particular, for the benefit of public in general.

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As one of the former Governors in the 14 Regions and a former Regional Councillor, I served for 10 years as Regional Governor of the Oshikoto Region and 18 years as a Regional Councillor, I will, therefore, be talking out of experience. What the Comrades – the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Deputy Prime Minister have said in connection with the Namibian Defence Force is hundred percent correct. The two Honourable Members mentioned extensively what the members of the Namibian Defence Force are doing, as well as what they have done in the past. Therefore, the Namibian Defence Force did not only start doing that today or when the Honourable Member in question joined Parliament. We started a long time ago. My predecessor, the former Minister of Defence, is here to attest to that. We relied on them when it comes to fighting veld fires, including when it affected your farms.

For the sake of clarity, you may recall what had happened last month in the Karas Region and who was there? It was the Namibian Police and Namibian Defence Force. (*Applause*) Even during the drought, we take that as our responsibility. Whatever comes, we are there for the Nation and we are there for you. Who are the participants of **Operation Omake** in all 14 Regions? For your information it is the Namibian Police and the Namibian Defence Force. (*Applause*) What I would like to tell the public is that, this is not the time to politicise security. You can compromise whatever you can, but do not try to politicise your security.

Last year, Comrade Speaker, I was also trying to explain everything that this is our motherland – regardless which Political Party you are affiliated to, our motherland is only one. Therefore, Comrade Speaker, commenting on the point where the public is informed, especially by the Opposition that this is a time of peace – who told you so? Will you be in the position to tell us on any good day when the war will come? That is the main reason why the Namibian Defence Force is always ready, 24 hours around the clock (*applause*) (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order, yes, Honourable Member.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, can I just ask the Honourable Minister a small question?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: You are welcome.

HON MAAMBERUA: The Comrade Minister is insinuating that the Opposition is not conscious of the role of the Defence Force. I think that message should have gone to all the Political Parties, if that is what his intention is, but to single out that this is the message for the Opposition – that is telling the Nation that we are not appreciative of the role of Defence.

Some of us have been at the forefront of the Liberation Struggle and, therefore, it is not acceptable that today, somebody should come to doubt our commitment to the sovereignty and the inalienable Rights of the Namibian people. Please, if there is any doubt, the doubt should be directed to any other person than casting it specifically to the Opposition as a group.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I will request the Minister to continue.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, allow me to go ahead, but on this question, my Brother, those types of questions, according to (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can he just answer and then you pick it up from there? Is it connection to what was said earlier?

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HON VENAANI: The Honourable Member is a new Member of the House and I respect that he is a new Member of the House, but when he talks about other people, he must speak through the Speaker. He is consistently pointing a finger (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: We are allowed to point fingers, he is not pointing to anyone.

HON VENAANI: Please listen! All of us can point fingers, (*interjections*) He can point fingers, but he is pointing at me. (*Laughter*)

The Honourable Member should desist from doing that. I can defend myself, I can defend my Party's position on the Defence of this country – I am very able to defend myself. He must refrain from trying to intimidate me. He is intimidating a General who cannot be intimidated (*interjections*) Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Order! Just hold the fire. All the Honourable Members should direct their intervention through the Chair. That is a Convention that we all respect. Honourable Member, please continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Comrade Speaker, I rise to raise an objection.

Is it Parliamentary for the Leader of the Official Opposition my Dear Brother, Honourable Venaani, whom I respect, or the entire Opposition, to

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want to dictate as to the substance of the response of the Honourable Minister of Defence, or to dictate the way he must stand and whether he must smile or not smile. Is it Parliamentary? If so, what Rule determines that please?

HON MEMBER: Yes, tell us!

HON SPEAKER: I think we should leave it at that. We are basically drifting away from the Budget interventions.

Let the Honourable Minister of Defence continue making his Statement. I think I noted that Members should address themselves through the Chair and the Honourable Members should not dictate to others. Those are useful hints, but for now, let the Honourable Minister continue.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, just for the sake of sharing information, I have to tell this House that I am not new to Parliament. The first time I came to the Parliament was in 2004, as a Member of the National Council – or do you think that the National Council is not part of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia? *(Laughter) (Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information,

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**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON YA NDAKOLO**

Honourable Venaani said you are a new Member to this House, not to the Parliamentary House – to this National Assembly.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: And what is the difference between the National Council and the National Assembly? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Please continue, Honourable Member.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I am concluding my remarks by saying – I have to salute Comrade Calle and his team, as well as the National Planning Commission, and I support the Bill. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. It is very interesting that all of you are so energetic today. You are absolutely remarkable, but the time is not with us.

We concluded the list and we will continue with the same energy and vigour tomorrow.

Let me at this point, request the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I propose that the House adjourns until tomorrow, at 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The House stands adjourn until tomorrow, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:40 UNTIL 2016.03.09 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
09 MARCH 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes, Honourable Kavekatora?

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA**

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Account's Central Government Report for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012, for note taking.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of Questions? Honourable Venaani?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I ask your concurrence to ask an Oral Question to the Minister of Health and Social Services Honourable Dr Benhard Haifiku?

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON VENAANI**

HON MEMBER: Under what Rule are you asking that question?

HON VENAANI: Rule 82 of Standing Rules and Orders.

HON SPEAKER: Actually, it was my intention to congratulate the Minister of Health and Social Services Honourable Dr Haufiku for the excellent presentation he made over the BBC on mental health. I think he needs to be informed that he did an excellent job. Well done. (*Applause*)

With that, the Leader of the Official Opposition has an urgent question to put to the Honourable Minister.

ORAL QUESTION

HON VENAANI: Honourable Minister, are you aware that there is an urgent labour crisis in the Katutura State Hospital, where 201 cleaners are cleaning and that a certain Ms Amagulu, who is their direct Supervisor has outsourced their work to a private company to clean the Hospital. It is a good thing to keep the Hospital clean, but these labourers are claiming that this outsourcing has left them redundant in the Hospital. They do not know what to do, because a certain Ms Amagulu is now using this private company and they are claiming that they are not getting the necessary cleaning materials and that when they demand for the necessary cleaning materials like the disinfectants that keep the rats away, they are told that there is no money, but yet their Supervisor, a certain Amagulu – with all due respect – has outsourced their work and they are now stranded.

What are you going to do about the situation? are you aware of the

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON DR HAUFIKU**

situation and how do you remedy this, to make sure that those cleaners will get back onboard? Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister?

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker and my Brother. We had a covenant, but he broke it now – we promised not to ever ask each other questions, but now you came again. (*Laughter*)

Anyway, Honourable Venaani and the whole House, let me put my point across, and I will appreciate it if we just keep quiet – it will just be fair, because this is a technical question, that I appreciate.

Since I took over the Ministry, I have mentioned that there are certain functions within the Ministry that are not core functions of the Ministry and that we will consider outsourcing some of these services on a triple P basis (Public Private Partnership).

The Government already has a Policy on triple P, which perhaps needs to be finalised and at the moment, people who are rendering catering services to the Ministry, are private companies. The security personnel that is hanging around there, is also private. However, we have not outsourced cleaning services yet, but we had numerous complaints – and I wish to invite this entire House to Katutura State Hospital, to see what exactly is happening.

Now, there are complaints that even extended to this House – but the

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON DR HAUFIKU**

Hospitals are dirty and we need to clean them up. Of course, there is a Union to represent the workers and now I also see that there are Opposition Parties that are resilient to change (*interjection*) We said that we are not going to interject each other my Brother (*laughter*)

What we did was – we had several meetings with cleaners and cleaners representatives. Advocate Bience Gawanas and I went all over the country to familiarise ourselves with the current state of affairs. And since Mr Moombola came to office in November, he already had more than three meetings with the cleaners. Dr Amagulu whom you mentioned here, is the one who is in charge of Katutura Hospital.

The cleaners do not get the message that we need a clean environment. Of course, because of the Law, we could not outsource, therefore, the service is not outsourced. What we have done is to demonstrate by telling two tales of the same story. We have invited a private company to come and clean Casualty, Maternity and the First Floor, and then we shifted all those cleaners to other departments in the Hospital. The idea was for them to see if there was difference.

I want you to go to Katutura Hospital now, visit the Maternity, Casualty and the First Floor, and after that, visit the 4th and 8th Floor and see the difference. If there is no difference – I have photographic pictures that we have taken, because we know, you will come up with these types of questions, and other people will also ask, so we need to answer.

We have pictures of the situation, how it looked like before and how it looks like after. The idea is to try to give an example to our cleaners that, when we say - *clean up the place, this is the way it should be done, learn something out of this experience.*

Obviously, the ultimate goal of the Ministry is to bring in partners from the Private Sector or whoever else and I am not shy to talk about that. It is a long-term plan and has not taken place yet – those people are not redundant. They are there. Even if you go there now, you will find them there, perhaps they may not be working, because they are used to a culture

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HON VENAANI**

of not cleaning. However, they are on a full salary and are reporting for duty every day. We only wanted to teach them a lesson, by demonstrating to them what exactly it is that we want. That is the situation.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani?

HON MEMBER: Under what Rule are rising again?

HON VENAANI: Under Rule 90. I want to thank the Minister for his explanation. I just wish your explanation reaches those cleaners before they petition my office, because 200 cleaners have already visited my office. (*Laughter*)

Please convey that message to them, so that they understand that they are not fired. I am a people's Leader and I engage people all the time (*Laughter*)

HON MEMBER: Is that under Rule 90 again?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, under Rule 90, I want to ask a very urgent question to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation in our Republic. It is quite very urgent, my Mother, *Meme gwandje*.

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and my Mother – there is a confusion created by a promise that you made to this House, when I asked the same question, that you brief this House on the talks surrounding the Genocide issue and the process that it will take.

To this end, I have written a letter to you, for which I have not even received a reply, but what I want to know is (*interjections*) Please your job is to answer questions, why are you becoming (*interjections*) Answer the questions.

HON MEMBER: You wrote a letter?

HON VENAANI: Yes, (*interjections*) Listen! The problem with our Government is that, you write letters to them, but not even receipt of letter is acknowledged. (*Interjections*) There my Mother is – I have not received it and it is already two months now.

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, what is the Government's position with regard to the issue of the dialogue between Namibia and Germany? Are we having a Genocide Dialogue or are we having a Colonisation Reparation Debate?

Can you just clarify the Government's position on this issue, because a lot of Traditional Leaders, who are stakeholders, are calling me, wanting to know what the position is?

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON MEMBER: What are they calling you for?

HON VENAANI: You will know in due course why they are calling me.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us make the response short and sweet.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Yes, I will
adhere to the Honourable Speaker's request, who has asked me to make it
short and sweet.

On the letter – I will really appreciate it, if even during the tea break, I can
obtain a copy of the letter.

The dialogue between Germany and Namibia is guided by the Motion,
which was passed in this Parliament and referred to the Namibian
Government for execution. The Motion is talking about the Government
of Namibia engaging the German Government on issues pertaining to the
Genocide that was committed by the then Imperial German
Administration, with a view of getting reparation. That is the basis on
which the dialogue between the two Governments is being conducted. I
thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Your Presiding Officer is
going to institute our tea break, because I think that will facilitate
communication. We will, therefore, revert back to the old tradition
because that way, we can facilitate so many things.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHANGHALA**

With that said and done, we move on to Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Attorney-General.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**ALLEGATIONS LEVELLED AGAINST THE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR-GENERAL IN THE MEDIA**

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: (*Interjection*) I am not the Chief of the Hereros. (*Laughter*) Thank you, Honourable Speaker for the opportunity to address this august House in relation to the allegations that had been levelled against the Office of the Prosecutor-General in the Media.

The Office of the Prosecutor-General is a very important Institution of the State and if there are allegations of impropriety against that Office, I think it is important that this august House is informed, particularly given the fact that it is my constitutional responsibility to exercise final responsibility over that Office. The comments that were made must be put into context, as I have explained.

The allegations, which are misguided, were made by a Magistrate and they stem from the following – during October 2014, Ms Kavara, the Magistrate of the District of Windhoek, had a boyfriend, a certain Mr Shabani Mohammed who was arrested by the members of the NAMPOL Drug Law Enforcement Unit after they trapped him for dealing in drugs and selling cocaine to them. The case was registered under the Docket - Windhoek CR1091/10/2014.

At the same time, a certain man who was apparently renting a room at a

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flat belonging to Mr Nelson Mutorwa, an employee at the Office of the Government Attorney in the Office of the Attorney-General, was also arrested by the Police. He was registered under the Docket – Windhoek CR875/10/2014. Nelson Mutorwa is, of course, the son of the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable Mutorwa.

However, the dagga was found in the room which was being rented out to this man who was later identified as Mr Lavado Coetzee. The Police were taken there by Mr Mohammed Shabani, as Mohammed slept in that room that Mr Coetzee is renting from Mr Nelson Mutorwa. There was apparently a small drug plant which was found behind the room that Mr Lavado was renting.

According to the Investigating Officer and the Arresting Officer, Mr Coetzee informed them that the plant belonged to him. The Police then decided to search Mr Coetzee's room and found cannabis weighing 75 grams, and valued at N\$225.00. The Police then arrested Mr Coetzee and he was charged accordingly. He was found guilty of possession of the same cannabis and sentenced to a N\$300.00 fine and in default – if he does not pay that – to 30 days imprisonment.

Magistrate Kavara seemed not to be happy, because Mr Coetzee admitted guilt and on his own admission was found guilty of possession of cannabis. Magistrate Kavara was not happy, because Mr Nelson Mutorwa, who is the Minister's son was never arrested. It seems that her focus was more on Mr Nelson Mutorwa, other than on the person who committed the crime. Thus, she insists that Mr Nelson Mutorwa could have been charged with dealing with cannabis, by invoking the presumption created by Section 10 of the *Abuse of Dependence-Producing Substances and Rehabilitation Centres Act* of 1941. She said so, even if she was not privy to the defence made by the owner of the premises.

In terms of Section 10 of the *Abuse of the Abuse of Dependence-Producing Substances and Rehabilitation Centres Act* of 1941, it is a defence, if an owner is not aware of the presence of dagga or plants or such other prohibited substances on his/her premises. Therefore, Mr

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Nelson Mutorwa could not be held liable, as according to the evidence in the case, he was not aware of the small plant in the plant pot at the back of the room of the flat he had rented out to the individual, Mr Lavado Coetzee. Therefore, the Police and the Prosecutor-General dismissed Ms Kavara's complaint as baseless and relied on the evidence of Mr Lavado Coetzee and not on the presumption created by Section 10.

Prosecutors do not prosecute people by looking at their parent's status in society, it is evidence that informs the prosecution of a crime.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order?

HON VENAANI: Yes, Point of Order. I just want to know from the Attorney-General, whether this case is an ongoing case in the Court of our Laws – are we not prejudicing those that are involved in these case? I do not think that it is within the realm and ambit of the Attorney-General at this point in time to explain and to be the Juror or the Prosecutor of events, if this case has not been held by a competent Court of Law.

I think we are doing a disservice to the independence of our Judiciary, if the Attorney-General comes here and starts defending what has happened. Let the Court deal with the matter and after that, the Attorney-General can pronounce himself on the matter.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I ask the Attorney-General – is that correct what the Honourable Member is saying?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, the Journalists are now

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going to report what the Leader of the Opposition said – which is totally wrong. If he had heard me – the case is finalised, the man admitted guilt and was sentenced to N\$300.00. The case is finished.

HON SPEAKER: Okay.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: However, Ms Kavara continues to disparage the image of the Office of the Prosecutor-General in the media and the Constitution requires in Article 87, that the Attorney-General take all action and steps necessary to protect and uphold the Constitution, and this is part of it – to put it clearly before the House that the Prosecutor-General did nothing untoward and that the case was dealt with by a Judicial Officer who is independent from the Office of the Prosecutor-General for that matter.

HON SPEAKER: Okay.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: If you had just listened to what I said - this case is complete. However, again, we choose not to listen.

You see, in the Zimbabwean Parliament, one day Mr Zvobgo said – “*Mr Speaker half of the Members of this House are sleeping,*” everybody jumped on him and then the Speaker said – *retract what you said*. He then said - “*Mr Speaker, that is not Parliamentary, I retract – half of the people in this House are stupid.*”

We can place semantics around words, but when I said that a person has been accused and then convicted on his own admission, it means that the

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person has been dealt with and the case is closed. I am now dealing with the damage that has been dealt to the office and the need to bring that into perspective (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Okay. Just there – I needed confirmation that this case is not ongoing. You have confirmed that the case has been concluded, can you continue with the Statement? Because I think, that is what Honourable Venaani needed to know.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: And as the Attorney-General, I would not bring a matter that is *sub judice*. (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, I think that is okay. It is within your authority to do so.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Stop politicking, you must listen.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, as I was saying (*intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: Another Point of Order.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Yes please.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION [HON HINDA]:** I also want to get some clarity.

I think Ms Kavara has an ongoing case and she might feel victimised in her case. I, therefore, think it will be appropriate, if that matter is not handled, because Ms Kavara might think that there is no independence in dealing with her issue.

Therefore, what the Attorney-General is talking about, has been partially completed and that I understand, however, I think, because the other issue of the complainant is still *sub judice*, it will be questioned, unless the Attorney-General can clarify that point. Thank you.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, there seems to be a misunderstanding – we are not aware of a case that Magistrate Kavara is currently involved in, what we are aware of is that it was dealt with by the Magistrate's Commission and it has already been completed. That interdict is done and there is nothing pending before the Court, where the Magistrate, Ms Kavara is the Accused.

Yes, she appears in Court as a Magistrate and she presides over cases in the Court that I do not know. Now if I may? (*Intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: Okay. As long as the case is not before the Court of Law.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: But why would the Attorney-General (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can you continue explaining the issue?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: (*Interjection*) Like which one?

HON MEMBER: All them!

HON SPEAKER: Another Point of Order please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker; I hear what my Comrade, Sakeus Shanghala is saying about the matter of the final responsibility that the Attorney – General must exercise over the Prosecutor-General, but I am not too sure whether I agree with his interpretation of that final responsibility; in particular, if it means that he becomes the Spokesperson of the Prosecutor-General, which person is adequate and sufficiently intelligent to defend the integrity of that very Office that he/she has been given responsibility over. If the interpretation of *final responsibility* as was decided in the court cases, means that the Attorney-General may seem to be interfering

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in the independence of the Prosecutor-General's Office and begins to award himself a place that he is the Spokesperson of that Office, we may have a difficulty. I am just highlighting that it could be an issue.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Attorney-General, I hope that you will take note of all these concerns.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I do take note, particularly the fact that I just parted with the Prosecutor-General who has requested, as has been the case – this has been an interpretation, this case has been interpreted – we work very well with the Prosecutor-General, we work as a team. We consult as the case dictates, but it has been the request of the Prosecutor-General that the Attorney-General takes action and this is one of the actions in particular.

However, if the House feels that they are in consort, they have now understood that the Attorney-General has acted and the Prosecutor-General's Office has been protected in the sense that they understand that there is no impropriety on her part, whether in that matter – and I was also going to detail the matter that relates to her son and another matter, which relates to Mr Amadhila – then in that case and for your comfort, that you are agreement that the Attorney-General and Prosecutor-General work together, then I need not continue, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is the kind of spirit that I very much welcome.

Judging from everybody's comments, I think we all want to handle this matter with extreme care – we do not want to cause injury where it is absolutely not necessary. We leave the matter at that.

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You clarified the issue up to a point and we leave it at that. As far as this House is concerned, we do not partake in issues where we are not necessarily required to do so. I do not see anyone else wishing to take the Floor on this subject matter, therefore, we move on.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day. Oh, I am sorry, Honourable Kapofi please.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I am not a Lawyer and I have no personal interest in the topic that the Attorney-General was about to raise, but I also read the Articles in the Newspapers that are attacking the person of the Prosecutor-General.

Are we saying the Prosecutor-General should defend herself outside of this place? If that Office is represented here, is that not right that the person who is politically responsible, address the issue that is in the public domain? I just want to know.

Or is it because the person who is speaking is the Attorney-General? What if it was the Minister of Justice?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, that is a fair question and the Chair needs to be properly advised because I was of the view that the Attorney-General touched on the issue, made particular clarifications, and those of you who are familiar with the issue can deal with it in the manner that will help facilitate communication and help us to fully understand.

However, there was initially, a great deal of concern – I was not sure whether this matter was still in the hands of Courts and the Attorney-General explained that the matter has already been dealt with and he went as far as he wished to go. He has voluntarily decided to stop going further – he was not inhibited by the Speaker.

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HON MEMBER: But he was compelled to do so.

HON SPEAKER: He was compelled to do so? Okay, but are you intending to continue elaborating on this issue?

Yes, are you rising on a Point of Order?

HON MEMBER: Yes, Honourable Speaker.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: But the Honourable Speaker has asked me a question that I want to respond to. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I first ask him to answer please. Yes?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, the attitude taken by the Members who made the contributions that they made was unfortunate, because what this then means is that, in the record of the Hansard, the Attorney-General – and I have worked for them and prepare Speeches for them to answer to the questions relating to the Office of the Prosecutor-General – would actually, no longer be in a position going forward, to do that, and Members of this House would, for example, deny themselves the ability to get certain insight into matters.

For example, let me just give an example, the Caprivi Treason Trial is a matter that is prosecuted by the Prosecutor-General and there had been responses that I had personally prepared for either Honourable Dr Kawana

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or Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana here.

Now the question is, if that is the case – and this was even an ongoing case, by the way – it then means that part of the Constitution to exercise final responsibility is being excised. Then it should even excise the Budget of the Prosecutor-General off the Budget of Vote 35, and it can go on and on.

It is unfortunate that with the little understanding we present, we may confuse ourselves and deny this august House the ability to performing its function. We are the representatives of the people, therefore, if it is reported out there in the world that in this country we have a Prosecutor-General who may askew her professionalism for not prosecuting her son or the sons of Ministers and other important people like Judges, then we have a problem and it beholds this House to either defend the Constitution or to take the action that it would want. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: There are so many Points of Order and in a way, we are not helping the Chair. The longer we continue, the more we take time without necessarily getting to the point.

Let me ask the Attorney-General to continue and get his Statement finished and done with. (*Interventions*)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I have a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: What is the Point of Order you are rising on? Okay, you may take the Floor.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am not against the Attorney-General, providing clarity or informing us about this situation.

However, my concern is about mentioning names of people who are not in this House and are thus, unable to defend themselves because when I came to this Parliament, I once, personally mentioned names of people who were not in the House and I was told that according to the Rules, I am not allowed to mention people's names who are outside the House and cannot defend themselves.

I am now asking the Honourable Speaker, are we allowed to mention names of people who are outside the House? This is the only concern that I have.

HON SPEAKER: Let me explain – there is actually a Convention that we all have to adhere to, and I agree with the Honourable Witbooi – we do not mention names of people who are not in a position to defend themselves.

The Chair is put in a very difficult position where I have to allow every Honourable Member seated here to defend or refer to some of the people who are mentioned here, whose views are not recorded in this House, but the mere fact that their names are appearing on our records, is also a particular area of concern.

It was on that basis that I felt that the Attorney-General spoke on the matter and he was comfortable to leave it at that. It might not satisfy everybody, but what we are doing now, is opening the Pandora Box, where all these people whose names are mentioned here, will have to be dealt with and perhaps you are going to deal with that aspect in your Statement.

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HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I just want to respond to your concern about names. Unless for any other reasons specified, for instance, if there is a minor involved, court cases in this country are in public and proceedings of this House are also in public.

When a case has been completed and you desire to do research or read a specific case or whatever, the documents are available for the public to access. There is nothing untoward about it. In fact, it is reported as S vs So and So. That is how we know the case of S *versus* Tuhafeleni and the rest who were charged for x, y and z.

To mention the names from records which are public is not, in my view, intransigence or in conflict with the Rules of this House. That was my understanding. However, I have made the point and the point is that, there are certain Journalists reporting, because a certain Magistrate is making allegations, which allegations are not true. The Office and the Institution of the Office of the Prosecutor-General has not behaved untoward and this has grave consequences. If we care to consider when people rate Namibia – when we borrow money or we go and raise funds – and people are of the view that that country has a Prosecutor-General who selects not to prosecute certain people because of their class and status, that is a concern for this House and that is the issue that I wanted to attend to.

However, if this matter is clear, then the House or those who would like to access the Prosecutor-General's Office or my office for further information, should feel free to do so. I would also request those who are reporting to do so, then I do not need to continue, Honourable Speaker.

I had left it at that on that basis, but I do not want it to be an issue tomorrow. If a question is asked about the Office of the Prosecutor-General, I may find some reluctance and refer you to these discussions today and the misapprehensions you have. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL

HON SPEAKER: I would like to respectfully put on record that it is absolutely necessary that we do not refer to people who are not charged, who did not appear in the Court of Law, otherwise, that will even be more confusing. That is one of the reasons why I thought we should really be more careful with what we present in the House, because some of the people were not charged. (*Interjections*)

HON MEMBER: They were all convicted!

HON SPEAKER: I think we should end there.

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

HON SPEAKER: Let us move on. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2015]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading - *Appropriation Bill* [B.1 – 2015].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 8th

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

of March 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time.

We are now basically continuing with the discussion and I have a number of Honourable Members who asked to participate in the Debate. Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele is on top of the list.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to make my humble contribution to this very important Debate.

First of all let me commend the Honourable Minister of Finance and his all inclusive team for their tireless efforts and commitments in drawing up our National Budget.

The current budget allocation again reflects the Government's devotion towards combating poverty and to advance education and skills development of its Namibian people. The Budget is formulated to ensure that economy continues to expand at the strong pace and to reduce the fiscal deficit with the overall objective of prospering the Nation.

Namibia is a Constitutional State governed according to the principles of separation of powers. Being the Lawmaking Body and representative of the people we believe in the principle that the money entrusted to the Government belongs to the people and we have the sacred responsibility to spend it prudently and wisely for the welfare of our people, especially the poor and the downtrodden.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here today championing a cause for all Namibians who hold the view that under the current Government administration, the economic growth will fall and continues to fall; Education and Social Services continues to improve; their quality of life continues to get better and Namibia will move forward from poverty to prosperity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto states clearly and I quote – “*We are aware that in order to effectively alleviate poverty, unemployment and under development, we must pursue socio economic development Policies and Programmes that are people centred and inclusive.*” The plight of vulnerable families has been getting worse in recent years. The challenge in front of us is formidable, we need to face it with maximum compulsion.

When we came into office just over a year we promised to transform our country by adopting a more people centred development agenda and by so doing, deliver more money in people’s pockets. I wish to stress that this will not be achieved simply by promoting handouts. Our fundamental approach will be to build a self-reliant people who are able to sustainably generate their own funds. This is the surest way of sustainability defeating poverty and delivering the absolute rights of liberty and social justice for all our people. This requires a blend of initiatives ranging from opening additional opportunities for employment and income generation, to ensuring that the Social Safety Net is adequate and targets those who cannot support themselves. This should be done while avoiding the creation of a dependency syndrome.

Last year, the Government has significantly increased the State Pension and it will increase it this year again by N\$100.00. It is a clear indication that Government is determined to ensure the security of its vulnerable Senior Citizens, thus, I fully support the proposal from the Ministry of Finance to increase the Old Age Pension and to improve the coverage in respect of Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

The ultimate of Government’s Economic Growth and Development Strategy is to improve the quality of lives of all Namibians. We attach the highest priority to Education, Health, Housing and Water and Sanitation as the most strategic areas for eradication of poverty and entrenchment of development. Government has deliberately shifted from a poverty reduction to poverty eradication objectives. To achieve such a bold move requires supportive Policies, Projects, Programmes and positive mindsets. This requires close consultation with the poor to identify opportunities for

self-reliant that are built on their interests, capabilities and micro environment. It also requires challenging all able citizens to take pride in fending for themselves and contributing towards the development of our country. Employment creation has the potential of reducing poverty and its effects on social life. In an effort to address this, Government has instituted several Anti-poverty Programmes that amongst others, includes training and skills development as concrete a long-term measure to address poverty.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, education creates knowledge which promotes empowerment. Why am I saying this? In terms of promoting growth, the Government has made tremendous progress in providing Universal Access towards education. I have to commend our Government for implementing a free primary and now secondary education system in accordance with Article 20 of our Constitution. It preserves free Primary Education, which provides basic access to all Government Primary and Secondary School Children. Many of these children would not have the opportunity to learn how to read or write due to poverty and loss of parents because of AIDS, road accidents and Gender-Based Violence. It is also evident in the current Budget that Government is committed to accelerate academic achievements, competencies and skills. With regards to allocations for 2016/2017 towards education, it is a delight to see a nominal increase of 13% in this critical Sector.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there are, however, still concerns on the quality of education and the high number of pupils dropping out of schools, with no clear alternative access to acquisition of lifelong skills to enable them to find jobs. Unemployment, especially among the youth, remains a major challenge in our development and social stability.

Through this Budget, we must bill on the ongoing youth support initiatives to further encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity of the young people.

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HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE

As Government that cares deeply for the youth, skills development must be given priority to enable these groups to be the dynamic drivers of growth and employment creation. Youth are the Nation's hope, assets and successors for the future. According to the religious scholars, good behaviour of youth today will reflect the future of the Nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, the Government has succeeded in steering the country through a difficult period of domestic challenges. We have emerged resilient again. The economy continues to grow and we are putting in place, the foundation for a faster and more inclusive growth in the years ahead. This is, therefore, a Budget for the people. A Budget that responds to the concerns of Namibians – the high cost of living, insecurity, unemployment and high levels of poverty. But equally important, it is a Budget that lays a firm foundation for accelerated inclusive growth for a shared prosperity.

I, therefore, urge all the Honourable Members and Namibians at large, to join us in building the Namibian House.

I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am being reminded about tea time. Are you all in agreement?

HON MEMBERS: Yes we are!

HON SPEAKER: We break for tea

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HON IIPUMBU**

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:32

HOUSE RESUMES AT 15:58

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us continue. Next on my list, I will call upon Honourable Iipumbu, since the Honourable Maamberua is not in.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for the Floor.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start by congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Calle Schlettwein, for presenting a progressive Budget. He managed to present a stimulative Budget and fiscal stance under conditions that require fiscal consolidation, due to unfavourable domestic and external economic circumstances, compounded by unfavourable climatic conditions.

The prevailing unfavourable economic environment requires that we economise, eliminate wastage and unproductive capital expenses. This Budget attests to the sensible way in which the SWAPO Party led Government continues to manage our economy and affirms that the country is indeed, in responsible, and accountable hands.

Countries that have managed to graduate from developing to developed status, has done so, by managing high economic growth rates through effective use of the Budget as an instrument to stimulate domestic and inward looking investment. The presented Budget has the same ambitions, by being national development oriented, through targeting real growth and improving the general living conditions our people. It moves

away from allocation or appropriation to actualisation and implementation that we assist with for this season.

The Budget targets Sectors that have direct impact on the poor, while at the same time emphasising macroeconomic stability, which creates future fiscal space to continue pursuing our development objectives and goals. The Budget addresses current challenges of poverty, social welfare, timely and reliable as well as affordable services to the public. It further creates an environment that promotes employment creation as a long-term solution to eradicate poverty.

The scaling up of investment in human capital through high allocations to the Education and Health Sectors have feedback effects in the long-term on the supply-side of the economy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget is well aligned with NDP4 and covers the areas we have prioritised. We must, therefore, use this Budget to ensure that manufacturing activities grow to the aspired level. It is no longer right that businesses, particularly shops operating in Namibia, such as Edgars, Foschini, Markhams and many others, do not have shelf spaces for Namibian products. We want to see these shops sell products made by our young people who have demonstrated their talents in the Fashion Industry.

Equally, shops such as Ackermanns and the PEPs of this world, must not only ensure local sourcing of school uniforms for our children, but that they must also engage in social responsibilities towards our schools, and activities towards our children. They must not only be here to sell and make money that they speedily repatriate to their countries of origin.

If the Private Sector is not responding to these opportunities to produce and manufacture goods, especially those where there is sufficient demand, maybe it is high time that Government consider putting up factories to manufacture things, such as uniforms, locally, and prohibit or put a moratorium, on the importation of these items. We have many of the Ramatex graduates who can be employed there and in return, this will

have an impact in the growth of our economy. It will have contributed to creating more jobs and contribute to the skills development.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I welcome the principled move through the proposal to amend Regulations 15, 28, 29 to raise the threshold of domestic investment. It does not make sense that we go around the globe to lure others to come and invest in our economy, yet year-in and year-out, our savings migrate across our border to create opportunities in other economies. We must take the risks in our economy, and then we will be able to convince others to come and invest here as well.

The recent economic downturn and the market volatility across the globe offer lessons that things are not necessarily always rosy outside. Those who have invested locally in properties and in bonds can attest that returns have been better here at home. As the saying goes, “*local*” is indeed “*lekker*.” So, as Namibians, let us invest at home and in our economy.

At times we might think that we are not doing well, however, slowly but surely, we are getting there. I was humbled by a recent Agronomic Report that indicate that our domestic production of horticulture increased to 52%, which means only 48% was imported during the last rain season. It is an achievement and surely, our green schemes are gaining momentum in terms of their production.

The establishment of AMTA, which has committed to buy all the fresh produce from our producers and distribute to our local supermarkets, played a vital role in growing the Horticulture Sector. We must double our efforts so that we can claw back the remaining 48% and make sure we process and add value to those produces here, locally.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is important that our revenue sources remain stable and grows alongside our expenditure. In this regard, the Budget provides comfort with the outlined Tax Policy proposals over the MTEF period. Similarly, the Budget must be commended for taking a stance on alcohol abuse, which contributes to

social evils, eating at the fabric and character of our society. We must continue unequivocally emphasising the message set in the Budget, that drinking must be moderated.

These measures, however, will only be successful if Educative and Preventive Programmes are implemented and adhered to.

Furthermore, the Budget acknowledges the importance of the State-Owned Enterprises and the goods and services they provide to the public. However, there is need to do more in terms of strengthening and applying control over our State-Owned Enterprises. Dividends and profit share contributed by State-Owned Enterprises need to be increased. Regulations on State-owned Enterprises need to be enforced and adhered to and penalties to be imposed, especially on those who are not honouring such Regulations. This will ensure that we maximise on strengthening our revenue collection efforts.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget presented to this august House is a Budget for all and leaves no Namibian out. In particular, all projects must ensure that youth, and women benefit in all 14 Regions, and the 121 Constituencies in line with the Provisions of the *Procurement Act* that we passed last year in this august House.

The rural areas and informal settlement remain our critical focus and the successful implementation of this Budget will go a long way in fulfilling the promises we made to the people during our campaigns.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I wish to emphasise that the Budget's Funds are not free money, this is people's sweat. The Offices, Ministries and Agencies must, therefore, ensure that the Budget resources are efficiently and optimally used. In all implementation, we must first think efficiency, *efficiency*, and I repeat, **efficiency**.

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If we do that, than we would have moved towards realising our dream of an industrialised Namibia, developed by her people, particularly the youth, where we will all live in peace and harmony.

We must, therefore, form a united front and join hands on the war towards poverty reduction.

“The people united shall never be defeated, and indeed, a people united to achieve common goods for all members of society will always emerge victorious.” I thank you and I support the Bill

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Members, I greet you (*laughter*)

HON MEMBER: In whose name?

HON MAAMBERUA: I greet you all with a passionate, patriotic and progressive spirit. Before I proceed, let me note with a sense of appreciation the achievements of two African Presidents, who within their first year of office, had their countries’ Budgets presented ahead of the usual time. These are President Geingob of Namibia and President Buhari of Nigeria. *Omake! (laughter)*

HON MEMBER: You started well, Honourable Maamberua, do not waiver as usual.

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HON MAAMBERUA

HON MAAMBERUA: However, to consolidate this game, I will propose a discussion sometime in the future to determine a fixed Budget day or a cut off date, by when the Budget will be tabled every year, so that we know that the Budget, in the Republic of Namibia is tabled, say by the 15th of February or something of the sort, every year, if that does not exist. I think that is how it is done in many other countries and it is very important.

(Interjection) I have become wiser. As the only Member of Parliament...
(interjection)

HON MEMBER: The one and only Member of SWANU in Parliament!

HON MAAMBERUA:...Representing the only political formation in this House still unwaveringly and compassionately committed to the socialist efforts and world outlook, my intervention will be three pronged.

- Firstly, I will attempt to locate the proposed Budget ideologically.
- Secondly, I shall share specific comments and observations on a few selected respective Budget items; and
- Thirdly, I shall comradely share with you my Party's vision moving forward with regard to budgeting appropriately, suitably and sufficiently.

THE BUDGET IN PERSPECTIVE

Ideologically, there are two aspects that need highlighting:

1. The overwhelming thinking, shaping the formulation of the Budget; and the other one

2. Its disconnect with the National Dream – Vision 2030.

The ideological ethos underlining this Budget are not easily discernable, but it seems to be espousing loudly, the values of neo-liberal economic thinking. It does not speak to the objective concrete dialectical material realities that the country and nation are facing and experiencing daily. It contains an interesting quotation from Stiglitz along the lines – *“It...macroeconomic policy can never be devoid of politics: It involves fundamental trade-offs and affects different groups differently ...”*

Somehow the Budget conveniently shies away from specifying the fundamental impact on the various social classes. We should not lose sight that ours is a class struggle, therefore, the ultimate destination is a classless society.

More interestingly, there is hardly any mention of Vision 2030, which would have gone some distance to contextualise the proposed direction and interventions suggested in the document.

In short, with its apparent delink from Vision 2030 and, thus, qualifies it to be categorised as a *status quo* Budget, because two important aspects need to be highlighted; one being inherited wealth in Namibia and the other, the question of Ancestral Land – thousands of kilometres away from embarking on a development trajectory that will put the country and Nation on the path of moving – *“from each according to her/his ability to each according to her/his needs.”*

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE A FEW RESPECTIVE
BUDGET ITEMS**

Honourable Speaker and Distinguished Members of this august House, as a representative of a Party that embraces socialism and preaches social and economic justice, I would dismally be dishonest, if I did not commend the SWAPO-led Namibian Government for having done a sterling job in prioritising Education, Health and General Welfare in its appropriation endeavour. Well done!

(Interjection) Let me better address the Speaker, the General is disturbing me. *(Laughter)*

Honourable Speaker, on the **Health Sector**:

It is one thing to allocate money to a Sector while it is another matter to ensure which aspects of the Sector concerned have been prioritised. The question is, will the money appropriated for the Health Sector be spent to make our National Health System more accessible and affordable to the majority of those living just on, or below the bread line? Or, have we budgeted for the provision of interpretation services at our health facilities to address the language barrier problem?

I do not detect any intention through this Budget aimed at achieving a socialised Health System, underpinned among others by a National Health Insurance Policy – and I am not just talking out of the blue, this one of the very important recommendations that came out from the Report on the Commission of Enquiry on the Matters of Health about three years ago, of course, the only Political Party that made a submission to that Report is SWANU of Namibia. *(Interjections)* This is the Report and the recommendation is on Page 79.

Education

As alluded to above, it is remarkable and appreciable that the Education Sector has been prioritised in this Draft *Appropriation Bill* 2016/2017. The only hope is that the allocation would be buttressed by concrete practical action to yield the expected results such as the establishment of Vocational Training Centres in all the Regions and I emphasise – **in all the Regions**. I think to date we only have about three or four Vocational Training Centres in Namibia.

Defence

I see the Minister of Defence is not here.

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HON MAAMBERUA

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy is around.

HON MAAMBERUA: Oh, the Deputy is around. It is, of course, notable that the appropriation to the Ministry of Defence has been modest this time around compared to previous allocations.

Again, one is left to ponder as to whether there is sufficient thought being put into the role the Military may play in advancing our developmental agenda and the industrialisation imperative? Examples abound around the globe, including the role the Industrial Military Complex has played in the industrialisation of countries like Britain, France, the United States of America, Japan, the State of Israel, and China lately, to name but a few. Is our Defence Ministry being utilised optimally? This is a question (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I am happy that Honourable Maamberua is copying concepts from the Western World and using jargons like the Military Industrial Complex and so on.

Whether that reconciles with his socialist stance is one issue which he must perhaps satisfy as well. Is he aware that the Military Industrial Complex is one of the most corrupt and dark forces that can be in a State System, and as we have seen in some other countries, people refer to some of those institutions as the Deep State. I hope he is not suggesting that Namibia goes that route, because we know very well what the functions of our Military are.

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Perhaps SWANU needs to be taught by people like the General and others, what we do with our Military, as we budget for them in the appropriate context to defend the security and national integrity of this country. Can he reconcile socialism and what he justifies now?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Maamberua

HON MEMBER: *Iyaloo!* Answer.

HON MAAMBERUA: Easily, industrialisation is not Western, Industrialisation is scientific.

Comrade Speaker, as much as I appreciate the allocation to the Security Sector, that is, the Police and Defence, I still lament the dehumanising living conditions in the barracks and quarters. Shall we speed up the renovations? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Defence on a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order and Point of Information – perhaps first information, which is very important – the Honourable Member is addressing this august House on a Budget issue, which is, of course, clearly articulate and accurately indicated in his volumes.

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Comrade Speaker, I doubt if the Honourable Member is serious – whether he is addressing the House or expecting the public out there to follow and learn about the purpose of the Budget – by referring to powerful countries in the world, comparing them with a 25 year old, turning 26 years this year. For him to be serious, he should address the real issue – where he mentioned Military Industrialisation.

If the Honourable Member has properly done his homework, why can he not mention what is currently on the ground – like the Infant Industries that the Defence Ministry is engage in and the other the functions that were, and are being carried out by the Ministry of Defence in terms of its involvement to resolve some national calamities as articulated yesterday by the Honourable Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. Besides the Defence and Security of this country, she articulated other roles the Ministry of Defence plays.

Therefore, instead of informing the public about what the Americans, British and others do, I would advise the Honourable Member to concentrate on the issues that the Budget intends to address as far as the security and defence of this country is concerned. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I will ask the Honourable Member to continue.

HON MAAMBERUA: My fellow socialist, the politics around Defence were fully expounded by the Deputy Prime Minister yesterday, and last year in my discussion of the Vote of the Ministry of Defence's Budget, I fully expounded, the role of Industrialisation through Military intervention, where I mentioned the August 26 and many of their subsidiaries, irrespective of the fact that, for the last ten years or so, they have not submitted their books for auditing purposes.

However, notwithstanding that, I have always advocated industrialisation through the Defence Ministry as a way out in Namibia, because, despite the Government's call to industrialise this country, our Private Sector has failed to do that. We have to continue to relying on produce, products and goods from South Africa. Therefore, I still insist that we can industrialise Namibia, if we use the capacity and the discipline that we find in our Defence Force. They can industrialise the country and that is my point.

WAY FORWARD

Comrade Speaker, we are hardly left with 13.5 years to go, before reaching the Vision 2030 deadline for *Attaining an Industrialised Developed Nation Status*.

As such, we need to learn to appreciate budgeting as an essential planning tool that we should optimise in order to attain the noble goals we had set ourselves.

The fight to eradicate poverty must be taken literally as a War Slogan in the manner the incumbent President of the Republic of Namibia has aptly articulated it.

In our context, the scourge of poverty is fanned by mainly three things:

1. Lack of skills for people to be gainfully employed or become entrepreneurs;
2. Lack of access to financial resources; and
3. Landlessness.

In a similar vein, I hope that the finalisation of what is called NEEEF – what does it stand for? [**New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework**] – will be accelerated in order to facilitate historically disadvantaged Namibians join the mainstream economic activities. And when I am talking about historically disadvantaged, I am talking about it

in terms of class as opposed to black or white. If NEEEF comes into play – I am yet to see the draft, but people are already discussing it – it will help those disadvantaged Namibians to join the main stream economy.

The Land Question must become a high priority Budget item for the next decade, if we are effectively to address the question of “*landlessness*” in this country, which is the major source of poverty and concomitant squalor that surrounds us. Thus, the question of the 2nd National Land Conference is as urgent today as it was yesterday.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, in 2006, exactly ten (10) years ago, we in this august House adopted a Motion on Genocide and Reparation unanimously. The Motion is very specific and identified certain actions and activities that should be embarked upon in order to facilitate a dialogue between the concerned parties, that is, the Genocide Victims, Germany and Government of Namibia.

Our Government seems to have brought their part to the table and the process has reportedly reached an advanced stage, if the appointment of Envoys by both Governments – that is the Namibian and German Governments – are anything to go by.

In doing so, there are serious commitments on our Government with regard to this issue.

However, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I did not see a single mention of the Genocide and Reparation issue. Was it perhaps a Commission by Choice or an Omission by Chance? If the issue is so serious to deserve the appointment of an Envoy and a plethora of Technical Committees, how do we intend to resource the activities and events related to this matter? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Thank
you, Honourable Speaker.

I would just like the Honourable Member to explain where we expected to see Genocide and Reparation, and where he has not seen it in as far as the Government is concerned in carrying out the Motion that came from this Honourable House.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, Comrade Speaker, we are talking about the Budget Statement – that is what I am referring to. There is no single mentioned (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: There seems to be a misunderstanding here. You are very right when you said the process is ongoing – the dialogue is ongoing – now how do you bring in the reference to Genocide in a form of a Report? That is where the confusion is, maybe you should help us.

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes. Now that it seems that the process is on, it befits an item of this magnitude to appear in the Budget Statement, to inform Namibia, and more specifically, the victims that, not only are we talking about the Reports in the papers, but this specific or particular item that is assuming different proportions, is this year, part of the budgetary allocations, just like any other new items that are being mentioned. (*Intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: In a way, I think you should perhaps wait until we come to that Vote when a proper discussion would take place and there might be references when the Deputy Prime Minister would be dealing with her Vote of International Relations. That would perhaps come later.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, my observation stands, but I take your advice.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Point of Order, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Point of Order.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Of course, the Honourable Member pretends to have accepted what the Speaker has said, however the Honourable Member, is deliberately trying to make the public to believe what is not correct, because he knows very well that the discussion of the Budget is continuing, and he, as an old Member of this House, also knows very well that there are other equally important issues, which are not mentioned in the Budget Statement, but are going to be discussed. These issues are going to be discussed when the Budget is going to be discussed in detail during the Committee Stage.

He is now trying to create an impression that he is the one who is initiating this discussion. This is not correct. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Maamberua, continue please.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, I shall be delighted to see and to hear about a significant proportion of money allocated to this very important National issue. That is why I am very careful in my Statement, when I say – *I did not see it*. May I proceed?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, you may.

HON MAAMBERUA: At the end of this short Statement, I feel as usual so free that I would leave you with this quotation from Rosa Luxemburg, she was a German Socialist Philosopher (*Intervention*)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:
Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON MAAMBERUA: Your microphone is not on.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please turn on your microphone. Are you rising on a Point of Order?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes,
Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Okay, continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:
Honourable Maamberua proclaimed himself as a Socialist and through the discussion on the Budget Debate, he seem to have proposed industrialisation through entrepreneurship.

How does that tally and reconcile with his socialist principle or ideal?
This is just a question.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua has actually moved on from that point, I wish you came in at the time when he was dealing with that aspect.

Honourable Maamberua, can I request you to please proceed?

HON MEMBER: His time is up!

HON MAAMBERUA: I still have my 15 minutes, do not worry. Please do not suppress and deny the Comrade an answer.

I said, industrialisation is scientific and, therefore, universal. Hence, it is applicable to all the necessary philosophies and ideologies. You cannot

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say that socialist countries should not industrialise.

HON SPEAKER: Very good. I think everybody is anxiously waiting to hear the quote from the famous philosopher.

HON MAAMBERUA: Rosa (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Rosa who? (*Laughter*)

HON MAAMBERUA: Is there any other Rosa? (*Interjection*) No, Rosa Luxemburg, I will first quote in German – “*Freiheit ist immer die Freiheit des Anders denkenden*,” *denken* is to think in the German language, and *anders* means other. In English – “*Freedom is always, and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently.*” Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We commend you for your ability – moving from one language to another, fluently (*laughter*) I call upon Honourable Jagger please. You have the Floor.

HON JAGGER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise first of all, to make my contribution to the recently tabled Budget by our Minister of Finance.

I would like to congratulate Honourable Calle Schlettwein and his Deputy,

Honourable Ithete Natangwe and, of course, his team for having proved beyond any doubt that indeed, they have mastered the principles of good budgeting. Well done, Honourable Minister on tabling the Budget sufficiently, well in advance of the beginning of the Fiscal Year. This will ensure timely approval and ultimate implementation.

Honourable Speaker, my intervention is simply because of the fact that Budgets affects us all. Citizens of this country depend on the State to provide crucial services and infrastructure. Whether new roads will be built, whether our children will have schools to go to, and whether clinics can cater for the healthcare needs of the population, depends entirely to a large extent, on the way Government raised revenue and allocate money to meet the various competing needs. It should be known that it is, and was never an easy task for any Government to raise adequate amounts of revenues, while at the same time, preserving equity and stimulating economic growth.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, since Budget documents comprise of thousands of pages, they are not always easily understandable and can take considerable time to analyse. However, as a Legislator and as a representative of the Namibian populace, it is my sacred duty to ensure that the Budget optimally matches the needs of the Nation with the available resources. It is important that as Legislators, we scrutinise the Budget and ensure it addresses the needs of all groups and that it is supportive of, particularly the vulnerable groups in society, including the poor, people with disabilities, minority groups and the old age.

Mentioning the aged, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it will go down the history of the old-aged that during the time of His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, their Grant made a leapfrog from where it was and it is still adding on a Financial Year basis. Around every corner, you will hear words of praise in appreciation for what the President and his Cabinet has done for the old-aged, and it is indeed worth appreciating, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, the theme, *“Towards Pro-growth Fiscal*

Consolidation,” speaks for itself. The adherence to fiscal discipline with emphasis on growth and development, are key elements of this year’s Budget. We must, therefore, continue to pursue an aggressive pro-growth economic agenda.

The adoption of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework is commendable, because it is to indicate the scope of the financial resources needed during the Medium-Term in order to carry out existing Policies. The MTEF enables Legislators, the Private Sector, and Civil Society to monitor Government activities more effectively and thus provides a useful entry point for examining the Budget for its impact on the society. The enhanced information a successful Medium Term Expenditure Framework generate, help the Legislature to exercise its oversight functions. From the perspective of citizens, Honourable Speaker, more and better information on how taxpayers’ money is spent is a Right in itself.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to concentrate, for a moment, on the Budget for the Social Sectors. It is pleasing to know from the Budget, that a considerable joint amount of N\$99.41 billion is allocated to the Social Sectors over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period.

There are clear indications, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, that strategies are planned and some already employed to transform the Education and Health Sectors in this country, hence, the need to have allocated more funds and to invest more in these Sectors. In my opinion, Social Sectors should be seen as a heartbeat of any country, because without Education and Health Services, a country can collapse. Education and Health are the two most important characteristics of human capital. The economic value of money, lies in the effects they have on productivity; both Education and Health make individuals more productive and have considerable impact on an individual’s well being. It is, therefore, necessary for both Sectors to step up and interrogate Programmes that benefit the frontline beneficiaries.

Honourable Speaker, poverty is a major threat to the existence of human

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kind, especially in the developing world and can hunt down a country and its people. It was, therefore, important that the Government was proactive to have established the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and has properly budgeted for it under the Social Sectors in this Financial Year - 2016/2017.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, when it comes to poverty, Education plays a very important role in getting the people of any country out of the scourge of poverty. It provides a foundation for the eradication of poverty and fosters economic progress and development. The more educated people we have, the better the possibility to escape and alleviate poverty. Of course, Honourable Speaker, Education alone, cannot transform a country's economy. It is, therefore, that many developing countries, including Namibia, are investing in diverse efforts in addressing poverty.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Oh no, you just started!

HON MEMBER: Why conclude now? (*Laughter*)

HON JAGGER: I support the Budget in its holistic form, because this Budget is comprehensive, it is predictable, it is contestable and it is transparent.

I thank you so much, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next on my list is Honourable Kandumbu. You have the Floor.

HON KANDUMBU: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to join the Honourable Members who spoke before me, to make my contribution on the *Appropriation Bill*. It is again that time of the year when the expectations of our citizens is on high alert in anticipating good news from this national cake.

Allow me to first and foremost, extend my word of gratitude to the Minister of Finance and the entire team who prepared this Budget. It was not an easy task though, but yet you managed. Let me thank you for that.

I would also like to further call upon the fellow Members to acknowledge the fact that this Budget was put together at the backdrop of very difficult economic times – low commodity prices, volatile exchange rate and most importantly, the global economic slowdown.

As we are all aware, the impact of the global economic slowdown, varies from one economy to another depending on the extent of their exposure and the strength of their economic fundamentals. In Namibia, we know that it is of no consequence to complain about factors beyond our control.

There are visible and notable efforts by the Government to address economic factors that are within the Government's mandate and to ensure that it returns this country's economy to a more inclusive growth path. There is consensus on the challenges that are confronting this Nation. The Government Programmes are guided by the long-term Strategies like the National Development Plan (NDP4) that was put in place to address these national challenges.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the NDP4 and Vision 2030 provide overarching objectives around which the Nation can come in unison. It builds consensus on the major hindrances on the fast

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approaching Vision 2030, where this Nation is expected to be among one of the industrialised Nations of the world by outlining steps that needs to be taken to overcome the said hindrances. At the same time, this National Plan provides a common framework for detailed planning and creating a basis for making informed choices about the best way to use the limited resources at our disposal.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my conviction that the Government needs to be commended for the efforts taken thus far to identify wastage and non-essential spending in order to do away with such services.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, notable to mention is an observation on disparities between the Operational Budget expenditure put at eighty five (85%) *versus* the Development Budget at fifteen (15%).

Looking at these figures, one asks a question as to where the National Development priorities in the NDP4 lies. It is worrisome to note that, the Development Budget is less than 30% for a country that is striving towards industrialisation by 2030. It is fourteen (14) years from now onwards. The question that comes to mind again is, is this Vision realisable at the current allocations or it should remain a dream for the future generations.

The envisaged expenditure for goods and services is said to be enormous. It is my view that, if we want to mitigate economic wastage and non-essential spending, we should revisit the allocation to goods and services and, if found to be prudent, the reduced funds to be redirected to the Development Budget.

According to the Strategic Plan or our National Development Goals NDP4, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tourism and Logistic are the areas of economic priorities. One is made to understand that when you have priorities, those are the areas where your focal point should be. Manufacturing or value addition to our raw materials from our country to various destination in the world does not advance the economic stability

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of our country. This leaves me to believing that as a country, we are creating more economic activities outside this country than inside the country. Embarking on vigorous and value addition to our minerals and products could contribute immensely to our GDP.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to reflect a bit on Education as a Sector that has more to contribute towards the realisation of Vision 2030 an industrialised Nation, and beyond this said Vision. I have been following with keen interest, the allocations of the two Ministries, that is, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation that are responsible for imparting knowledge and skills to our learning fraternity.

I think it is imperative to allocate funds to these Ministries in accordance with their given mandate. My observation is that the Ministry of Higher Education is the pilot of skills transfers and technological innovation, and as such, this is the Ministry that should account to the Nation as to whether we are well positioned with our previous and current intakes of our High Learning and Vocational Institutions for the Nation to enter with hope in the Namibian House, which is Vision 2030.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is with this in mind that we should have proper and adequate allocations, for this Ministry to carry out its Mandate. Vocational Training Centres activities are not fully supported through adequate funds so that the most needed skills are available for the employment markets of this country. With the current allocations, I see no movement towards a skilled Nation.

Namibia is a country, where we cannot even produce a stick of matches; candles; and most of our office furniture are imported from our neighbouring countries, and even beyond. We are informed that these items we come and buy, some of which are expensive, are raw materials from our country that are manufactured into finished products by VTC graduates in those countries.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my firm believe that the

Ministry of Higher education and the Ministry of Industrialisation and SME Development among others, should be prioritised in order of skills development and factories establishment by the mentioned Public Sectors. By so doing, these Sectors will compliment what the Agriculture Sector is busy doing in most of our Regions and subsequently job creation will be granted to our Nation.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, growing an economy of this country does not centre on Government alone, but it brings all economic role players in both Public and Private Sectors as economic partners. It is my plea that these stakeholders add up to the Government to curb possible wastages and non-essential spending from our Budget or estimates beforehand, in order to pave way for Developmental or Economical Programmes.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the 2016 Budget represents the beginning of the fulfilment of our Vision of transforming our national economy and providing a good life to all Namibians. Through our spending priorities, we have shown a desire to:

- tackle the key and pressing problems of the society;
- bridging the divide between the rich and the poor;
- investing in traditional and new industries;
- setting the conditions for Private Sector growth and job creation;
- spending to repair a broken Education System;
- improving the health and wellness of the population; and
- caring for the elderly and vulnerable sections of the population, amongst others.

This Budget shows that we are prepared to take the tough decisions

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needed to secure a better and brighter future for our people.

Honourable Speaker, I am confident that we, as a Nation, united in a common cause, will leave behind the acrimony, partisanship and division that still persist in our society.

With this, I Move that we approve this Bill and I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The next on my list is Honourable !Auxab. You have the Floor.

HON !AUXAB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, let me first and foremost, thank the Almighty Heavenly Father for making it possible for us to meet this afternoon, knowing that the trust of the Nation is on our shoulders to represent them and serve them.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to add my voice to the current discourse before this august House. However, before doing that, Honourable Speaker Sir, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Minister, Calle Schlettwein for the job well-done.

The Budget is tipped by pundits as a pro-poor, social yearning, austere, yet at the same time pro-growth. What a balancing act.

I have noted with a deep sense of satisfaction that you have reminded us, the Legislators, the Executives in this august House and the Nation at large in your Budget Speech about the strong message from His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia during the Opening of the 3rd Session of the Sixth Parliament. I quote – *“In 2016, it is time to turn words into reality, it is time to implement and, therefore, this is the year of implementation.”*

As a responsible Party, the UDF will criticise where needed, yet give credit where credit is due. In that respect, Honourable Speaker, Sir, I commend the Honourable Minister for the following:

- For again allocating the biggest chunk of the Budget to Education, followed by Health.
- Increasing Old-Age Pension with N\$100.00 to N\$1,100.00;
- Reigning in Government spending;
- Keeping the Budget shortfalls in check; and
- Keeping a close eye on Government debt.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is also commendable to note that the austerity measures implemented over the past Financial Year has generated savings of more than N\$6 billion.

I draw an analogy from the 2014, Bank Windhoek Quarter 2 Financial Results, where the Introductory Statement read and I quote – “*Growth was achieved through good revenue growth, prudent expense management and effective credit management.*” Although this analogy is drawn from the Private Sector, it holds important Universal Principles of Financial Prudence and Fiscal Discipline, should we wish as a country to reach the economic growth that we intend to achieve as a Nation, we cannot keep on spending *ad infinitum*.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, in terms of Education, we may not realise the value of large spending on Education in the short term. I see the Budget allocation on Education not as an expense, but rather an investment in the future of our Namibian Youth. Given that Namibia is a very young Nation, the results of investing in Education may not be visible now, as I said, but over many years we will definitely see the results thereof.

As a word of caution, Honourable Speaker, I should hasten to mention that

the Nation will not grow should the money allocated to Education and other Sectors be spent on S & T and other non-core expenses, which ends up being consumed, but rather on the intended purposes. Many of us can testify today that we are what we are because of Education, and that education in itself is the biggest empowerment tool.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I was listening to the news the other day that Kenya intends to introduce free Education by 2021 and Namibia has already started a few years ago with Primary Education and subsequently with Secondary Education this year. Considerable allocations have visibly been proposed to make Tertiary and Vocational Education more affordable.

Once again, this is commendable.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the increase in Old Age Pension speaks to the President's war on poverty and Social upliftment and to the call that *No Namibian Should Be Left Out*.

We need to be grateful to those that helped building this country in the Nation that it is and we need to keep on supporting those fragile and needy members of our society through Social Grants. If we do not, no other country in the world will do that for us.

It is widely known, Honourable Speaker, that Namibia is among a very few countries in Africa and even in the world that pays Old-Age Pension and Social Grant to its citizens and this is indeed a great achievement worth noting.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the UDF takes a supportive view on the introduction of Solidarity Tax in which the intention is to tax the wealthy and privilege individuals of our society in support for poverty alleviation initiatives.

The intended redirection of increasingly scarce financial resources to the priority areas of national development, with the objectives of unlocking

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potential economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication towards the achievement of shared prosperity for all, should be pursued with all strength and vigour. As a responsible Party, the UDF will vigorously monitor and remind the Honourable Minister of that promise.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is perhaps time, and that time is now that Namibia should start looking at a strategy to reduce our dependence on revenue from the SACU Pool.

If I understand correctly, we owe SACU some money now, and that although SACU revenue is dwindling, the revenue from SACU represents a considerable portion of our Budget income.

We have seen nations like Saudi Arabia diversifying their economies looking at the day when oil revenue will not be there. As a country, we are not immune to geo-political risks that other countries face and there is a need to strengthen Sectors like Agriculture, Vocational Training and Manufacturing to increase our Gross Domestic Products, decrease dependency on imports and increasing our export base.

Seeing that Namibia host the SACU Secretariat, Namibia should drive the agenda in helping SACU to increase its revenue base through increased trade volumes.

Honourable Speaker, I must mention that there is a need to streamline non-performing State-Owned Enterprises and come up with a framework to monitor SOE performance as the intention of creating SOEs, was not aimed for eternal dependence on Government funding, but it was aimed for improve service delivery and revenue generation for its shareholder, the Government.

Honourable Speaker, the new Parliament Building must not be taken as a political battle field. It is our obligation as Leaders of the Nation to send the right message across to the Nation. The Parliament and the State House is the mirror of any given country and the Nation. *(Applause)*

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The Parliament Building does not belong to the Members of Parliaments, the MPs will come and go... (*applause*)

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

HON !AUXAB: ...But the building will remain the national asset of the Nation, let us not denied the right of owning national assets to the Nation.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker – *!Gâi tu bahe-hâ /Ninis gera /Gana... Ne !hub #gae-#guis ge !gâiba !oa ge daba tsî datse khao-oa tite (applause) ai sa oa /gui ni /gei.*

HON SPEAKER: Please allow him to complete so that he is clearly understood.

HON !AUXAB: *Ti hâ tsî tini hâ se i, Og!! Tarebe suriba!!!*

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members of this august House, with that, I support the tabling and introduction of this *Appropriation Bill* of 2016/2017. Thank you for having listening to me.

Let me briefly explain what I said – we are in an ever changing world, the governance ethics of our beloved country Namibia has changed, and will not be reversed again. It is, and it will remain as such. If there are people in our country, maybe even in this House, who are enemies of progress tough luck! (*applause and ululation*)

HON MEMBER: *Wazuu?* -did you hear? (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Member is appealing to the House and beyond this House – asking nothing, but that we should make progress. That we should not fear the future and face the future with confidence.

With that, I will call on Honourable Murorua. Of course, it is his first intervention, therefore, no interruptions please. You have the Floor.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to first and foremost thank the Namibian electorate and specifically the UDF Members and supporters for having elected me to represent them in this august House.

Honourable Speaking, Honourable Members, let me also use this opportunity to express my gratitude, and that of my Party, the UDF towards His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob the President of the Republic of Namibia for promoting, right from the onset the Policy of Inclusivity for all Namibians, regardless of their political affiliation, race, sex, religion or social-economic status in society.

Honourable Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, I wish to thank the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein for a very well-articulated and timeous Budget that he has presented with the fundamental objectives to;

1. Reassert and re-establish a path for Public Finance to maintain macroeconomic stability as an enabler for future sustainable and socioeconomic development; and

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2. To redirect scarce financial resources to priority areas of National Development to unlock potential on economic growth, job creation and prosperity for all.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Statement by His Excellency the President, at the opening of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament, stating that this is the time to implement and, therefore, the year of implementation, is telling the Namibian Nation and, specifically everybody in any National Leadership position and the Public Service, that there is no room for business as usual anymore.

Honourable Speaker, the above words, coupled with what the Honourable Minister of Finance has stated on Page 4, in Paragraph 8, in his Budget Statement for the Financial Year 2016/2017, that this Budget provides a scope for the implementation of National priorities to commensurate with the available resource envelope, tells the Nation in a very subtle way, whether we like it or not, that money is a very scarce resource.

HON MEMBER: We know!

HON MURORUA: Hence, your caution *to do more with less* – Perhaps this is the version of Jesus feeding the Nation on two fish and five loaves of breads, I do not know whether we will do it. So, thank you very much Honourable Schlettwein for your boldness to reiterate that to the Nation.

Honourable Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, mention is also made of the **Harambee Prosperity Plan** by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, our President, and the creation of a new Ministry for Poverty Eradication. All of them are very good ideas, but they require boldness to bring the understanding that, yes, we need to work together as a Nation to build a prosperous Namibia and not just believe that we must queue up for allowances, grants and food aid.

Honourable Speaker, it is important to say it, because **Harambee** must in reality be the establishment of a national culture for hard work, for the sake of national development and prosperity for all and by all. That the real vulnerable groups of people should be assisted through this allowances, grants and food aid is true and acceptable, but we need to watch as Policy Makers and Public Servants against developing Policies that are advancing party political mileage.

Honourable Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, we cannot as Leaders boast with good governance, peace stability and Rule of Law on the one hand and on the other hand claim that there are still marginalised communities. This, in essence, if it is true, means that there are still people or authorities marginalising communities, and that should then, if it is true, be dealt with by a competent Court of Law. The big question will then be – who is marginalising who at this point in time, in this independent Namibia? Because reality is having it that, poor people are among all the groups all over Namibia and not only among those whom we can easily convince to follow us. In any event, Government has the legal and moral obligation to care for everybody within this Country.

Honourable Speaker, poverty is a reality and I am not in the slightest sense trying to understate that, but we need to let everybody understand that regardless of poverty, any able bodied person need to work to build his/her prosperity and that of the Namibian Nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, free primary and secondary education has been long overdue in Namibia and it is very good that we are having it now implemented, but it is a pity that Government does not realise what fatal contribution it is making towards the unwanted promotion of poverty by letting young grade 10 and 12 dropouts on the streets or direct them towards the unaffordable NAMCOL by not letting them repeat their grades which they have failed regardless of their ages, because, the eventual objective to have them as future Leaders sharpened by our Tertiary Educational Institutions is very important.

I am stating this, because nowhere in the entire world and also in Namibia,

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is age a restriction for enrolment at these Tertiary Institutions, so they can, to the honest opinion of the UDF Party, repeat until they have passed and then enter University to become our future Leaders who will help build the Nation instead of us allowing our own Namibian youthful talents to perish on our streets and corridors (*interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: Let him get away with that because it is his Maiden Speech. (*Laughter*)

HON MURORUA: He is more than welcome – I will take it, we have been together. (*Interjections*) Yes, we need to change gears. You are promoting other things through NAMCOL.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the priority funding for road, rail, water, energy and ICT infrastructures are all very welcome, but the Nation needs to be informed why we are not utilising the new railway line to the North, is it because it is too wide for our trains, or is the foundation not stable enough to carry heavy loads? Why are we not using it?

HON MEMBER: We are using it!

HON MURORUA: No, we are not.

On **Water** – Honourable Speaker, who, in this Country is not aware of the very strong water resource at Kombat? And is any water resource not the property of Government, that we do not plan good infrastructure to expand the use of this water resource to other dry areas?

On **Energy** – Honourable Speaker, why is the development of Kudu and Xaris taking us as a Nation very long, or is the suspicion true, that it is because some elites has invested in Kudu, while others have their pie in Xaris and that the fight is about which one is to be developed first to benefit these elites? – While in the meantime our Nation is suffering without efficient electricity supply all over Namibia and we are spending more and more to buy electricity from RSA.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on **ICT Infrastructure Development** – I still do not understand the logic we are trying to apply. Namibia Post and Telecommunication Holdings owns all infrastructures in Telecom, NAMPOST and MTC on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. In all honesty, this is a 2-3 billion Namibian Dollars Government fully owned Company. But we are as a Nation now doing our level best for the past two years to liquidate it, just to create another one. However, it is the very same company that is in a position to build all these ICT infrastructures we are talking about. And mind you, some infrastructures in the form of towers are already built, many of them in Kunene and elsewhere in this country, but are not equipped because we as Leaders do not even understand whether our mandate is to rollout ICT infrastructure on behalf of Government or to operate on the basis of the Return on Investment. Yet we are trying to bring ICT in the National Education Curriculum mainstream.

The question is, are the rural schools ever going to benefit, and are we ever going to be able to curb the rural-urban migration and thus, spread development equitably all over Namibia? The Government of Namibia is having a 64 percent share in MTC, yet Government has mandated the minority foreign shareholders to run this company as it deem fit and the Board Members of MTC, who are mostly Namibians, are in no position to direct that company to try and meet the National socio-demographic segment needs all over Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, UDF is humbly of the opinion that the entry point to start addressing the high inequality in the promotion of wealth creation and shared prosperity should start with

the provision of real, affordable housing to the poor so that they can also become creditworthy with the conventional Financial Institutions in Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, it is the UDF's view that we have a very good vehicle to tackle this, but we only use it when it fits us and that is the alienation scheme, which as Policymakers, we always say that it is over and done with, but when the Ministers and Public Servants want to buy a Government house, then that house is offered to these groups on an Affirmative Action Alienation basis. The offer from Government to them is so low while the market price is skyrocketing and makes the beneficiary immediately creditworthy. Now why can we not do the same with the old houses in our towns that belongs to the Local Authorities to create wealth for our own poor people, if we can do it for the elite? *(Interjection)* I have never been in the Army my Dear Sister, ask the Brother next to you, he was a member of Koevoet.

Servicing of Land in Towns and Cities – Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there is hardly any Local Authority that is servicing land with monies derived from their own revenue. Instead, it is the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development that provides these monies, which the Ministry, via the appropriation process received indirectly as revenue from the very people who are in need of houses, yet when the pricing of houses are made up, the monies for servicing of land is again derived from these poor people and that makes the prices of erven and, thus, of houses very high in Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleading with you all as Leaders, since housing is a Constitutional Right for every Namibian, and on top of that, Namibia has ratified the UN Convention on Habitat, more than 15 years ago as a Government. Let us please make life easy for our own people and use our money to uplift them.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is high time that we need to also shift gears when it comes to the Land issue. We are all happy with the Resettlement Programme, but if we really want to address the issue of

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wealth creation and prosperity for our people, we need to introduce a system where beneficiaries could graduate from the 99 year Leasehold System to a Title Deed System at a cost, coupled with stringent conditions and training so as to enable the creation of real wealth for the Namibian people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I must state that I am very hesitant to agree totally with my Honourable Minister of Finance on the 0,9 percent economic growth rate for the RSA as opposed to the 4,3 percent projected for Namibia. Yes, we will in Namibia grow in the Mining Sectors of Uranium and Gold, but the variance is too big between 0,9 and 4,3 percent for South Africa and Namibia, respectively.

Yes, I agree that the climate for investment in South Africa might not be that favourable, but South Africa, whether we like it or not, is and will remain for a long period a giant regardless of other trading partners that might be increasing in the SADC Region.

It is true that we no longer observe the South African cement since Ohorongo Cement has started operating on a fully fledged basis, but when we need quality steel and corrugated iron sheets for infrastructure development, South Africa is the place to go. The Rosh Pinah Mine is producing flat iron sheets, but dispatched them to South Africa, just to come back as corrugated iron for IBR sheets. So far, for infrastructure development we will go to South Africa time and again.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, besides all these, we are very dependent on South Africa for our food supplies and this current Budget does not at all prioritise the production of food for our own needs as a Nation. And that, while our industrialised mechanisation within our Manufacturing Sectors is mostly depending on South African suppliers.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to state at this point in time, that I am happy with the allocations made so far, although I would like to see an increase for the Health and Agriculture

Sectors; and would thus, prefer to wait and see how everything is going to work out in the long run.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to remind this august House that fiscal consolidation to curtail negative effects of budgetary expansion and fiscal austerity will only be achieved, if our Finance Minister would boldly tell the implementers and other Executive Members of our Government that we are indeed running short of fiscal resources and that we all should, therefore, abide by our planning. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I know the clock is not stopping, but I wonder whether you will agree with me – we only have two Members, can we get them to finish?

Yes, with that I will give Honourable Mbai the opportunity to address the House.

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me first of all to add my voice to that of the previous speakers on the issue of the International Women's Day, which is celebrated worldwide on the 8th of March. Women all over the globe and Namibia, in particular, really need to be supported, empowered and encouraged in their social, economic, cultural and political achievements.

Coming to the point under discussions, namely the Budget Proposals for the Financial Year 2016/2017, may I use this opportune time to congratulate the Minister of Finance for a well-articulated Budget Speech delivered on 25th of February 2016, in this House.

Right on the onset, may I register my satisfaction regarding the overall

Budget provision and those critical areas the Budget allocations seems to address. Taking into concentration that despite the achievements in the macro-economic area, the Government's effort to address development challenges facing our Nation, was constrained by the continued weak recovery of the global economy, prolonged devastating drought, in addition, the shortage of water and electricity in many parts of our country. This are key inputs in driving economic activities and has also undermined domestic growth prospects severely.

What I am trying to say is that – it could have been worse if the Minister did not really propose such a Budget that will carry the Nation to the Next Financial Year under the current circumstances.

Honourable Speaker, with an overall Budget of N\$ 66 billion, one will be optimistic that critical areas of social and economic aspects will be addressed fully to the satisfaction of all our people.

From the look of things, I must express my disappointment that the Minister did not inform us how he intend to service this growing debt that has been increasing from N\$35.95 billion in 2014/2015 to an estimated N\$59.79 billion by the Financial Year 2015/2016. It is a fact that the National debt is increasing while the economy is showing a downward trend.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I would also like to applaud the Minister for stating that there will be no more increases in the current size of the Civil Service. This is commendable in the sense that, our Civil Service is also bloated to the extent that productivity is no more a norm, nor a standard, but a luxury.

Honourable Speaker, while it is true that Government positions are sources of income to many people, we cannot use Government as a milking cow, we should also make it a more productive Institution.

I would also like to applaud the Minister for his fiscal consideration path by announcing cuts to non-essential operational expenditure items, such as

materials and supplies, travel allowances, overtime, furniture and vehicles.

Honourable Speaker, this gesture on his part is commendable as it seeks to curb public spending on non-essential services.

It is, therefore, very much essential for this House, with the allocated resources to see to it that priority focus areas for the Budget namely: economic growth, poverty eradication, improvement of social welfare and improvement of timely, reliable services delivery to the public are properly implemented. What this House approved; must pass the test and aspiration of the public outside; it is a priority above priorities.

Therefore, in my opinion, the construction of Parliament Building, for example, need be to carefully considered.

Income Inequalities:

Honourable Speaker, we recognise the income inequalities and skewed ownership of sources of income that we have inherited in this country, but we cannot continue blaming the past forever. Let us focus on addressing and correcting the wrong doing of the past. Really to be honest, addressing the gap between the rich and the poor is taking a very slow path.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I agree with you that multipronged interventions, better targeting, and more urgency are required to make a meaningful impact on this structural challenges, more especially on delivering affordable serviced land and housing.

Public Procurement Regulation was the evil of all, because of *Tenderpreneurship* - some did not intend to advance the Development Strategies of Government, but rather endeavoured to enrich themselves and broaden the gap between the rich and the poor properly.

It is, therefore, very important for the Minister, now that the *Public Procurement Act* has been revised and promulgated, for him to see to it

that the local economic development contend will draw all enterprising Namibians into the mainstream of economic activities.

Honourable Minister it is true that more and more funding of Sectors does not necessarily guarantee greater success, but our political will, genuine reconciliation, peace and stability is the key to success.

Performance of Public Enterprises

Honourable Speaker, mixed to non-performance of State-Owned Enterprises in 2015/2016 need to be addressed seriously this time around.

Water and Electricity

Honourable Speaker, the importance of water and electricity, as key inputs into economic activities cannot be overemphasised. The country is currently faced with water and electricity supply shortages due to the drought situation and continued technical problems related to power supply, respectively. Shortages of such critical utilities do not only inconvenience the general public, but also undermine growth in the economy; as they have adverse effect on business operations.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, it is commendable that on the social front, the Minister indicated that pensioners will get an increase of N\$100.00 more this year, bringing the total to N\$ 1,100.00 per month. It is indeed commendable, however, I would have loved to see additional allocation to Old Ages Homes as well as the building of additional ones for the benefits of our old people.

Namibia range first amongst those countries that looks very well after its Senior Citizens and this is commendable, however, there are areas such as municipal debts, and free access to health facilities that must be improved upon.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker and with these few remarks, I support the Bill.

09 March 2016

**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. one more and then we are out of this place. Honourable Dienda, you have the Floor.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. May I be allowed to adjourn this Debate until tomorrow? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Well done. With that, we have come to the end and the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:51 UNTIL 2016.03.10 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
10 MARCH 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read Prayer and the Affirmation

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

HON SPEAKER: With the welcome extended to all, Honourable Members, I would like to remind ourselves, the Honourable Members of this House that, in terms of Rule 115(g) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly, and I quote – *“a member may not refer to names of persons, or any statements of fact, unless they be necessary to render the question intelligible and can be authenticated.”*

Therefore, I kindly request that Members should endeavour not to refer to names of persons when it is not absolutely necessary and does not add value to the point a Member wishes to bring across.

I also remind Members that Ministerial Statements should not be longer than 30 minutes, in terms of Rule 26 of the Standing Rules and Orders of this Assembly.

I further need to state that, in terms of Rule 115(f), a I quote – *“a Member may not in any Motion, Debate or question, including supplementary question, refer to matters awaiting or under adjudication in any Court of Justice.”*

With that, I am seeking your support and the usual cooperation. Thank you.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ITHETE**

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? I recognise Honourable Ithete. I think you were trying to draw my attention. I got you on my system here. You have the Floor.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Account of the following:-

- (i) Municipality of Windhoek for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2013;
- (ii) Municipality of Tsumeb for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2014;
- (iii) Town Council of Aranos for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2011 and 2012;
- (iv) Town Council of Aranos for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2013 and 2014; and
- (v) Regional Council of the Omusati Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2013 and 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Venaani.

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON VENAANI**

ORAL QUESTION

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, under Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House, I seek your indulgence to ask an Oral Question to the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, General Ho Chi Min, Namoloh a question.

HON SPEAKER: This is very interesting, because it looks as if it is already fixed. (*Laughter*) Yes, you may.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Namoloh the residents of the town of Gobabis in the Omaheke Region are planning to demonstrate about problems that they have with the Municipality and our General, or is he the Regional Commissioner? I only know about *Otjizerandu*, because I am a General myself, I am actually a Lieutenant General of the Red Flag.

Nevertheless, the question is – why is the Regional Commissioner denying free spirited citizens permission to air their demonstration, because they have been calling me this morning that they are being held up in the Court – a safe *Quasi Court* by the Regional Commissioner.

(*Interjections*) Listen, I am a man of the people. They come to me, they do not come to you, because they know who will help them (*laughter*)

Why is the Regional Commissioner refusing to grant free citizens permission to have a demonstration in the country of their birth?

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON NAMOLOH**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I refer the question to the Honourable Minister to respond.

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

HON MINSTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. On the question of Honourable Venaani, normally when people want to demonstrate or to hand in a Petition, the Institution where they intend to hand in the Petition or demonstrate against, must agree that they will accept the Petition and the Police will always be there. They do not deny people their Right to demonstrate.

You are perhaps misinformed, it is maybe the Municipality of Gobabis that is not granting them the permission to demonstrate. The Police has no Right to deny any person the permission to demonstrate. We only provide security for the people to demonstrate. I think I made it clear.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I do not see any further questions, therefore, we move on. Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Very Good – we move on.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION
AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL [B.2 – 2015]**

10 March 2016

**SECOND READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON VENAANI**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading - *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill* [B.2 – 2015].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 2nd of March 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs, that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate and I now have the pleasure to give him the Floor. He is not available, so any further discussion on this point? Honourable Venaani, you have the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I rise to contribute to this very important piece of legislation in the governance of our State.

I have been on record, asking the Minister of Presidential Affairs to bring about a formal legislation to the House that would determine the salary and benefits of the sitting Vice-President of our Republic, because the first determination was made through a Proclamation, which was not in fact legal.

It was legal, but having founded the Office, one would have thought that with the founding of the Office, that process would also have been accelerated to have a legislation that determines it.

Honourable Speaker, we agree and disagree on a number of things in life, and that is the nature of our politics in the society. For us, as Official Opposition of this Republic, we want to be on record to raise a few concerns.

Fundamentally, I see no objection from our side for the sitting President of

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**SECOND READING - PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON VENAANI**

our Republic to receive a benefit that he or she is entitled to. I see no problem with that all. That ought to be done – even if he receives an increase, politicians are also human beings who are hit by inflation like every other person.

Therefore, fundamentally, we have no problem with the President of the State receiving any salary increase, but we want to be on record, and I want to be on record stating the following:- First and foremost, the Bill addresses the issue of spouses and let me start there.

To us, we believe that it is just fair and it is right, through international practice that the First Lady or the First Spouse of the First Citizen of the Republic, should be accorded a certain status – certain benefits as she becomes a direct representative of the State, being the First Lady of the Republic.

However, we want to move a step further to disagree with the Ruling Party and the Government of the day, that a sitting Vice-President's spouse should also be taken care of by the State.

Fundamentally, we disagree. We have not seen any practice globally, where you have a Second Lady of the Republic – just because she is a wife of the Vice-President receiving benefits from the State. We, therefore, want to be on record saying that we are objecting to the fact that the Second Lady, the Spouse of the Vice-President is given a status of the Deputy Permanent Secretary in our system.

Thirdly, and fundamentally, we want to be on record and that our position should be recorded to the fact that when we create jobs for people, there must also be a system of accountability. When you determine a salary of Venaani as a Member of Parliament, there should also be functions that are attached to the salary that you are proposing – what is the job that Venaani must carry out and what is his job description or his Terms of Reference? Now on the one hand, you are saying that a spouse of the Vice-President must get a salary and you are not telling us what are the

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**SECOND READING - PRESIDENTIAL
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HON VENAANI**

responsibilities of this person. What does she or he do?

To us, that is a problem. The nature of the seat that I hold, Honourable Speaker, is to sometimes say things that are very unkind, not that I must say them, because they are unkind, but because it is the job of the Official Opposition Leader to hold the Government to account and to say things that are dangerous to the State.

Fundamentally, during the constitutional consultations that we had, let me be on record to correct our sitting Head, the President or our Leader, the President of our country and the Head of State that, I personally never denied the fact that my delegation and I had talks with him on the Constitutional Amendment. In fact, the time that he is blaming me for having denied that there were talks, I was not even a Member of Parliament, perhaps it may be other Leaders who said there were not talks. In fact, our meeting was supposed to take place in a period of an hour, but we ended up sitting for five hours, because we had an acrimonious Debate about the Constitutional Amendment.

It is not nice to say it, but I must be on record that I believe, and we believe, on this side of the aisle that the idea to have a Vice-President – *(interjection)* I am saying this side of the aisle and you know the aisle Right Honourable Prime Minister. I am in Palestine now? *(Interjection)* we are working towards improving that, in the last election we got 11 percent, so we will also extend that in 2019, do not worry. I had 6 percent last time, and now we had 11 percent, so we are doing our job, do not worry. *(Interjections)* Please do not confuse me, let us talk about these things that you do not have guts to say. The facts not fiction - *feite*, you must also have guts to be able to say these things.

The intention of having a Vice-President in a State, and I am very good Friend of *Tate Iyambo*, a very brilliant fellow – personally I have no personal problem with him. With his wits and my respect *(interjection)* that is beside the point. Sit down, *haama, undja* *(Intervention)*

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REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
Honourable Venani (*interjection*)

HON VENAANI: Venaani.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
Venaani, is that correct now, are you happy?

HON VENAANI: Yes, you are my Cousin.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
Thank you. You are advancing an argument whereby you wish to have job descriptions for whoever is being appointed, correct?

Will the Parliament be in good standing in advocating to the Executive that they should have job descriptions when the Members of Parliament themselves – I even wonder, if they have job descriptions?

HON VENAANI: For a former Deputy Minister of Justice and a sitting Member of this House to argue that Members of Parliament have job

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REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON VENAANI**

descriptions – it is a Constitutional Provisions or the job of a Legislator. Therefore, go and read your Constitution. I will allow you to have your say, but let me have my way. (*Interjection*) *Kurama uriri* – just wait. *Kurama katiti uriri*, I will allow you to have your say, let me have my way.

Honourable Speaker, the argument that was advanced was that we need the heavy top four to balance the dynamics of the country – the sitting President, the then former Prime Minister (*interjection*) You were not there. In fact, if you look at the Minutes, we even recorded the tops. (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: There is a dialogue now and I am trying to avoid that, could you try and confine yourself to the question that you are raising, because I understood the question you are raising. The Minister will respond, if you could just conclude the question please.

HON VENAANI: I think the question is that, it is the job of the Legislature to direct the Executive, and to ask them to do things in a transparent manner. The mere fact that you have brought this legislation is because the Legislature was demanding that you have a legislation to determine a certain salary.

It is a job of a Legislature, to hold you to account and to be responsible with the legislative frameworks that governs the country better. That is why we are here and that is why we are called Lawmakers. That argument is a little bit – not at our level, I think we ought to have a better argument than the questions that you are posing.

I am trying to raise a question of a Vice-President. Namibia, with our population, with a sitting Prime Minister who is Leader of Government

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HON VENAANI**

Business and the Executive power of the President, does not need a Vice-President, and we have quietly monitored this situation for the last twelve months – the job of the Vice-President, and will come back to it at an appropriate time (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes, please.

HON MBUMBA: Honourable Speaker, I need your guidance. The issue of the Vice-Presidency is already part of our Constitution. For somebody to question that, you are questioning the Constitution, and if you want an Amendment, you propose an Amendment. That is our understanding. We cannot have people questioning the Provision of the Constitution, which we have already approved in this House.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani, please – you were moving towards raising issues pertaining to the item of the agenda. Could you deal with it and conclude please? (*Interjection*) No, you have the Floor, continue please.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I am not asking for an Amendment of the Constitution, and do not say that – a Member in this House cannot say that, perhaps you can relook at something, if I do not bring an Amendment.

We just want to be on record in connection with what we said then and what we are saying now – with our observation over the last twelve months, that the Republic of our size do not need a Vice-President. That

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HON DIENDA**

is our view. We are not calling for the Amendment of the Constitution, but we are holding a very dear view that this country needs a President and a sitting Prime Minister, as opposed to the Vice-President. That is the truth from our side. *Peri nao uriri, omambo kangwana. (Interjection)* Well, I took an Oath to disagree and to record my opposition to certain things as well.

Honourable Speaker, I have no problem to support the *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill*, but I want my reservations to be recorded on the Second Spouse, who must get a salary that is equivalent to Deputy Permanent Secretary's salary without any clear official role that she or he plays in the Republic. That is a problem to us.

All the other issues of people getting increases, I have no problem with, however, let it be known that we were on record saying these things in this country. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani, you started very well, you were looking for clarification on the Spouse for the Vice-President, and the Minister might provide you with the necessary clarification. Is that in order?

The next Member on my list is Honourable Dienda please.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I was told last week in this august House by the Minister of Presidential Affairs that the salary of the President is *none of my business, because the President does not know my salary*.

Honourable Speaker, it is a shame that the Minister can answer another Member who was equally elected just like him in such a manner.

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HON DIENDA**

HON MEMBER: Which Minister?

HON DIENDA: The Minister of Presidential Affairs. Honourable Speaker, questions asked in this House are not necessarily meant for the Honourable Member who poses the questions, but they may also be for the interest of the public at large.

It was said by Honourable Shaningwa, when she was responding to our questions that she is not answering these questions for the interest of the Member who posed it, but for the interest of the public. Honourable Shaningwa, in your absence, thank you very much for that clarification.

Honourable Speaker, it is the right of the public and my Right too, to know about the salary of the President, because like all of us, the President is being paid from the Taxpayers' money while the President does not pay any taxes himself at all. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Member, can you correct yourself maybe by this mistaken identity of a Ms Shaanika whom we do not have here, who is responding to questions put to her?

HON SPEAKER: Alright.

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HON DIENDA: I can say whatever I want to say in this House, it is my Right (*interjections*)

Honourable Speaker, allow me now to talk about the issue at hand. The first question that came to my mind when going through this Bill is the question of what is meant with the word “*allowance*.” (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION**: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker – this is an Honourable House, and everything we are saying is recorded and I am saying this to protect the dignity of this House.

If a Member can be recorded saying – *I can say anything in this House*, when we also know that we have a Parliamentary Language, will that auger well in our House? (*Interjections*)

I am talking about the person on the Floor, and it is going to be recorded like that, that – *I can I can say anything I want to say in this House*. I just want that to be withdrawn in order to respect this House and the Member herself. Thank you.

HON MEMBER: There is nothing to be withdrawn. (*Intervention*)

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, allow me to continue.

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HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Let me just help there. I think what everybody, or all of us are saying collectively, is that we function according to the Rules governing this Assembly and I think with the interjection, Honourable Member, someone was simply trying to help you with the pronunciation of the Honourable Member's name and I am sure you took note of that, but when you say – *I can say anything*, I equally know that you do not mean that, because you are a longstanding Member of this House and you know the Rules. We are together on that? Please continue.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. An allowance is money that is given to someone regularly or for a specific purpose. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Point of Order.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information, I am sorry for raising this as the Honourable Member is making her Statement, but it relates to a remark she made that I think requires me to make this correction.

This issue is so important that the public cannot be left with the impression that was created by the remark that she made that the President is not a taxpayer. It is incorrect to say that the President is not a taxpayer.

The President is granted tax exemption for income and expenditures that are determined under the Law, it is not a blanket exemption that states that whatever income the President earns, even through companies that he owns, is exempted from taxes. Therefore, it is incorrect to say that the President is not a taxpayer.

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HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Yes. With that understanding, let us please make progress.

HON DIENDA: Let me continue, Honourable Speaker. An allowance is money that is given to someone regularly or for a specific purpose. It may also be a small amount of money that is regularly given to children by their parents.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to quote from the Bill – *“There must be paid to the spouse of the person holding the Office of the President, a monthly allowance, which is equal to the monthly remuneration payable to a Permanent Secretary employed in the Public Service of Namibia.”* The same goes for the position of the Spouse of the Vice-President.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to raise the following concerns in this regard:

1. As far as I am concerned, any money paid to a person on any structure, goes along with certain responsibilities and duties. Whether it is referred to as an *“allowance,” “salary,”* or *“remuneration.”*
2. Given that in the ordinary context of the Public Service, an allowance is an amount in addition to one’s salary, for example, vehicle or housing allowance. I have never in my life heard of such a high allowance.
3. Honourable Speaker, what will be deducted from these allowance? In Section 6 of the Bill, it is stated that, and I quote – *“The amount of any remuneration, benefits and allowances paid and the value of benefits relating to medical aid received in terms of this Act, are exempted from income tax.”* Only Medical Aid is received. Will they pay tax and social security, for example?

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4. As was asked by my President, what will be the duties and responsibilities of these Spouses. (*Interjection*) I said **my** President. To whom are they accountable, because they are again, being paid with taxpayer's money?
5. If the Spouse of the President or the Vice-President have their own businesses, and they are still running such businesses and continue to receive income from those businesses – because of a matter of choice, as it is currently the case, will they still pay them these enormous amounts of money?
6. Honourable Speaker, will the Spouses also be entitled to S & T when they accompany their Spouses on missions, since they will receive allowances? I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion? I do not see any. I will, therefore, now call on the Honourable Minister to reply.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to, first and foremost thank the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition for accepting the principle that the President indeed, and so as the Vice-President deserve to be remunerated fairly.

I would like to say that the Spouse of the Vice-President is remunerated or given an allowance, because she plays a role of supporting the Vice-President who is the second in charge of our country. That is basically the principle behind doing that. You do not want to have a situation where – if, for example, a person is not employed anywhere and has no business, are we suggesting that the Vice-President should be taking care of his own wife? (*Interjection*) It is true, we understand that, it is your view and you

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HON KAPOFI**

are entitled to that view. It is alright, but we are saying, we find it fair that at that representative level, something be done with the Spouse of the Vice-President.

As I have stated, the role cannot be clearer. *Honourable Venaani* confided with us about the discussion he had with the President or the Prime Minister then, we appreciate the information shared, but I do not think this add any value to our discussion now. Thank you for the confidence you have in us to tell us what you had discussed, but that is water under the bridge, since we have a Vice-President now. It is not a matter of whether we should have or not have a Vice-President, we already have a Vice-President. However, it is your view, you and your Party are entitled to that view, but I do not think that that is a view shared by all the Opposition Parties on that side of the aisle. *(Interjection)*

Well, in that case, when your turn comes, it will be fine, but it will take you some time to come to this side *(laughter)*

Now my Honourable Friend and former Comrade, and soon to be a Comrade again *(interjection)*

HON DIENDA: When?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: It will not be long before you return.

Honourable Dienda, I think I am right or am I not pronouncing your name correctly?

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HON KAPOFI**

HON MEMBER: You can say anything. (*Laughter*)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: No, I do not want to say anything.

I want to say that - you referred to me having said something in my response to you earlier, but that response was from across somewhere, it was not a formal response. It was said somewhere and you overheard it, because I never took the Floor, you only overheard me saying things. It was one of those things – just as you know very well, I do not mean that (*laughter*) You know about that and I am happy that you have agreed to the ceasefire, so let us continue.

You asked about an allowance – *what is an allowance?* Yes, you explained in your own way, but you know, we do not want to refer to these as salaries, because these are people who are playing a different role and it is fit to refer to what they get as an *allowance* instead of saying *salary*, because a salary is something else which means something different. Therefore, we just thought it befitting to do that for our two ladies or gentlemen Spouses. That is basically that, they are Spouses of our Leaders. It is a practice in Governments, it is done that way, however, they are not given salaries. They receive allowances.

You asked whether they pay Social Security – normally one contributes to Social Security for a specific purposes, but the Bill provides for the payment of some *other incidental matters*. You must have read that sentence – there is something thereto. I would not think that they would be required to contribute to the Social Security.

There is a Provision in the Law, that the Law will take care of these Spouses and their dependents.

Having said, Honourable Speaker, allow me to thank all the Honourable

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REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL**

Members of the House, my Comrade this side and my Dear Friend on the other side for having unanimously agreed to accept this Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I must say that Namibia is a unique country and I actually like it when we can disagree and throw all sorts of comments at each other, but at the end of the day, end with a smile.

I was listening carefully to the Honourable Minister and the Honourable Members, and that is the kind of spirit that is highly valued. Thank you, Honourable Minister.

I now put the question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to.

The Bill will be read a Second Time.

**PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION
AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL [B.2 – 2016]**

SECRETARY: *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill [B.2 – 2016].*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2016]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading -
Appropriation Bill [B.1 – 2016].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 9th of March 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Honourable Dienda has the Floor and I thank her for her patience, because she was quite ready to speak yesterday, but due to time constraints, she honourably said that she will take the Floor the next day. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker again, for this opportunity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to place a rubber stamp towards this Budget Debate, from which I cannot add to, or subtract anything.

When going through the Speech of the Minister of Finance, and also the documents distributed for this Financial Year, I realise how unfortunate it is for a Member of Parliament not to be involved in the drawing up process of the Budget.

It is indeed a disgrace that as a Lawmaker of this country, I will be crucified by the Nation for budgeting for things, which are not necessary, like building a new Parliament, instead of budgeting for things which are a

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matter of bread and butter, and which directly affect the livelihood of Namibians.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, everything in life cannot be measured in monetary terms. Just to give you an example – efficient and effective service delivery in this country is one of the lowest issues on the agenda of the Public Servants and yet, the largest chunk of the Budget goes towards paying Civil Servants.

Honourable Speaker, I can challenge you now to, as the Speaker of this House, visit the entrance of Parliament and ask one of the Police Officers on duty for the list of the current Members of Parliament, you will be shocked to see the name of the late Honourable Moongo still appearing on that list. When visitors are looking for the Offices of the DTA's Members of Parliament, you will be told that they only have Honourable Moongo and Honourable Kaura on their list. What a shame Honourable Speaker. For this, we certainly do not need a Budget or to allocate further money towards the National Assembly, but rather need effective planning and coordination of functions within the Public Service.

The same goes for the rest of the Public Service. People are getting paid every month, but yet you will find long queues everywhere at all Ministries.

On Health – Honourable Speaker, when one goes to the Hospitals or Clinics, you have to take *padkos* along, that signifies how long you will wait in those queues. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: What is *padkos*?

HON DIENDA: *Padkos* is food that one prepare and take with when embarking upon a long journey. In this case, one has to do take *padkos*

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with as well, to eat while you are waiting to be attended to.

Honourable Speaker, they cannot distinguish between emergencies and casualties at Katutura Hospital. I am a living example of that one, however, Honourable Minister, we will speak during our teatime about that.

Again, Honourable Members, another example is the estimate that is being made by the City of Windhoek on our water and electricity accounts. This boils down to laziness and ineffective service delivery. They are too lazy to come out and take reading from our metres and they come up with lot of excuses on why they cannot reach out metres.

Honourable Speaker, I am talking about this issue, because the Budget of the country affects my personal Budget too.

Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development, I hope that the N\$2.3 billion that was apportioned for the Khomas Region for certain Projects will make up for this loophole. The reason why I brought up this issue of electricity meters is, because we must realize that the National Budget directly impacts on our lives as ordinary Namibian citizens.

Honourable Members, allow me now to specifically concentrate on some of the Votes individually. For the remainder of the Votes, I will make contributions when we proceed to the Committee Stage. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

I am not in the business of interrupting when somebody is speaking, but I

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just want to get clarity. I did not get the speaker when she says, they cannot distinguish between emergencies and causalities at Katutura Hospital. Perhaps I missed the point, if she can just clarify to me what she means with that.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, thank you very much. Honourable Dienda, maybe you can help the Colleague.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, I can bring the medical card of my grandchild here to show you. She had a fever and we went to Katutura Hospital at 16:00. At 22:00, in the evening, I was told that I must wait, with her high fever, because the queues were long. I told them – *this is an emergency*. It was not something that has come a long way, however, I was told to wait, and only at 03:00 in the morning, I was assisted for the first time. An appendix emergency operation was carried out on that 8 year old child at 06:00 in the morning. That child was crying, her temperature was so high and she was vomiting all the time. It was an emergency, but they still told me to wait in the queue. That is why I am saying they cannot distinguish between emergencies and casualties. There were people sitting with open wounds, and I felt that that could have waited, because they were just there for cleaning and dressing purposes. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: When was that?

HON DIENDA: The operation was carried out in November. (*Interjection*)

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HON MEMBER: She cannot remember.

HON DIENDA: I can remember, because we had voted that day. It was during the election period. It was a day of voting, because after the operation, I went to vote. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:
Honourable Speaker, first of all, we know that there are long queues in our Hospitals, I think it is a systemic issue, but I think it is fair enough to make some distinction and not to make blind naming.

It is not fair to say that the sisters at the Casualty Department cannot distinguish between an emergency and casualty, simply because my child or my sister was operated after two, three or whatever ever time in the morning. I think this is not fair.

I want the public and the Honourable Members of the House to help me pinpoint and, especially suggest what the best possible ways to solve problems of these nature.

Yesterday, I responded to Honourable Venaani's questions on issues pertaining to cleaners. However, before the end of last year, I responded to Honourable Van Den Heever questions – they completely contradicted each other.

In fact, I came late today, because I was at Katutura Hospital this morning. The hospital and the casualty look much cleaner after we had a trial to see how things would work out.

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I understand that it is the Business of Parliament and I am getting increasingly irritated, because I am not a politician by training, however, I think, if we really and truly have the interest of this country at heart, we should refrain from saying certain things – remember, the public is listening to us, they are watching us. I know that we need to score political points sometimes, but the moment we say that the sister cannot differentiate between an emergency and casualty, it is demoralising. I was at the Hospital and Sister Van Wyk who worked there, since I was in Standard in 6 at Döbra is still there, and for someone to say that she cannot distinguish between an emergency and casualty, it leaves me dumbfounded.

It may be a political language, but it sends a completely wrong message to the public. If you say our systems are such that we wait too long, I agree with you, and part of the reason why I agreed to come to the Ministry is to see if we can resolve some of these matters. I did not have any aspirations to advance my political career, I wanted to try and see how best we can resolve these matters.

Health is one of the very complicated Sectors, because it deals with people's lives. Let us, therefore, not worsen the situation with our jargon, because the public is watching us, and they believe what we say. It is just a plea to the Honourables Members. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Please lend your willingness and listening ears to the Honourable Minister's plea. I think this is something that all of us have to accept that we need to intervene immediately in order to improve the system. Honourable Member, please continue.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, the public out there is crying about these issues everyday and we respond here and say that these are rumours. I am just standing here to say these are not rumours. It happens to us

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whether you are Member of Parliament or whoever, these things are happening. Some of us are experiencing these things on a daily basis. I cannot compromise my principle when it comes to the life of my child. I will not, I will speak out about it. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, no, we are not saying we should not speak about it. We are simply saying, as soon as you went through that experience, you could have taken that up immediately – bringing that to the attention of the relevant people within the Ministry.

We are with you and do not want you to compromise the health of your child. Please continue.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On Health (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Can I ask my Honourable Sister just a small question, just a tiny one.

HON DIENDA: Yes, go ahead.

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HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Thank you, Honourable Member.

You mentioned that you cannot compromise your principle, is that true?
(*Intervention*)

HON DIENDA: When it comes to my child's life, yes.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Honourable Dienda, some years back, you were saying in this Chamber that you cannot compromise the principles of CoD – when you were here as a Member of CoD (*laughter*) And you compromised your CoD membership two ago. You were in that very same seat as a member of CoD and now are saying – *I cannot compromise*, again. You were talking to Speaker Theo-Ben then.

Which *compromise* should one believe now, if you compromised your CoD membership and now you are seating in this House on the ticket of the DTA?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member must learn to tell the truth, I do not want to say the other word.

I said, and I will say it again, and again until I die – I was not born in any Political Party and I will not die in any Political Party, if need be. I said it and I will say it again. Do not come and twist my words.

HON SPEAKER: Let us continue please.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I have noticed with concern (*interjection*) I am still with the Ministry of Health, can you not wait? I will come to Defence, ITC and all the others. (*Interjection*) That is why I like you, you at least manage to make us laugh.

I have noticed with concern that the Ministry targets for three indicators are Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS, according to this booklet. Honourable Speaker, I would like to invite the Minister of Health to table in this august House the latest statistics on the causes of death for the past five years in Namibia. One would be surprised, to notice that the diseases like Cancer, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Stroke and I think you call them Non-Communicable Diseases, I am not a Medical Expert – those that are not transferable – just to mention a few, are the diseases that are taking the lives of the majority of our people. I thought you were done (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order, and before the Point of Order – can we do away with the tea break? No, compromise on the tea break?

HON MEMBERS: No, no compromise!

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, I do not know, I though politics is a science, but where do we obtain all this information nowadays (*Intervention*)

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HON DIENDA: Come again, Honourable Member?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I mean where obtain our references from?

You know, it is so clear, even yesterday it was in the Newspaper that for the last ten or so consecutive years, HIV/AIDS has been the leading cause of death in Namibia, followed by Upper or Lower Respiratory Tract Infection, and then by Cardiovascular Diseases, diseases like stroke, heart attack, and then comes Malignancies, common of which is skin, breasts, cervical and prostate cancer.

Now where do we get these statistics from?

HON MEMBER: They manufacture them!

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Where do we get this from? It is so easy to find this information, even on the WHO website? It is clear, we have data and we have District Information Systems. We can provide you with these studies.

Honourable Speaker, I fully agree with your remark that we sometimes just need to maybe liaise with each other. My door is always open, just come in, ask and we will be happy to assist you, instead of bringing wrong information to Parliament.

It is wrong to say that NCDs or Non-Communicable Diseases are the leading cause of death in Namibia, not in Namibia, but in the developed countries such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom maybe, because they do not have high prevalence of HIV. And you know

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very well that 70% or more of HIV prevalence is in Sub-Sahara Africa. That is actually what causes problems.

Obviously, AIDS is associated with other diseases which cause complications, but HIV/AIDS related diseases remain the leading cause of death in our country. This is not to say that Non-Communicable Diseases are not increasing or are not there, they are there and you may find that these are conglomerated national statistics. If you go to Katutura and pick up statistics of the leading causes of death, it will clearly not be the same as in Ludwigsdorf, because there are probably even fewer cases in Ludwigsdorf than, for instance, in Shandumbala. However, overall – nationally, HIV/AIDS is a leading cause of death.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you for that clarification. Can we make progress, because I think the majority of you are already looking for a tea break. Do we continue?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

HON SPEAKER: Since today is the last day of the General Debate, we need to conclude – we need to cover everybody. I was going to risk continuing, so that we can allow each and everybody an opportunity. Yes, Honourable Member, I am sorry, continue please.

HON DIENDA: No problem Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is responsible for creating awareness on Government Programmes and Activities. I will really appreciate it if we can be educated via Radio and

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TV Programmes regarding these dangerous diseases that I have just mentioned. These days, one will be diagnosed with Cancer and within 8 months, you will hear that the person has died of aggressive Cancer.

What does it mean, Honourable Speaker? We as a Nation, are not properly informed and educated on the causes and treatment of these diseases.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the concerns relating to this Ministry are many, but I will touch on the rest of them in more detail when we will be discussing its Vote.

Honourable Speaker, on **Education** (*interjection*) *Ekskuus*, you are a teacher by profession (*laughter*)

This is a topic that is so close to my heart. As the saying goes – “*Once a teacher, always a teacher.*” It is true that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture always receive the biggest chunk of the Budget. We agree with it, but the truth of the matter is that half of this Budget allocation goes towards salary and I can guarantee you today, Honourable Speaker, as we are speaking, many teachers are not satisfied with their salaries, as the regrading system that was used does not match their experience and qualifications. I will elaborate on this during the Committee Stage, however, I want to congratulate the Government for the provision of free Secondary Education. Thank you for a job well done. Now our children can attend school.

I will now address an issue that I referred to as *Quality Education*. Honourable Speaker, this year, as in previous years, NAMCOL could not accommodate all the Grade 10 and Grade 12 failures. It is said that – “*Idle Hands are the Devil’s Playground.*” The Schools are full and NAMCOL is full, which leads to children being sent to the street to either become pregnant or get involved in criminal activities.

Honourable Speaker, are we planning to fail or do we fail to plan? So much is invested in Education every year, but the output does not

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correspond with the input. Is it not time that we consider bringing back the Supplementary Examinations that was common practice during the old Academic System, which allowed learners who did not progress from Grade 10 and Grade 12 to sit for exams in January instead of having to wait for the next year to come to an end. This system is not uncommon to us and is also followed by the majority of Tertiary Institutions over the world.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to talk about **Social Grants** – I was the watching NBC news on Sunday evening and they ran a report on a 14 year old disabled child, who is being taken care of by his mother. The mother in the interview informed the Nation about the challenges of taking care of him and also how difficult it is for her to get a full time job.

Honourable Members, we have a lot of mothers like her, who are being challenged by this situation daily. My request thus, to the Honourable Minister of Finance is to look into Foster Care Grants for such parents. This will not only put food on the table, but will also help the parent to do a greater job for her child. I cannot say much about the increase of the Old Age Pension with N\$100.00 per month, because I do appreciate it.

Just for your information, we must not forget that we do not have pro-poor or pro-pensioner shops in Namibia. All the shops have the same prices for all its citizens, and with the prices of all basic goods going up at a fast pace, one wonders whether the increase of N\$100.00 per month will not just be consumed by the increasing cost of basic goods and services.
(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION [HON HINDA]:** Honourable Speaker, I would

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like to ask whether the Honourable Member is not aware that the Spar Shops have a special discount for pensioners, whereas if you are a pensioner, you can shop and pay at specific pay-points where you receive a discount, and I believe that there are many other shops which provide the same for the old aged members of our society.

Therefore, I think the Honourable Member should appreciate it, we should avoid making general allegations on things that we have not properly researched.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I will have my say on this subject matter.

With the prices of all basic goods going up at a fast pace, one wonders whether the increase of N\$100 per month will not just be swallowed by the increasing cost of basic goods and services.

Another issue of concern, Honourable Speaker, is that old people, especially in the rural areas, are receiving their pensions under trees and there are no formal structures set up to accommodate them. At the very least, the company tasked with paying Pension Grants, should be required to put up temporary structures when they are paying out such payments, especially given that such contracts are tendered for over a longer period, thus they can still make use of such structures for the duration of the contract.

Under **Unemployment** – Honourable Speaker, according to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, the unemployment rate now stands at 28%. We are not doing enough in our country to address the issue of unemployment. The rich are becoming

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richer and the poor, poorer – why? Because the same people who are occupying high positions are the same people who are serving on two or three different Boards as Directors. Namibia's young graduates and other qualified people are either unemployed or stuck in the same position for many years, because they do not know people at the right places who are in the right positions, or they are not part of the connected elites.

The Namibian society, and particularly those who are already well-off need to stop being selfish and allow others to also put bread on their tables. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order, I think the Honourable Member is misleading the Nation by saying, when *you do not have* – you will not know people at higher positions. That is a serious accusation to the Namibian Nation.

Whether you are poor or rich, in Namibia, we know each other, let us, therefore not send the message that will create some fear in the minds of the people who *do not have* and prevent them from approaching people who occupy higher positions.

The people at higher offices are approachable by the ones that do not have – the ones that are being referred to as poor. When you are poor, it does not mean that Venaani who has something is not approachable. He is approachable and Venaani being approachable, he is not only approachable to those that have something. The ones that do not have can also approach him.

It is, therefore, sending a wrong message to say certain positions are only given to those who have.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member, I am actually conscious of the time. The list I have here is so long. Yes, continue please.

HON DIENDA: Please stop interrupting me. The Namibian society, and particularly those who are already well-off, need to stop being selfish and allow others to also put bread on their tables. You can implement and develop a million Projects aimed at eradicating poverty and granting others access to better their lives, but for as long as a small minority continues holds the monopoly on access to resources, job opportunities and Government tenders, nothing will change.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to talk about **Social Security**. I will table a Motion later in this House regarding the Social Security Commission. However, for now, I will just briefly address one issue which has bothered me for some time regarding Social Security.

When Social Security was introduced to the Namibian people, I was a Trade Unionist for NAPWU. I attended Induction Workshops and Seminars to familiarise myself with this new concept at the time. All citizens are required to contribute towards Social Security. The idea that was being proposed seemed fine, maybe even good, at that time, but once again, implementation has left a lot to be desired.

For me, Social Security has become – to borrow from Afrikaans – “*n bodemlose put*,” meaning something that you are putting money into, with no tangible effects or result. 99% of us sitting here today have expired – meaning that we or our spouses cannot make use of the maternity benefits. Men can only benefit, if they are sick for more than three months or after their death. Eventually, once you claim, you cannot get that salary that you were earning. Our hard-earned money is being invested in something, which you can only benefit from once you are dead or when you retired. This is only a small token of appreciation for the contributions you have made over all these years.

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Honourable Speaker, on the **Electoral Commission (ECN)** – what surprised me the most about the ECN's Budget is that it is higher than the one of last year. What I cannot understand is that last year and the year before, we had Presidential and National Assembly Elections, as well Local Authorities and Regional Councils Election, respectively. One would have expect a higher Budget Provision in those years. Unless the Honourable Minister of Finance is telling us that 50% of the just elected Councillors are potential candidates for the by-elections, which in my view cannot be the case – Honourable Speaker, I am genuinely confused as to why the ECN's Budget allocation is higher this year.

According to the *Electoral Act*, citizens should be allowed to register for the elections at all times during the year, but this is not currently the case and registration normally only takes place a few months before the elections leading to long queues and frustrated potential voters who turn away. For what Activities or Projects is the ECN using this money in the next Financial Year? Is it perhaps to pay high electricity bills to keep their building's light on for 24 hours a day, throughout the year? Just go there, you will find that 03:00 in the morning all the lights are on. As anyone who drives past the ECN at night will confirm, the lights in that building are never switched off.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We have such a long list. I am going to swing from left to right and I am sure we will get there. Honourable Hambyuka please. You have the Floor.

HON HAMBYUKA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise in this august House to make my contribution to the 2016/2017 National Budget as tabled by Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of

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Finance.

I wish to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the entire SWAPO Party Leadership, for steering the Namibian House in the right direction, as entrusted by the Namibian people. In all the elections, which were conducted in our country since Independence, the SWAPO Party emerged victorious and the legacy continues.

It is my sincere hope and expectation that this Session of the National Assembly will be a Session characterised by common purpose, team work, hard-work and demonstrated commitment to our noble responsibilities as Parliamentarians namely, to represent the Namibian people to the best of our abilities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Parliament should be the centre of democracy. Indeed, it should be the heartbeat of democracy in Namibia. In the 21st Century, there is a growing interest, more than ever before, on issues related to democracy and good governance around the world. This is a reflection of the increasing acceptance of the fact that democracy and good governance are not a luxury, but fundamental requirements to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, Parliament as one of the key State Institutions in a democratic system of governance, have a critical role to play in promoting democracy and good governance.

As democratically elected representatives of the people, Parliamentarians have the noble task to ensure that Government is by the people and for the people. In the performance of their key functions of legislation, representation and oversight, Parliamentarians must actively engage in the development and implementation of Laws, Policies and Practices that promote democracy and good governance. In order for us as Lawmakers, to continue advocating for democracy and good governance, we should embrace the spirit of unity under the banner of “*One Namibia, One Nation*,” which is accompanied by inclusivity in terms of gender and age.

I am hopeful that the output and impact from this Parliament will culminate in the betterment of our Nation which, we as Members of

Parliament and our Institution can justifiably be proud of. This would be an achievement, which will bring about radical change in our Nation's socio-political and economic landscape.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, like in any other Institution, our Parliament is also faced with challenges and I single out some of those as follows:

- The shocking level of youth unemployment, particularly among young women and men aged below 35, which is a source of depression and hopelessness that constitutes a threat to our democracy.
- Adequate provision of basic goods, services and amenities like housing, water, electricity, schools, hospitals, to mention a few, which still call for our attention. We are a Nation of 2.3 million people and should win this battle during our time rather than deferring it to the next generation to solve it.
- Slow pace of the implementation of Capital Projects, that hampers the pace of development in the Regions;
- Disturbing reports of corrupt practices by those entrusted to facilitate service delivery, especially through Public Tenders;
- Skills shortages in critical areas of our economy;
- Recurrent drought, which calls for a long-term strategy;
- Gender-Based Violence, that do not seem to abate;
- Carnages on our roads, which requires not only road safety campaigns, although important, but a serious analysis and introspection of an unprecedented proportion in this country;
- The persistent inequality between the rich and the poor, are all reasons

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why we cannot allow ourselves to rest on our laurels in this august House.

- Reliable and long-term supply of the much needed and essential energy/electricity on which our lives so much depend;
- We need to have protection measures on Infant and Local Industries;
- We should also relook at the flooding of the local market with cheap retail products, which has made it impossible for the local retailers to survive.

I think there should be an agreement across all Party lines on the need for a formula to distribute resources equitably across Regions in order to address the inequality that exist among Regions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, particular attention should be paid to infrastructure development for the Regions – Road Networks, Water Supply, Electricity Supply, Agricultural Projects, Telecommunication, Training Institutions, Recreational Facilities, Fish Farming, just to mention a few. These are the Projects-ready areas that can assist the Regions to address the issues of unemployment, poverty, under-development and food security.

On separate note, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the men and women in uniform for their relentless effort to root out crime in the country. The Namibian Police often operate on a tight Budget, but despite their limited resources, they have demonstrated the ability to execute their duties with diligence and in an effective way. I urge NAMPOL and other securities operatives to continue maintaining peace and stability in our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, following poor rainfall throughout the country, I would like to equally encourage all the residents of this country to work hard and help out the needy people who are affected by the drought. Let us extend our helping hand to those in need.

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We should look out for each other, as neighbours. No Namibian should starve as a result of hunger. We should help one another in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood. In this context, I would like to extend my word of appreciation to the Office of the Prime Minister for putting mechanisms in place to provide drought relief food to the affected citizens, as well as the Minister of Poverty Eradication, Honourable Zephania Kameeta for their efforts to the cause.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I will fail in my duty, if I do not appreciate the visionary role that the former Presidents of the SWAPO Party, Comrade Dr Sam Nujoma, Comrade Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, as well as the President of the Republic of Namibia and the SWAPO Party, Comrade Dr Hage G. Geingob played, and continue to play in this country. I, therefore, congratulate them and give them my assurance, through them to the Namibian Nation, that I shall do my level best in my national duties as a Lawmaker.

I feel delighted to hear and see that our current President has declared war against hunger and poverty. This is the ideal that our brothers and sisters died for during the Liberation Struggle of this country. Their hope was that, we build a Nation in which every Namibian gets equal opportunities. This is what makes us who we are; what we are; and who we shall be.

Finally, I wish to thank all the electorates for exercising their democratic Rights to choose Leaders and Parties of their choice during the November 2014 Parliamentary and Presidential Elections, and subsequently the Regional and Local Authorities Elections of last year (2015).

To those who doubted if Namibia would achieve a 50/50 representation; those who doubted if the Namibian Parliament would field more young people and those who doubted if the state of our democracy is strong, their answer today is – ***Democracy is Alive in our Parliament, Gender Equality is at Work and Youth Empowerment is the Motto.***

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, God bless you. I thank you.

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HON KLAZEN**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have a special request from a Colleague who has an immediate commitment outside this House. Can I grant the opportunity to Honourable Klazen to make his intervention now, so that he can keep up with his urgent business outside the House?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT [HON KLAZEN]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for responding favourably to my special plea and allowing me to take the Floor now.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make a contribution to the Debate on the 2016/2017 Budget. Let me join others in congratulating our Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Calle Schlettwein, his Deputy Minister, Comrade Natangwe Ithete, and their entire team in the Ministry for compiling a well-balanced Budget. There is a saying or lyrics to a song, which goes like, and I quote – *“You cannot please all the people all the time, but you can please some people sometime.”*

Honourable Speaker, I want to make few remarks on the **Education Vote**. Comrade Minister, I am applauding you for the efforts that your Ministry is making to better the life of our children and teachers. Many teachers do not want to go and teach at rural schools because of the lack of accommodation. This is being address in the Budget under – **Building of Teachers’ Accommodation**. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture is also trying to assist in overcoming the housing needs for Teachers in the country, thank you for that. In the same vein, schools are being built at a rapid pace, which is being taken care of through this Budget over the MTEF period. Due to urbanisation, the need for schools in towns is increasing. However, the Ministry is doing a real good job, where sometimes, they even have the platoon systems, if need be.

I also want to compliment the Ministry of Safety and Security for all the efforts they are making to combat crime, especially *Operation Omake* is

an excellent example for us. Apprehending Drug Dealers is also applauded. Drugs are destroying our society and drug users and abusers can be found in all walks of life. It is heart-breaking to find fathers who have to give their pay checks to Drug Lords because their accounts with these Drug Lord are sky high. When they are at home, there is nothing to present to their families. Children are stealing anything of value in their houses to exchange for drugs. This evil is a cause of a lot of other crimes, like robberies, housebreaking, motor vehicles theft, prostitution, to name but a few. This is why I am supporting the allocation to this Vote.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members – **Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Services** – National Youth Service is contributing to making our youth proud citizens of our country. 470 young Namibians recently graduated from the Civic Course at the National Youth Service Training Centre in Henties Bay. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Hage. G. Geingob and our Minister of Youth and Sport, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, attended this event. What is of importance is what the Minister briefed the youth and told them that they should be equipped to face the challenges they are met with, by developing their self-esteem, helping other under privileged youth, provide value added service to the Government and Non-Governmental Agencies and to provide opportunities for themselves in order to develop life and work skills, as well as to become reliable and responsible contributors to the economy.

Sport is known as a unifier of people, and this reminds me when the late Madiba – *may his souls rest in peace* – wore the number 6 Springbok Jersey at the Rugby World Cup in South Africa that year. The country was behind their team and he succeeded in his effort to unify his people. I do not have to think back very far in the past, just last year, 2015, our Rugby Team made us proud at the World Cup in the UK by playing competitively at that world platform. They competed and put up a good fights against World Champions in the likes of New Zealand. Although they lost, they were heroes at the end of the day and our country was behind them.

Our Soccer Team – the Brave Warriors – won the COSFA Cup last year (2015) and most of us wore the Namibia Soccer Jerseys here in Parliament to show our support for our soccer heroes, under the National Team Coach Ricardo Mannetti.

Credit should also go to our Under 19 Cricket Boys, who also did us proud by beating the mighty South African Team, who were the Defending Champions, in the World Cup recently in Bangladesh. They went ahead and also beat Nepal for the first time and qualified automatically for the next World Cup.

Looking at boxing and many other Sport Codes, we are doing very well. Namibia is a sleeping giant in sport with heaps of undeveloped talent. That is why the Ministry needs to be supported to encourage them with their Sport Development Programmes.

Works and Transport – the Minister and Ministry are also supported in their progress. I want to mention a few significant milestones in this regard:

- The 98 km Omafo-Outapi Road, which was upgraded from a gravel to a tarred Road and opened by His Excellency the President on the 26th of February, this year (2015).
- The upgrade of the road from Swakopmund via Henties Bay to Kamanjab.
- The dual-carriage way planned to run behind Dune 7, in the Erongo Region to relieve traffic from the Port of Walvis.
- The building of the new container terminal at Namport that has the potential to grow the Business Sector of the country.

Honourable Speaker, there were remarks made in this august House about Namport and its Cargo turnover time. Currently Namport guarantees 48 hours of turnaround time for Cargo to a destination anywhere in the

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SADC Region. And with the construction of the new SADC Gateway Port, Namport will be the most preferred Port in Southern Africa. Therefore, all the needed support is there.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I support the 2016/2017 Budget and I thank all the Honourable Members for their kind attention. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. One more urgent request from Honourable Kafula, because she has to travel in a little while. You have the Floor.

HON KAFULA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank you for granting me this opportunity to make my contribution on the *Appropriation Bill* of 2016/2017. This time of the year, the Namibian Nation is awaiting to hear from us with eager and high expectations as to how they will benefit individually and in unison.

Allow me to congratulate Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance, his Deputy, Honourable Nanatangwe Ithete and his entire capable team, that managed to put together a well-concerted Budget for the Financial Year 2016/2017, which is the second one under the Presidential Administration of His Excellency, President Hage Geingob.

In the same vein, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Members of Cabinet and their capable administrative teams for their support and common commitments, which made it possible for us to have this Budget being finalised within ample time, and further for implementing spending allocation measures that support our fiscal consolidation stance.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would at this juncture, like

to say that, as Honourable Members of this august House, we are the representatives of our electorate, and irrespective of which Party we are representing, the electorate is looking upon us to serve them to the best of our abilities. I would like us all to note, with appreciation, that our Government have put in a lot of efforts to address economic factors that are within the Government's mandate. We all know, and should understand that we are faced with a lot of challenges, but bear in mind that with the limited resources, we will not be able to overcome these challenges overnight.

Let us also be mindful of the National Development Plans (NDP4) that are guided by long-term strategies. This well-constructed Budget focused on the immediate core needs of our people namely: Poverty Eradication, Education, Health, Infrastructural Development and the Provision of Civic Services, to mention but a few.

Being appreciative of the national agenda of moving the country from poverty to prosperity, and having studied the Medium-Term Expenditures, my focus has been attracted to the burning issues of limited resources the country is faced with. I have been following with keen interest, the allocations of most the Offices, Ministries and Agencies that could not meet their targets and indicated their challenges, while at the same time they provided solutions on how to move forward.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, since I am not going to be present when some of the Votes are going to be discussed at the Committee Stage of this Bill, allow me to single out a few of the Ministries concerned that I have observed have some challenges, and I feel that I should do so at this point in time.

I will start with the **Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration** that is close to my heart. The Ministry is faced with several challenges as stipulated under the Civil Registration. While I have several other pressing issues at this Budget Appropriation time, I must hit the ground running on this particular urgent issue of the inaccessible areas, for example, the Kunene and Zambezi Regions. The issuing of the birth and

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death registrations and Identity Documents to the citizens of this country is miserably incomplete.

The Zambezi Region experiences the same challenges, but with different dynamics, as the floods come unpredictably through rain or the overflowing of the Zambezi's river.

The inaccessibility because of the lack of infrastructure network, due to difficult mountainous terrain, is hampering proper registration of our people in the Kunene Region, and where there are roads available, they are in such a bad state such that, they are more destructive when travelling on them.

In the remote areas, such as the cattle herders' villages beyond Opuwo, the population numbers for both births and deaths are not known to planners and decision makers, and also I believe it includes the demographics such as the number of men and women, the youth, the elderly and this, therefore, makes it very difficult to determine the levels of needs for these citizens, especially for budgeting purposes. I am acknowledging that this huge lack of infrastructure, and possible mobility resources challenging the country should be resolved to include these remote dwellers who are still outside civilisation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Ministry of Works** is constitutionally duty bound to make those remote and almost forgotten areas accessible, by building proper sustainable roads, to make it possible for the State to record these citizens who are not accounted for, and to bring them into the Namibian national fold – it is an urgency, especially right now when we are promoting this powerful agenda of progress, prosperity, fighting poverty, and heeding the well taken, loud and clear message of His Excellency the President, Dr Hage Geingob that – *“Namibian Should Feel Left Out.”*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if you are not recorded in the National Register of Namibia, then you are not a citizen of this country. If you are not a citizen of this country, you cannot participate and benefit in

its resources. It would be illegal and criminal to distribute national resources to people who are not citizens of this country. The State has to officially recognise these people by registering them as Namibian citizens. The matter is urgent. The Ministry of Works needs to get the country and the people of these remote areas out of this dilemma by building the necessary road infrastructure. Let us construct these roads and let us make these far-flung Namibians, part of these great country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Ministry of Health and Social Services** is one of the most important Ministries of any given Nation. They say – *a Healthy Nation is a productive Nation*. Having gone through Vote 13, which summarised the assessment of the current Vote situation and recent past performances and touched on the main challenges of the Vote under each Programme, there are pertinent issues that I would like to add.

In a few days' time, we will be celebrating our 26th years of Independence, with peace and stability firmly in place. Each and every Namibian is appreciative of these accomplishments and is resolved to sustain both peace and stability for our next, equally important, leap away from poverty to prosperity.

A healthy Nation is an unquestionable prerequisite for growth, progress and prosperity. We are making strides in this regard, in that, we are a proud Nation with our own Medical School already producing our own Medical Doctors and Pharmacists. This is a big, laudable accomplishment. However, Namibia still needs to make further consorted strides in the medical field.

On my list of concerns today is the lack of resources, both human and capital, for our country to produce our own pharmaceutical products. One of the very glaring shortcomings lies in the availability of medication, Namibia is still importing medication for our Pharmaceutical Industry from outside the Country.

It is unacceptable that after almost 26 years of Independence, Namibia still

imports its medical supplies from other countries instead of looking into its own natural resources potential for pharmaceutical products that are available across the lengths and breadths of this country. There is a need to build a Pharmaceutical Plant in Namibia. Namibia is virtually rich in its indigenous natural pharmaceutical products that are available in abundant forms and are currently being applied for healing on a daily basis. We can also research our own indigenous plants for medicinal purposes as they are known to heal severe diseases, pain and discomfort.

The Ministry of and Social Services should consider these plants for research purposes. We need these medicines, we need the cures, we need relief, and it can all be accomplished. This field creates enormous amount of jobs and income, which we need so badly. Revenue creation is a must as our other revenue streams such as that from SACU may be drying up. Regional and international financial markets alike, are in turmoil and we are hugely an importing Nation. We have to respond to these external volatilities by investing in, and upgrading our own production capacities in these areas.

With this Budget of ***“Pro-growth Fiscal Consolidation,”*** the Ministry of Health and Social Services is presented with a powerful opportunity by this untapped potential of Namibian pharmaceutical products. In cooperation with the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, the Private Sector and other stakeholders, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is poised to make the best on these powerful indigenous natural gifts.

Let us save lives! Let us save the country!

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to contribute to this equally very important Vote, Vote 32 of **Higher Education, Training and Innovation**. The mandate of the Ministry of Higher Education and Innovation is to promote, develop and coordinate Higher education; enhance access to skills through training, in particular technical, vocational education and training; define and strengthen Namibia's

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National System of Innovation, including Namibia's Research and Development System.

I highly appreciate the current intervention strategies in the Higher Education field such as quality improvement, pro-poor funding for student and focus that is directed towards assisting the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) and the Public Higher Education Framework.

I would like us to focus our attention on Training and Innovation. It is important to highlight some vital dynamics of Training and Innovation in our country, and at the same time have to draw attention of Namibians to the importance of Training and Innovation within our Nation's needs, the capacities of our people and our clarion call for progress, poverty eradication, as well as inclusion under the theme of – *“No Namibian Should Feel Left Out.”* (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, on a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: I do not want to be rude, but I thought people have a maximum of about 15 minutes to speak and I think we have gone into 45 minutes or so now.

I am just reminding the Honourable Speaker, perhaps because of age and so on, he forgot (*laughter*) That is really all I wanted to say. I support and enjoy the Statement she is making, but just wanted to remind the Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I think the Honourable Member got the message. There is a hint saying that there are many of us, if you could kindly come to your conclusion please.

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HON KAFULA: That is why it is good to have these youngsters, to remind us.

In my observation, training Namibians should be focused on achieving progress, growth and prosperity in practical ways that should be geared towards achieving practical goals, in other words, empowering entrepreneurs, producers and manufacturers.

Namibia's manufacturing base and product development field is vastly open and untouched. However, we are still importing over 85% of our products for daily application and consumption. Several of these consumables can be readily produced in Namibia. The raw materials to do so, are available. Training Namibians to fulfil the national need in terms of consumables is possible.

In fact, the present trend of importing can easily be reversed to turn Namibia into an exporting, rather than an importing Nation. For that reason, the training and innovation needs has to be looked at totally differently and from a new perspective. Training, innovation, job creation and SME Development go hand in hand, and indeed belong together, alongside entrepreneurial development. We need to seriously direct our attention towards these four powerhouse platforms and backbones of socio-economic progress and sustainable prosperity. They are the driving forces of our Nations' macro and microeconomics.

We have the greatest possible number of Namibians with potential, from the ranks of the unemployed and the underemployed Namibians, especially among the youth. This demographics present an unprecedented pool of the workforce needed in entrepreneurship, innovation and manufacturing – exactly what Namibia needs.

The argument that Namibia is a small market, is a deterrent and an excuse to invest in product development and manufacturing, and it does not hold any validity.

Namibians should not be seen to be able to produce for the local market

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only. Their productions capacity and quality must be enhanced for export purposes. Just north of Namibia is Angola, a huge demanding market, which South African manufacturers, big and small take advantage of, and gain valuable revenues for their country and great profits lines for themselves.

I would also like to request the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation to look into the matter concerning our youth with inborn talent, who are creating or fixing things, but have no formal training so that they are provided with official testimonials that shows that they can perform such work. This will enable them to secure work which is necessary for poverty eradication.

With these few, but many words, I support the *Appropriation Bill* of 2016/2017. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I think there is one Honourable Member who must be thanked for his patience and I want to say that his patience and understanding is much appreciated by the Speaker. That Honourable Member is Dr Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the features of the Budget presented by Honourable Calle Schlettwein reflects a reduction in expenditure with N\$1 billion, an increase in sin taxes and fuel levy. Furthermore, it was announcement that export levies will be introduced. Meanwhile, income and corporate taxes remain intact.

In the academic field of Economics, a reduction in Government expenditure coupled with increase in taxes is called tight Fiscal Policy, as opposed to easy Fiscal Policy, which is characterised by a reduction in taxes and an increase in spending. This does not automatically results in

economic growth. Other supportive Macroeconomic Policies should be employed to complement the Fiscal Policy. These include structural change in trade, monetary policy, and other related measures.

It is common cause in economics that the performance of the economy is determined by the Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy that the Government and the Central Bank put in place. The Fiscal Policy measures adopted in the Budget with respect to indirect taxes in terms of sin taxes, are friendly to economic growth. In its publication, *Fiscal Policy and Long-term Growth*, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) states that raising direct tax could negatively affect economic growth. Meanwhile, indirect taxes, like sin taxes, could be justified on the basis of the harmful effect that those commodities have. Further, these can be counterweighted by the spending on Programmes that benefit poor people.

The accompanying Monetary Policy is in order, especially the recent announcement in the increase of rates by the Bank of Namibia. From a lay man's view, such measures would not be welcomed in view of the increase in loan repayments. However, the rise in interest have benefits for long-term investments. More importantly, from a broader macro-economic perspective, such measures are aimed at economic growth. Generally, increased rates and taxes bring down inflation, when such inflation is due to demand-pull factors. However, the type of inflation in Namibia is the one caused by cost-push factors, namely that firms try to maximise their profits.

In his publication entitled – *“Economics for South African Student,”* Philip Mohr cautions that the reduction in spending will adversely affect unemployment. I am, however, not worried, for I know that the large percentage of reduction in the overall expenditure is more on the Operational Budget, with the Development Budget reduced from N\$11 to N\$9 billion, from the current Financial Year to the next Financial Year. Employment creation depends on the Development Budget.

Honourable Speaker, the reduction with N\$2 billion on the Development Budget could be offset by the ratio of the composition of the Construction

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Industry benefiting from Government spending.

Yours truly alluded in his Doctoral Thesis entitled – *The economic Diplomacy of a Small State, the Case of Namibia* about the anomaly in allocating a share of only one third to Namibians, unlike the Mozambican model where 70% of the Construction Industry is in the hands of indigenous businesses. If we adopt this model, we will efficiently address the cost-push inflation effect with the contractionary Fiscal and Monetary Policies that we have adopted in the Budget.

Honourable Speaker, the link between policy planning and budgeting should be underscored. This has gained momentum over the past years, especially in developing countries. In their paper entitle – “***A guide to Public Financial Management Literature,***” Rebecca Simson, Natasha Sharma and Imran Aziz recommend measures that are required in effective budgeting, namely maintaining fiscal discipline, allocating resources in accordance with policy priorities and efficiently delivering service – value for money. Accordingly, effective allocation of resources is important to deal with development in both Economic and Social Sectors of the economy. This should be accompanied by proper Policy implementations.

The National Development Plan (NDP 4) lists Agriculture, Tourism, Manufacturing Industry and Logistics as the priority areas. Honourable Muharukua expressed disappointment that agriculture is neglected. But looking at the Development Budget document, there is provision for an increase in the allocation to projects of crop, horticultural improvement and live-stock productivity improvement, as well as pre- and post-harvest management. The Budget is, therefore, aligned to the NDP4 – perhaps, it is a question of – to what extent? It should, of course, be noted that a considerable time have lapsed since the formulation of the NDP4, and in the meantime, new trends developed and, therefore, new priority area arises. For example, one of the priorities in the Budget addresses what Lawyers would call the intervening acts of God, namely the drought. I applaud the prioritisation of drought relief, pharmaceuticals and Universal Grant for Secondary Education in the Budget.

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Honourable Speaker, let me move to International Relations. Trends in the international political system signifying efforts towards peaceful cooperation have been observed. In the area of nuclear disarmament, diplomatic engagements with Iran resulted in a successful conclusion, followed by the lifting of sanctions. Iran is Namibia's old friend and an important trade partner. The lifting of sanctions, therefore, adds meaningful impetus to existing relations.

The new US' Foreign Policy towards Cuba, another Namibia's old friend and ally too, is commendable. The resilience of the people of Cuba has paid-off. They have set a good example for small States to be assertive and be true to their conviction. I salute them for their fortitude, against all odds. It is my wish that sooner rather than later, there will be another policy shift in the approach to the long-standing Middle East question. The people of Palestine have repeatedly suffered. Open biasness on the part of powerful forces in the international community towards Israel continue to manifest itself in the manner that they handle international law-making at the United Nations Security Council, eventually subjecting the issue to soft-law. A lasting peace is due in that Region and large States, which hold the key should open the door for entry into a yard symbolising a destiny of peace, hope and progress.

With these words, I support the Budget for the Financial Year 2016/2017 and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for the year 2016/2017 to 2018/2019. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, particularly for your moving words about Cuba and Iran. Well done. Honourable Venaani you have the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I maybe as a caveat, have to say that I was moved

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by my Dear Colleague on the other side of the aisle, who is walking out – Honourable Tom Alweendo, when he started his Budget Debate, talking about the Namibia that we want to see, the future that we want to see. Most of the time when we talk in this House, we talk Party Politics, praising each other, but we forget that the Business (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Time!

HON VENAANI: I have unlimited time, that is the difference, so sit down and brace yourself.

We must talk to the tomorrow that we need to bequeath to the future generations of this country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this Budget comes at a time of increased uncertainty in the global economy; allow me Honourable speaker to delve a bit into recent economic development.

According to the IMF's World Economic Outlook as updated in January 2016, global growth was estimated to have grown by 3.1 percent in 2016, compared to 3.4 percent in 2015, mainly due to the fifth consecutive decline in the growth of emerging market and developing economies. Looking forward, growth is projected to be 3.4 percent in 2016, and 3.6 percent in 2017, respectively.

The three keys issues, which continue to influence the global economy today are:

1. The gradual slowdown and rebalancing of economic activity in China, away from investment and manufacturing towards consumption and services,

2. Lower prices for energy and other commodities, and
3. Lastly, a gradual tightening in the Monetary Policy coupled with improving financial conditions in the United States of America.

As expected, these three key issues also affected Namibia as the economy is estimated to have slowed down due to weaker commodity prices in 2015. Most minerals production is estimated to have declined with the exception of gold due to falling commodity prices and weaker demands for minerals from China.

South African Economic Performance

According to the January 2016 World Economic Forum Update, the South African economy slowed by 1.3 percent in 2015, and will moderate further by 0.7 percent in 2016. Key factors that will weaken growth include: Electricity Load-shedding, Low Commodity Prices, Drought and Low Confidence among both businesses and consumers. Further, the threat of the imminent sovereign downgrading of South Africa to a Junk Status could have negative implications on the economy through limited investments and constrained borrowing abilities. Excessive exchange rate volatility could also negatively impact the economy, thereby amplifying uncertainties towards the South African economy.

The intensity of drought in South Africa and its impact on food prices poses a risk to Namibian food situation as we import 60 percent of our foodstuff from South Africa. This is expected to increase prices for Namibian consumers, thereby pushing up the general inflation.

Risks to the Namibian Economy Include: Low commodity prices that may lead to deterioration in the country's external position and exert pressure on both the current account balance and the international reserves. Electricity supply constraints that started in South Africa could worsen further and spill over to the Namibian economy and stifle growth.

Increasing uncertainties in the South African economy, mainly in the form

of low growth, drought conditions and the possible sovereign downgrading, are likely to increase exchange rate volatility further, with consequential effects on inflation. Finally, the negative impact of the decline in oil prices on the Angolan economy is likely to have a dent on Namibia's growth, mainly through wholesale and retail trade.

It is well known that – *A growing economy gives us more revenue; we borrow less, create jobs, new opportunities for youth and enable new types of businesses to be created. The problem is that the Namibian economic growth trajectory [and this is a fact], is drastically slowing down.* I want to be on record that people are talking about achieving Vision 2013, however, for us to achieve Vision 2030, our economic growth must reach a level of 6.9 to 7.5 percent. Every time that we are growing at 4.2 Percent, we are getting farther and farther from attaining Vision 2030, because our growth trajectory cannot supply the demand of Vision 2030.

With this helicopter view on the global economy and, particularly Namibia's key trading partners' economies, therefore, allow me to scrutinise the current Budget tabled to Parliament on the 25th of February 2016, with a purpose of highlighting some major areas that will bring about sustained and inclusive economic growth, and that will ensure poverty reduction and increased prosperity to the Namibian Nation as a whole.

The Budget

The focus of my commentary this year, aims to draw attentions to the issues of Budget implementation rather than focusing on the levels or amount of money allocated to the various Ministries. This is particularly so given that the proportions in terms of the allocations are more or less maintained and have been consistent over many years. The Budget has to insure that public money is spent in accordance with national priorities and on Programmes that are effective in achieving public objectives. Lack of implementation, particularly on developmental expenditure, and huge

virements of funds being the major culprits in undermining the Budget Objectives.

It is now 26 years of budgeting dominated by allocation to the Social Sector, mainly Health, Education, etcetera. The trend is known, however, it is the impact of the allocation to these Sectors and Ministries in achieving the much needed improvement in the general life of ordinary citizenry that remains elusive and leaves a lot to be desired.

It is not the allocation that is the problem, the whole Social Sector Programmes, that is, Education and Health, among others, need overhauling. The Systems and Programmes through which these services are delivered should be transformed, if they are not working. The definition of insanity is *doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results*.

Public Expenditure

At the outset, whilst a lot still remains to be done, I would like to thank the Government for initiating a process of down-sizing the Public Service. A Policy direction, which I fervently encouraged and motivated in my Budget Speech last year and has been a consistent Party position for many years. The expenditure side of the Budget remains focused on the Social Sector, however, further analysis is needed to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the allocations and the impact of these Sectors on socioeconomic development.

Education

The Education Sector, particularly at the Secondary School level remains in a critical condition characterised by high failure rates at the Grade 10 and Grade 12 levels. As evidenced by the 2014 Matric Results, less than 50% of all grade 12 learners pass and less than 30% pass with the points required for entrance into tertiary studies.

Honourable Members, allow me to hone into the structural composition of

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our Education System in finer detail:- what we have is a pyramid styled system with many Primary Schools, fewer Junior Secondary Schools and even less Senior Secondary Schools.

Hypothetically, given the aforementioned, let us imagine the situation where say 90% or even 80% of all grade 1 learners succeed in passing through the different grades and all reach grade 12 - where will these learners be accommodated? With the current system, even if you have the pass rate of 80% of students in Namibia, the next morning when they pass, they will not have schools, because the system is like a pyramid, we have fewer and fewer Secondary Schools to accommodate learners in our country, and that is the structural deficiency that we need to work on. (*Interjection*)

No, there are systems that can accommodate 100% of the students, and I will come to that, I will provide you with more finer details. Given that by design, we have lesser spaces available the higher up you go in the education pyramid, if a high percentage of grade 1 learners were to reach grade 12, then the problem we would have is that our Education System is inherently designed for large chunks of all scholars to fall out along the way, which explains the small percentage of Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions when contrasted with Primary Schools.

The question then should not be what is wrong with the system and why are so many learners failing, but rather why is our Education System designed with failure built in to it? Critics of the capitalist ideology often use the phrase, and I quote – “*Poverty exists not because capitalism is failing as an institution, but because that is how the institution inherently works.*” Is the same not true for our Education System?

When you have a system that in Secondary Education begins to progressively increase the lacklustre standards that have been inculcated into our learners since Grade 1 – and I want to emphasise this – then one can only but deduce that failure is inevitable – if not an in-built part of the system. Why would I say this? In order to progress from Grade 9 to 10, a learner needs 18 points in 6 subjects. In order to progress from Grade 10

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to 11, a learner needs 23 points in 6 subjects. For university entrance, that same learner then needs 25 points in 5 subjects. These progressive increases point to a system that is designed to progressively sieve out students, which also explains why the number of Senior Secondary Schools pale in comparison to Junior Secondary Schools and Senior Secondary Schools.

As we sit here, there are proposals once again, by the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, who is on record regarding this – increasing the total points required to pass Grade 12. And this is a big problem, we cannot teach the children to underperform in lower classes and when they reach a certain level we want them to perform. We must create that standard from the lower level. If the point of passing Matric is 50%, that must be the same point at all the Grades, so that that culture of comparativeness is honed into the system. *(Interjection)*

HON MEMBER: Why are you looking at her like that.

HON VENAANI: I am looking at Honourable... *(interjection)*

HON MEMBER: Clara! *(laughter)*

HON VENAANI: ...Clara who is having a nice hat. This will leave us with an even larger amount of Matric failures and school drop-outs who need to be absorbed into the mainstream economy. I want to refer to a SACMEQ Report, the institution is SACMEQ – a SADC monitoring institution that rates all the Grade 6s among SADC countries.

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HON MEMBER: Can you repeat that?

HON VENAANI: It is called SACMEQ. The SACMEQ Report raises a very important issue that we need to really look at.

HON MEMBER: What year is the Report?

HON VENAANI: 2014. Namibia is behind many countries in the SADC Region, we are number 13 when it comes to literacy, numeracy and science. Even Angola is way higher than us, go and check the Report.

High budgetary allocations cannot and will not fix a broken system, unless they are specifically geared towards scientifically scrutinising, reviewing and overhauling that Sector. Our Education Sector needs a complete overhaul, that I am convinced of.

Vocational Training

As a result of the systemic flaws in our Education System, Namibia continues to produce a high amount of school leavers who end up unemployed and with nowhere to go and nothing to do.

According to the Namibian Labour Force Survey (2014) conducted by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), youth unemployment rate ranges from 37.8% to 41.7% for the young people between the ages of 15-34. Please note that someone is not considered unemployed, if they are still in school or studying at tertiary level.

In this regard, if the structure and reality of our Education System is that we produce those many drop-outs and given our Grade 12 failure rate,

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then the simple reality is that around 40% of our youth are either unskilled or have a low level of skills and qualifications. It is against that rationale that I propose that Government focus should be directed at elevating the role and the quality of Vocational Training.

Aside from increasing its coverage, in terms of building more training centres, the qualifications offered by these institutions should not only be diversified, but should receive a similar accreditation to your more theoretical-orientated courses at your traditional universities, as most graduates from Vocational Training Centres are more job ready in comparison to most Universities graduates.

There are talks of a desire to graduate Namibia into an industrialised country. How do we achieve industrialisation, without people who are skilled in making and building things with their hands? One issue that I want to raise is that the Government has so many buildings standing idle throughout Namibia, if you go to Otjombinde and Betanie in the South, you will find old unused buildings. We can transform these buildings in immediate Vocational Training Centres. The infrastructure is there, we just need more trainers, and students to be able to absorb them. Everywhere, if you go around this country, there will be a Government building that was used for agricultural purposes in the past, standing idle.
(*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Where?

HON VENAANI: *Arikana, Otjombinde has one (interjection)*

HON MEMBER: Is it where you come from?

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HON VENAANI: No, I do not come from Otjombinde, you know I come from Otjituuu.

HON MEMBER: Even in Berseba!

HON VENAANI: Yes, even in Berseba and Bethanie, all these places have Government buildings standing idle there, and we can use them. Just conduct your study, you will come and agree with me.

Additionally, Vocational Schools have the ability, not only to absorb youth who are not necessarily academically-g geared, but also importantly equip them with skills that will allow them directly to contribute to Namibia's future industrialisation, whilst at the same time, enabling them to earn a living and support their families, instead of depending on hand-outs or resorting to other social ills like criminal activity out of desperation.

Focus should also be placed to the Sectors of the economy. Analysis should be made to establish which Sectors need more Vocational Education and more training should then be carried out with those specific Sectors in mind; which could Sectors such as manufacturing and processing, as opposed to only flooding the market with traditional trades such as plumbing, electricity and bricklaying.

Let me just give you one example, 26 years after our Independence, the GRN number plates for all Government vehicles are produced in South Africa. The GRN number plates are not produce locally, but in South Africa – are we saying that we cannot train our people to be able to do these things with security features, that we have to run and print them in South Africa?

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HON MEMBER: You are a businessman!

HON VENAANI: *Ngampekare nao* (let it be that way) (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: And do you own a BEE Company?

HON VENAANI: Yes, I own a BEE Company.

HON MEMBER: Are you sure?

HON VENAANI: Yes, I am sure.

HON MEMBER: Are you not a *Tenderpreneur* perhaps?

HON VENAANI: No, I am not a *Tenderpreneur* (*intervention*)

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HON VENAANI: He wants to show his green suit like mine.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Venaani, what about the private registration numbers, where are they produced.

HON VENAANI: Private registration numbers are produced here in Windhoek. There is a security feature to the GRN number plates, but there is no reason why that security feature cannot be honed and protected by Namibians. That is my argument. I am saying that, because we are not giving enough attention to Vocational Training, these are simple things where Namibians could have earned millions of Dollars over the years, but we are giving these jobs on the shores of other people. These jobs are living our country.

Let me come to the minting of coins, our coins are minted in South Africa. They come from South Africa, but because of the process that we need to hone into our system – okay, for now we are minting them in South Africa because of security features, but for how long will we continue minting them in South Africa? Yes, there comes the former Minister of Education (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes? On a Point of Order.

HON MBUMBA: On a Point of Information, I agree with Honourable Venaani that the registration numbers, whether they are green or yellow, they must be produced here. It is at least something we can do. The reason why the money has to be minted or printed – of course only the

coins are minted and the notes are printed – it is not only a question of the security features, our first money was printed in Sweden and transported to Namibia under strict security – the problem is to set up those facilities with all that is required. All that has to be acquired at the correct price. In the future, there is definitely no limitation why we cannot do it, but it is not because we love South Africa, no.

HON VENAANI: (*Interjection*) There is no time, I have to move on to poverty eradication. The man is my neighbour, he must behave – Honourable Tweya, we are neighbours (*laughter*)

Poverty Eradication

In terms of poverty eradication, as indicated previously, the creation of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication is a step in right direction. Improving the poverty focus of Public Expenditure Management clearly requires that Government understands who the poor are, in terms of social characteristics or geographical concentrations, the factors that move them into or out of poverty, and how the nature of poverty is changing. It is therefore, imperative for Parliament to scrutinise the various Programmes budgeted for and Projects that will be pursued under this Vote.

So far, we have only heard about the Food Bank Project from the National Consultations that took place – which, whilst it is a good start, it is nonetheless in my view, a short-term measure, to address hunger and poverty.

What we really need is a concise blue-print, outlining key long term projects with measurable and tangible results that are time-bound. Hopefully, this will be the year we all finally get clarity on how exactly it is we will reduce or alleviate extreme poverty.

I once again, as I did in my Budget Statement last year, would like to draw the attention of Honourable Kameeta and this august house, to the plight

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of single mothers and further note that any anti-poverty initiatives, which do not address the plight of single mothers - who head a large number of Namibian homes - will result in the job only being half done.

However, Honourable Speaker, it is apt to say – I was waiting in earnest and hope that Bishop Emeritus and Minister of Poverty Eradication was here – when this Ministry was created, the promise was that we were going to get an Anti-poverty Policy to be debated in the House, but we have not seen such. But one Policy that is worth understudying and emulating is the Brazilian Policy of Bolsa Familia that took over 43 million people out of poverty in Brazil. We should understudy what has worked and leave what has failed them, so that we can also improve
(*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: But they are busy doing that.

HON VENAANI: If they are doing that, they are not telling us.
(*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Let me help you.

HON VENAANI: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: I can confirm that the Honourable Minister is busy working on that particular Policy Document and when it is ready, it will be brought to the House. That will provide all the Members of Parliament

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an opportunity to provide their inputs and sharpen the document to an extent that it will be ready for implementation.

I just wanted to confirm that, because I know that for sure.

HON VENAANI: Of course, you know that for sure, but I do not know.
(*Intervention*)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT [HON KLAZEN]: I have noticed that the DTA President have a tendency of saying that it is DTA Policy whenever the Old Age Grants have been increased.

I hope that, if we eventually introduce a Policy similar to BIG, and the economy contracts, just as the Brazilians have had a four quarter contraction of 1.7% consecutively, creating problems for the Brazilians to the effect that they have even been reduced to *junk status* by Moody's and others (*Interjection*)

HON VENAANI: Are you tinkering me? (*Laughter*)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT [HON KLAZEN]: No, no, I am sorry, I am not tinkering the DTA Leader, Honourable Speaker.

I hope that the DTA will be man enough to claim that their Economic Policies are failed Policies that they are selling. The Brazilian example was nothing, but a cash transfer Programme and we are doing much of it

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already with Social Grants, OVCs and with the Veterans' Grants, etcetera, there is just so much that the economy can absorb. Therefore, it shows the DTA's inability to understand how national economies work and it is really sad.

HON VENAANI: Your Seniors have just confirmed that they are already understudying Bolsa Familia in Brazil and there is nothing wrong with understudying a Programme. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: What is the difference between study and understudy?

HON VENAANI: Understudy means that you have not incorporated the system, but you are reading into it to see whether it can work or not. That is understudy. (*Interjection*) Let me come to you.

Honourable Speaker, please – through the Speaker, the DTA Policy that was (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Are you silencing the Speaker?

HON VENAANI: No, I am not silencing the Speaker, I am just putting a caveat for him to allow me to just complete this line before he intervenes. I am not tinkering the Speaker.

The DTA Policy in our Manifesto speaks about Youth Venture Capital. I am glad that the Ruling Party did not address the Youth Venture Capital in

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its Campaign Trails, nor in its Manifesto, but it is now included in your Budget. Therefore, you should be man enough to say that you have inherited it from the DTA Manifesto, which is something progressive. *(Interjection)* Yes, it is not in their Manifesto! And now they are changing to **Harambee**, because *(intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Yes? On a Point of Order.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order, this Honourable Member, being the Leader of the Official Opposition should really quit this kind of politicking style in the Parliamentary Debate.

He cannot try to suggest that a Manifesto should be an Action Plan detailing individual activities that are going to be undertaken to a micro level, so that anything that is not specifically stated in the Manifesto, and is implemented, is copied from the DTA, because that word did not exist in the Manifesto.

The establishment of Venture Capital is an idea that has been under investigation by this Government and for a number of years by various Government Institutions. The decision is even being considered now after investigations were carried out and there are records to that effect.

The Honourable Member should quit playing political games to score points, because the only vote he is going to get is from the other Opposition Parties and not from SWAPO. *(Laughter)*

HON VENAANI: The Right Honourable Prime Minister must quit this politicking of denying reality *(laughter)* I had engagements and debates

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with your Party at various platforms and when we were selling these ideas, the people that you sent were even fighting against the Youth Venture Capital, so now that it is there, it is being said that it is not ours. It is sometimes alright to be helped, DTA will help you. The DTA has done so.

Are you also denying that the DTA was the Party that was advocating for the increase of the Old Age Pension to a Thousand Dollars? Give credit to Honourable Kaura.

In fact you were the Minister of Finance who used to tell us in this House that - *we cannot budget on the Floor and this thing cannot work because we will not have money*, but the minute you became the Prime Minister, you approved it.

Therefore stop your politicking (*interjection*) *Undja kurama*, (*interjection*) But that is not the premise of the Debate.

HON SPEAKER: Please, please!!

HON VENAANI: I want to turn my attention again to agriculture – I hope Honourable Mushelenga is here – this is where the Budget has under delivered. You cannot say that we are having a three-year consecutive drought, 40% of jobs in this country are maintained by the Agricultural Sector, but the Budget of the Ministry of Agriculture does not read into the dynamics that are affecting the farmers. How should we produce food? How should we sustain cattle, if the Budget does not speak to subsidising and helping farmers to maintain these goods and to maintain our economy?

If you look at Pravin Gordhan Budget Speech, he really honed it very well in his Budget Speech that for you to maintain the economy and to make

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sure that you maintain jobs, one of the things that you must rescue are the jobs in Agricultural Sector. This Budget has under delivered on that score.

However, let us talk about **Agriculture Modernisation and Transformation**: We cannot build our country with an unskilled population, without modernising and bringing new initiatives into the Agricultural Sector.

Kavango is poor today. There are a lot of claims that Kavango is being discriminated and a, b, c, d, but I do not want to go there. It is poor today, because of the lack of an agricultural transformation in Regions that are capable to become breadbaskets of our country. If you go to the rural villages in the Northern Regions – Central, Kavango, Kunene, “Four Os,” and Zambezi, all these Regions – you will find farmers who are finding it difficult to put up a fence around their crop fields, because they do not have money. The reason why people are looking after cattle in those Regions and have to bring them back at night, on a daily basis, is because people do not have fences to protect their crops. Most of the time the cattle will go and roam in other people’s crops, therefore, they need to be protected.

Kavango, for example, is still ploughing with oxen, 26 years after our Independence (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: There is nothing wrong with that!

HON VENAANI: There is something wrong with it. You cannot defend that, that is indefensible. (*Intervention*)

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HON SPEAKER: A Point or Order.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition is touching on various points, but I just want to appeal to him to calm down. I do not know why he is dancing (*laughter*)

HON VENAANI: I am just very passionate about agriculture.

HON SPEAKER: With due respect, Honourable Member, I have so many people still on the list, let us be equally sensitive, because this is the last day and if they are going to miss out, it will be unfair. I am just appealing to the Honourable Member to please conclude.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I am also appealing to you to realise that I have unlimited speaking time in the House.

HON SPEAKER: No, no – not on a day like this.

HON VENAANI: I have just spoken for 14 minutes now, and I am already been reminded. Please, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: No, it depends on you entirely, because you can handle it in a manner where you can conclude without necessarily being interrupted, but if you are going to make comments that will attract other people to take the Floor, then we will be here until the middle of the night.

I am trying to avoid further comments – yes, is that on a Point of Order?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, it is just a Point of Order and it is in relation with the terminology utilised by the Leader of the Opposition when he made the remark that Kavango is poor, and he then immediately said – yes, the people are talking about being them marginalised or whatever word he used – I am requesting him to maybe return to that point and put into context that poverty as it has been experienced in the country, is not an isolated event for the Kavango Regions alone. A point could arguably be made that there are whatever categorisation of poverty prevailing in other Regions and that we do not foster the wrong notion that there is either a systematic or a deliberate strategy as have been made by the likes of those who are in the media, making those comments. I would urge the Honourable Member, who I hope agrees with me, that that is an important thing he should avoid. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I please appeal to you to continue and conclude?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, allow me to have my say here. Honourable Speaker, I have already dropped two pages and I want to move rapidly to allow other Members who want to take the Floor an opportunity to do so, but it should be borne in mind that I must be allowed to say what I want to say.

It goes without saying that as an Industry or Sector which employs about 30% of the total labour force, the Agricultural Sector remains critical to not only to our overall socioeconomic development, but Agriculture will also be a key player in the fight against unemployment, job creation and ultimately, poverty eradication.

This assertion is confirmed by the fact that about 70 percent of the Namibian population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood and daily sustenance according to the National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES, 2012).

Poverty cannot be alleviated without us, first and foremost, being conscious of Namibia's unique socioeconomic reality – a reality which is characterised by large numbers of rural-based people who depend directly on Agriculture for their daily bread.

If we are to make serious progress in the battle against poverty, then it is imperative that we fast-track skills development and modernise our Agricultural Sector.

In this regard, I therefore, borrow from the DTA Manifesto, and make the following Agriculture Policy Proposals:

1. **Quality Seeds Programmes and Projects** – under this, I would emphasise the concept of ensuring proper seeds distribution to farmers, both subsistence and commercial – quality seeds provision to attain a higher yield in this area.
2. **Increased Use Of Quality and Environmental-Friendly Fertilisers** – in a greater scheme of our production, we need to support the natural recovery of the soil which tends to be perennially overused and overgrazed, particularly in the rural areas, and thus, coupled with continually low rain fall in the recent past, the soil is never given a chance to recuperate, and subsequently, the land is able to carry less cattle and yield less crops.

3. **Improved Irrigation *versus* Rain-Fed Agriculture** – Namibia is a drought prone country, and for us to realise high yield productivity, targeted efforts from Government are required to move the whole Sector from being rain-fed to an irrigation-supported agriculture.
4. **Building of a Buffer Zone Between Namibia and Angola** – in the northern communal Regions over 1.6 million heads of cattle continue to suffer as a result of the Agricultural Policy which has seen them isolated only to markets above the Redline, and as a result they suffer from limited access to markets and under-pricing. Building a Buffer Zone between Namibia and Angola will go a long way towards alleviating the difficulties experienced by farmers north of the Redline.

A fence between Angola and Namibia, will thus be able to stop cattle from Angola to move into Namibia. (*Interjection*) *Puratena*, Meatco has done studies and found that farmers in the northern Regions are getting as little as N\$3,000.00 per ox while farmers south of the Redline are getting close to N\$9,000 per ox because of that line.

In one of the arguments I had with the former President he said – *but the people will cut the fence*, and I said – *Mr President, there is a fence between the United Mexico and States, but it is not an ordinary fence that one can cut.*

HON MEMBER: That fence does not exist.

HON VENAANI: It exists.

HON MEMBER: Why does Trump want to build a wall if there is a fence?

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HON VENAANI: Trump is a loose cannon. I am talking about the argument. Even the Governor of Ohangwena once said that the fence will be cut. There are new types of fences that one cannot cut. However, it is important to know that 1.6 million heads of cattle are roaming in the northern Regions. If we give impetus to the Buffer Zone, those farmers will become instant millionaires from their goods.

Development of a Contemporary Drought Policy – Namibia as a drought-prone country cannot operate on a National Drought Policy that was last reviewed in 2001, and given the current consistent low rainfall patterns, a new Comprehensive Policy that looks at drought readiness or preparedness, instead of drought response as a purely crisis management matter, is long overdue. For these people who want to disturb me, please I have been given an hour. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Not a Point of Order, Point of information. The 1.6 million. (*Intervention*)

HON VENAANI: No, 1.2 million.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Oh, did you changed, it is now 1.2 million?

Now the 1.2 million heads of cattle that you are talking about up north, are actually scattered between Namibia and Angola. As many as 50% of those heads of cattle are actually grazing in Angola. There is no grazing

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land in the northern Region.

I think even the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister once mentioned in the Chamber that if you leave Oshivelo, you can maybe talk of a bit of Mangetti going up to Kavango, but the Central North has got no grazing.

Those cattle that you say will catch higher prices, are basically cattle that are grazing in Angola. We understand the Foot and Mouth Disease there, but many of the cattle there are actually in southern Angola. I think that is why the point about the cutting of the fence was raised. Therefore, one has to innovate further.

HON VENAANI: Meatco has done a study and I was with them yesterday. The Economics Committee was with Meatco yesterday. They confirmed that the study that they have done is truthful and accurate – that 1.2 million cattle are roaming in the northern Regions of our country, and if a Buffer Zone is built, we are going to protect them. (*Interjection*)

Let me tell you. I am talking about agricultural modernisation, and I know what I am talking about, I am a farmer. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: We all know!

HON VENAANI: No, this man does not know cattle. You know Ohangwena has an aquifer, what are doing with the water? Even Tsumeb has an aquifer.

We need to modernise (*interjection*) No, do not worry – you are interjecting me, and at the same you are asking me conclude.

Government Revenue

Revenue Collection Uncertainty – with the continued slowdown in the growth of most emerging economies, as a mineral dependent country, revenue projection and outturn for Namibia remains bleak. We have already experienced the impact of the slowdown of the South African economy and the SACU Pool which remains a key primary source for Namibia.

The main question remains – *What are the tangible avenues that the Minister of Finance proposes, to expand revenue collection without increasing the taxpayers' burden in Namibia?* When compared to its peers in the Region, Namibia is on a higher margin in terms of the tax rates, thus limiting room for any further tax rates increments. One wonders how any additional proposed taxes will impact the pockets of our fellow citizens on the street.

It is against that light that I welcomed the announcement from the Minister of Finance to have nationwide consultations on the issue of Solidarity Tax. My take on this is that we need a clear blue-print of the ring-fenced projects that are meant to be financed by this tax. The understanding is that these types of taxes are temporary in nature; therefore, projects with measurable and tangible results that are time-bound should be identified and made known during the nationwide consultations, before the already heavy tax burden on individuals is further increased.

A central issue relating to increasing revenue sources and finding ways to replace the expected SACU Pool shortfalls, is improving the overall collection efficiency of the Namibian Tax System, especially as it relates to companies.

The tax burden is heavier on individuals as compared to corporations. Taxes on income and profits are increasingly becoming a primary source of revenue for Government and have been growing at an average growth rate of 3.5% over the last 5 years. However, individual Income Tax

continues to dominate the contribution to tax revenue accounting close to 26.5% on average, while company taxes on average account for only 12.2% of tax revenue in Namibia. Individually, tax revenues from individual incomes are expected to grow by an average rate of 22% compared to an annual growth rate of 15% on the corporate taxes between 2012/2013 to 2016/2017.

Our ability to collect more tax from, especially, multinational companies in the Mining and Fishing Sectors is greatly hampered by, *inter alia*:

- a) Conferring EPZ Status and granting tax holidays to certain multinational companies;
- b) The issue of transfer pricing and equity-debt swaps among the big multinationals remains untracked despite the existence of the *Transfer Pricing Act* of 2009; and
- c) The lack of Internal Capacity and Tax Experts to identify and put measures in place to combat the various ingenious ways which businesses devise to get around paying corporate and business profit taxes.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to bring about greater efficiency and expertise in the tax administration in Namibia – tax assessment and refunds in this country take an extremely long period to be finalised. We need modern systems in the Revenue Administration Department of the Government. It is interesting to note that of the 15 SADC Countries: Namibia, Madagascar, DRC and Angola are the only countries without Independent Revenue Authorities. The envisaged Revenue Agency should be the platform for such a reform. Perhaps a step in this direction is what is needed in order for Namibia to optimise and improve the overall efficiency of our tax collection system – which could in turn have a direct and positive impact on our revenue streams.

Financing of the Proposed Budget Deficit

Over the last Financial Year, we have seen an unprecedented growth in Government external debt due to Eurobonds: The Government debt stock is increasing, and it is changing in terms of its composition. The external debt component witnessed a huge increase due to the sourcing of the Eurobond in 2012, and again in 2015. As of December 2015, the Eurobond Debt accounted for 68.6% of the total external debt.

By nature, the Eurobonds are international commercial debt instruments, thereby making them expensive due to interest rate and exchange rate risks. However, due to the low prevailing interest rates that characterise the economic landscape over the last few years, Namibia seemed to have gotten a better deal compared to raising debt on the domestic market.

The depreciation of Rand, and by implication, the Namibia Dollar seems to have been forgotten. The depreciation of the Namibian Dollar against the major currencies also contributed to the increase in the debt stock over the last two Fiscal Years due to increased foreign borrowing.

The critical question remains – are the proceeds going to be used on economic productive projects that will yield returns for its repayments. Or its burden is passed over to the taxpayers and future generations. It is in the best interest of the Nation to see key infrastructural projects not Government buildings funded with such a rather expensive instrument.

We should not only be building Government buildings on Capital Budgets, but also spend the money on the infrastructure that is needed to drive the economy. If you build one new office for a Ministry, it is just for a few months that an economic activity takes place, but after that, nothing happens. We should, therefore, try to spend our money on Capital Projects where we can derive value for money.

I hope to see a clear list of projects with clear timelines and their impact assessment on improving the social-economic conditions being made available and presented in a very concise manner. Thick unreadable

documents such as the Developmental Budgets do not serve the purpose and the ever-changing MTEF documents that do not reflect projects continuity, makes it difficult to track the impact made and whether these projects were indeed completed or abandoned.

Key Critical Policy Interventions Required from Government

1. Energy Projects

Lack of sufficient and reliable electricity supply remains an impediment to Namibia's economic growth and development. However, Namibia remains endowed with plentiful sunshine and wind, which could be harvested to supply energy for its Nation in a sustainable manner.

Persistent lack of political will to take bold decisions and invest in proper renewable sources of energy will continue to hinder the future industrialisation plan of the country as industries remains without reliable powers to carried out their activities. It is regrettable to see that, despite instituting measures to curb emission through taxes, the same Government backed a non-viable and non-renewable source of energy with its dire consequences on the climate.

The same sentiments can be made with regards to water. The Budget is also mum on how it intends to address the water crisis that is going to confront our people. We continue to preach the same things, with no actions to address these issues that have been with us since Independence.

2. Dismal Performance of the State-Owned Enterprises and the Partial Listing of State-Owned Enterprises

The Minister of Finance spoke about the partial listing of State-Owned Enterprises and their dismal performance, however, he was not very clear. He must unequivocally tell us which State-Owned Enterprises does he want to list on the stock exchange.

The Minister should, thus provide more information regarding the partial

listing of State-Owned Enterprises – key identified State-Owned Enterprises and timelines. Feedback on strategies and timelines from the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises will go a long way to clarify the notion behind partial listings and its benefit to the ordinary Namibians.

We should also re-evaluate the list of the State-Owned Enterprises and assess which ones are still relevant and worth the taxpayers money to continue to be funded. Those that are not essential and even those that are no longer relevant should be privatised or be allowed to die a natural death as opposed to them being on life-support for a prolonged period of time. We cannot continue to have non-sustainable SOEs for the sake of national pride, or simply put, the pride such as that of a National Airline. If it is not sustainable, let it cease to exist.

One of the issues is Air Namibia – our Party has been calling for Strategic Alliances for a number of years. Our partners in South Africa are already looking at obtaining Strategic Alliances. They have realigned South African Airways, because it is hitting on their economy. But what is it that we are doing?

3. Job Creation Strategies

The need for accelerated job creation should not be seen as an opportunity or need for Government to increase its Civil Work Force.

Government's role is primarily to create a conducive environment for the Private Sector to create jobs – it is not the role of Government to expand the size of the Civil Servant Work Force, thereby resulting in a huge uncontrollable wage-bill.

We need clear feedback on implementable strategies and timelines from the Ministry of Employment Creation.

Conclusion and Key Recommendations

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion I make the following recommendations:

1. There is a need to fundamentally change the pattern of public expenditure and the process by which this is determined. There is a need for the Ministry of Finance, as a matter of urgency to undertake Public Expenditure Reviews to identify the needed changes and link their outcomes to the Budget process. Public resources should stimulate economic activity by prioritising spending on actions that have a direct impact on the economy.
2. Vocational Training should be prioritised as a key strategic tool to tackle unemployment, job creation and poverty alleviation.
3. Amendments of Regulation are required to curb the capital flight and funds, so that they can be used for domestic investment. There is a need to fast-track reforms that are aimed at improving Tax Administration to bring about efficiency and effectiveness in tax services and improved revenue collection. Proper and regular analysis on the Namibian debt situation is paramount to avoid over-burdening the future generations.

One other issue that is close to my heart is the question of Regulation 28 of the *Pension Fund Act*. Many of the Companies that are in our country are taking their profits out of the country and we are doing nothing to engage them or tell them that they must reinvest in areas where they have low risks and high returns in Namibia, because a lot of money is leaving our shores that could be otherwise used to promote our economy.

Even our own pension money is better invested in foreign countries as opposed to our own country. Therefore, the question of Regulation 27/28 of the *Pension Fund Act*, should be revisited to make sure that

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the money that is leaving our shores can be reinvested at home.

4. We also seem to have lost faith in the National Development Plans and Vision 2030, we hear less and less commitment with every Budget tabled. Have our aspirations changed along the way? Are we admitting to having been poor planners, unrealistic and delusional? Is it time to go back to basics?
5. In conclusion, I would like to applaud the Minister of Finance for an attempt to consolidate expenditure. However, greater priority should still be given to modernising our Agricultural Sector and overhauling our Social Sector so that the sizeable inputs we put in, begin to bear outputs.

Honourable Speaker that is my contribution to the 2016/2017 *Appropriation Bill*. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable //Gowases please, you have been waiting patiently. You have the Floor.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, it is a great honour for me to participate in this extremely important issue; our country's Budget. I am further honoured to have the chance to contribute to this ground-breaking Debate and our country's progress, growth and prosperity.

I believe that this august House is the appropriate platform where we, the chosen Leaders of this country, work out the will of the Namibian people, and the future we want for our country.

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With that in mind, I am duty bound to respond first on the Budget tabled by the esteemed Honourable Calle Schlettwein Minister of Finance, and the author of this Budget before us, in general, before I go into the nitty-gritty specifics of it.

I have come to realise that producing a Budget of this nature, under the current circumstances of such huge unfavourable magnitudes of internal and external financial forces, is not an easy task.

I applaud Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance, for a job well done. Applying his well-known legendary, celebrated and trusted financial and fiscal knowledge, he brought the country what is needed at this point in time in terms of funding the country for development.

The first Budget that the country received under the administration of His Excellency Dr, Hage Gottfried Geingob, under the noble objective of *poverty eradication and prosperity creation* has come and gone. Taking office, President Hage Geingob explicitly expressed and declared his agenda base of ***No Namibian Must Feel Left Out*** with meaning.

His Excellency's agenda of poverty eradication was the very reason that Namibians of all walks of life rallied behind him and took him to the State House. Since then Namibians have been enthusiastic and excited about the eradication of their poverty and the bringing in of prosperity for all. This country's anticipation for prosperity has been running high ever since, as was expected. Who can blame us? Nobody wants to remain in poverty. Everybody wants to live a happy, comfortable and productive life.

With this country's new agenda of transformation, and the powerful principle of **Harambee**, Namibians indeed, started to feel as – ***“One Namibia, One Nation. One People, One Aim.”*** But the stunning realities hit Namibians back to Namibia's differences between the rich and the poor, powerful and the powerless. The realities of the marginalised, the

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vulnerable, the poor, and the disenfranchised.

Honourable Speaker, we are back to square one again. In fact, if all calculations are taken statistically, they might indicate shockingly, that our country has gone beyond square one, in just a spin of a year.

I say this because several devastating factors such as the drought, the SACU saga in which Namibia has to pay back N\$3 billion, the regional and international problems in financial markets, commodities, revenue streams and other unsavoury financial characteristics of the times have descended upon Namibia.

And yet, the required good governance has been in short supply basically across the entire spectrum of our country's governance. This has been the thorn in the flesh of this country.

It is the single most disturbing characteristic. And I insist to draw the country's attention back to that, refusing to relent to that loophole.

I must exhort and remind fellow Namibians, Leaders, the Presidency, the Private Sector, as in my belief, the previous budget provisions were all strong and dynamic enough to have enabled and led Namibia out of the woods by now, and should have enabled each and every Namibian to hit the ground running toward prosperity.

What went wrong? The Budget was there. And the Budget was capable enough to create equally respectable foundations and starting points for progress and prosperity. What went wrong? I ask again. Where did it all go wrong, that we have not made the mark toward our cherished goals of progress?

Something did go wrong. And because of that, the 2015/2016 Budget did not reach the grassroots poverty transformation. And as a consequence, of lack of progress toward our national goals of prosperity, Namibians are still crawling under the pressure of underdevelopment and poverty.

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Starting today, we have another chance as a country, to make good on the promises of progress and growth, with this current Budget.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we all applaud our newly unveiled and currently operating principle of *No Namibian Must Be Left Out*, and yet the poor within this era of poverty eradication and prosperity for all, are still getting poorer. The rich are still getting richer.

I do not have a problem with people getting rich *per se*. But I have a problem with the rich getting richer at the expense of the poor. And I have a problem with the poor getting poorer. Namibians should not get poorer. Not a single one of them. Not in this day and age. That is why I am coming in full force for this year's ***“Pro-growth Fiscal Consolidation.”*** The Budget speaks for the poor, the voiceless, and the marginalised. This Budget says in my view – *‘enough is enough.’* It says the poor have been suffering for much too long. They should not suffer any longer. Not while our national principles are **Inclusion, Harambee,** and *No Namibian Must Be Left Out*.

The key partners and implementing agents of our country's objectives of prosperity for all have disappointed Namibians with last year's Budget one more time, as they have done for the first 26 years of our Independence.

Let me remind us all that the Performance Contracts on the part of His Excellency President Dr Hage Geingob with his Cabinet Members, is a great idea. This practice needs to be revisited seriously, and the implementers of our national goals reinvigorated for speedy and better service delivery.

The key Ministry, the Ministry of Poverty Eradication needs to deliver according to the expectations of the poor Namibian people. Food Banks and Food Security issues are not yet put in place to the point of delivery. Meanwhile poverty crisis, starvation, hunger and malnutrition are all eating away on, and destroying Namibians.

The housing crisis is on a desperate march and increasing day-by-day, and getting out of control, all across the country. Namibians are in need of descent housing in which they can raise their families. Here again, in this regard, there has been no respectable progress. At the heart of this non-progress are the internal conflicts within the housing delivery Industry. The Minister of Urban and Rural Development is called upon here, and reminded that this *impasse* has to end and progress in housing delivery must become the order of the day. We need to bring within this Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget, the housing delivery frontline players and decision-makers back to square one, and back to order. Housing delivery will forever remain in the pipeline as long as this destructive *impasse* amongst the stakeholders is left operating in the works.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is time that we put our money where our mouths are. I insist with this Budget, a Budget of powerful proportions, that all stakeholders walk the talk. The issues which are calling our sharpest attention are clear. The solutions are starkly glaring at us. They are calling out loud for desperate attention.

The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade, and SME Development, as a key partner and agent of the development and implementation of many of the Programmes and Projects for progress is well positioned. When Namibia talks about prosperity, it is economic prosperity we are focussed on. The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade, and SME Development is the frontline stakeholder in the creation of prosperity for all. It is a well-known fact that when you empower the people, you empower the Nation. When you put financial and other resources and strengths into Small and Medium Enterprises, you empower all platforms of progress across the Nation. By doing so, you empower all enterprises, businesses, corporations, individuals families and finally the Nation. In this regard, a strong call is issued out to this implementing agent to step up the implementation process.

It is recognised that the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade, and SME Development, which has a huge responsibility indeed in general, socioeconomic terms and specifically within the current agenda of

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economic progress, has not come out strong to deliver on this mandate. This Ministry like all others, is receiving hundreds of millions of valuable Namibian Dollars, for the implementation of the country's objectives of progress.

What am I saying? I am saying the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development has got some explaining to do as to why some Namibians still have to live under these pressures of poverty while this Ministry has the power and resources to transform these Namibians to a better life.

And so does the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare as the first row custodian of change in the fortunes of the poor, the marginalised and the vulnerable. We need answers here.

Alongside the above two frontline custodians of transformation, are the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, which in my view are also the frontrunners to lead the country into prosperity. They also, must step up for service delivery in the direction of prosperity in this country.

The Captains of these Ministries must all stand up in this august House and explain to the Namibian people, why they came short of delivering to the Nation, and disappointed the Namibian people.

Other Ministries are not exempted from this accountability. They too must account and tell the Namibian people why they let them down, in the Fiscal Year 2015/2016.

We need visible change in this country. Transformation that will make a mark in the lives of all Namibians. As for this N\$61.00 billion Budget, each recipient Ministry, and Government supported entity must be held accountable for their inability to deliver. The Ministers heading these Ministries, must each add and sign a Memorandum of Understanding in their Performance Contracts, they have with the President, what they will deliver towards progress. We need deliverables. We need results. At the

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end of this Fiscal Year, each must table in this august House, targeted achieved deliverable results as a means of success and accountability, on their part, and progress and prosperity for the sake of the Nation.

In conclusion (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Oh no, Continue!

HON //GOWASES: We have a busy year ahead. We have Namibians to be pulled out of poverty as a matter of urgency. And now, we have the Budget to make that possible. Let us not waste valuable time anymore. Now is the right time that we all hit the ground running, for the sake of our people, and our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the Bill and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. You have to bear with me, I must bring in one of the Leaders of the Political Parties that are represented here, because I do not want to see him not partake. For that reason, I am going to skip my Dear Honourable Caley and call upon Honourable Kaapala to take the Floor.

Depending on how much time you take, there is still a chance for me to have the last Honourable Member TO make a contribution. You have the Floor.

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HON KAAPALA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. My intervention to this very important Budget will be very brief.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members allow me to use this opportunity to applaud the Minister of Finance and his distinguished team for the effort invested on the budgetary allocation for the Financial Year 2016/2017. The projections look impressive, to say the least.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the Honourable Members of Parliament for the support they have shown for the past year, in this august House. This is certainly a clear indication that, irrespective of our various political affiliations and facets, we have a common objective, that of building the Nation as a team – each and every Namibian, where everybody plays their part at various levels – the right step of an all inclusive Government

Honourable Speaker, my perspective regarding Party Politics in this country, is that politics should have its platform and an audience, than to use it when we are voted into positions of influence by the electorate. Party politicking has deprived the electorates from developing at the required momentum and socioeconomic growth in many facets of this country.

Honourable Speaker, politics is both a catalyst of socioeconomic growth, prosperity, and democracy and a time bomb of economic adversity and anarchy, if misused.

Distinguished Honourable Members, it will do us a world of good, if we desist from mal-political practice. A Nation is built on solid political ideologies, it is a tool we should take cognizance of as ambassadors of this Nation

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my perspectives on the budgetary allocation for the Financial Year 2016/2017 will be brief. We often hear of people employed on political grounds in contrast to their skills set and competence, be it in the Private Sector or Government where

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nepotism seems to thrive. We should not condone this practice, and perhaps come up with a more transparent procedure, where the saying – “*it is not what you know, but who you know,*” does not exist. Employment created through comradeship as political compensation should desist in this all inclusive present Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we are happy that Namibia has adopted political pluralism, which would aid to check and balance our development in this country.

The issues of discrimination in this country should stop. We are reminded of the racial discrimination practised by the white minority Government before the Independence that provoked anarchy and a revolution. Namibia has a good reflection of the past in this regard, please heed that the Budget is for each and every Namibian son and daughter, irrespective of their political standing, whether employed or not, old or young, tribal grouping, race or ethnicity and religion – this is an all-inclusive Government, let's act as such.

Regions should be capacitated to plan and forecast for their people at grass root level. We still have Regional and Local Governments that lack the expertise and capacity to optimise their Budgets after 26 years of Independence, and this is evident at the disparity of socioeconomic growth from one Region to another. We need a radical shift or approach in this regard, as stipulated in Article 10 of the Constitution of this great Nation. The *Regional Council Act* of 1992 and the Policy of Decentralisation, which was adopted in 1998, provides implementation guidelines and broader citizen economic participation in decision-making.

The Budget should encourage and amplify innovation, creativity and industrialisation by investing in our people with productive ideas, this will at the same time create employment and catalyse economic development and industrialisation we so desperately lack after 26 years of Independence. Government alone will fail with certainty, if we are flying solo.

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Entrepreneurship has driven many world economies to stardom, and I commend Government for taking cognizance of this and investing in efforts to include this as one of our valued economic tools, however, I have an issue with the Financial Institutions that are tasked with this assignment in the way they make funds available to aspiring and struggling business owners. The criteria employed by these Institutions to avail capital are rather too stringent. Many people do not have the financial security to obtain loans to enable them start their businesses. This should be revisited and we should look for ways to relax this strict Policies on firm and viable ideas .

Housing is a basic need; this has been privatised, which has limited our people to have access to shelter. The SWAPO Government has not put measures in place to curb the housing prices from going through the roof. If the Honourable Members of Parliament fail to purchase or rent a house, what about an ordinary citizens? The Budget ought to address this issue with the urgency and the vigour it demands .

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am candidly, very disappointed on how sport and sporting infrastructure is underfunded in this country relative to other countries. The Sporting Industry as we all know, is a multibillion Dollar Industry, if well invested and groomed. We have done little to nothing to have a slice of this Industry to later on, develop or nurture sporting careers at an international level

My views on the new Parliament Building – as many of you, I support the idea of a new Parliament Building, and parliamentary infrastructure for Law and Policy-making. Underfunding will jeopardise the performance of Parliament in the county. We have a constitutional mandate to have an oversight function under Article 59 – **Rules and Procedures, Committees and Standing Orders**. We have Parliamentary Committees struggling to reach out, because of a lack of funds this needs serious attention. It is important for the Members of Parliament to be afforded adequate resources to do research on important issues diligently .

The Health Ministry has an enormous task to provide quality Health Care

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to all the citizens of this country, the issue of referrals should be revised, and Government must ensure that everyone has access to quality Health Care at regional level. How is it that quality Health Care and Health Infrastructures is not equally distributed to all the Regions? This is evident in the case of the Zambezi Region and most of the other Regions where patients are desperately referred to other nearby Regions to have access to this facilities in pickups *bakkies* at times. This is negligence and dreadful. Our Health System and access thereof is lukewarm, efforts should be made to upgrade it and I hope we will address that in this current Budget

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Policy of Inclusivity as adopted by this Government should address the “*elephant in the room*,” that we do not want to hear about – the SWATF/KOEVOET saga. This group of people should not be discriminated against, this is what I was speaking of earlier, when I reiterated that the National Budget allocation should cover everyone. This group is as much, part of us as any Namibian, and have contributed to development of this country as any patriotic or productive citizen has done.

Let us embrace the Policy of National Reconciliation and **Harambee**. They deserve their pensions and recognition as war vets, as agreed in Resolution 435 of 1978. I thank you

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I know that Honourable Faustina Caley is waiting anxiously. Do you have a long one, or is it a short one? Have a go at it.

HON CALEY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think, whether it is a long or short one – let us just finish it.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank you for

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the opportunity accorded to me to contribute to the 2016/2017 National Budget, which was tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance in this august House. I would like to congratulate him, his Deputy and the entire team of the Ministry of Finance for tabling the Budget on time.

My intervention will focus on human resources development as the key enabler for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Any Nation that has develop, developed by paying particular attention to education and skills development. Namibia has acknowledged this fact, hence, the aspiration of Vision 2030, which says, and I quote – “*A Prosperous and Industrialised Namibia, Developed by Her Human Resources, Enjoying Peace, Harmony and Political Stability.*”

Namibia’s Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4), has articulated the institutional environment, education and skills, health, the reduction of extreme poverty and public infrastructure as enablers to propel our country to Vision 2030.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as representatives of all our people, we need to critically and objectively ask the question whether, as a country, we have done enough and have strategically invested in human resources and skills development to attain the aspirations of Vision 2030. The Government of Namibia must be commended for prioritising education and training among all other priorities, allocating more than 20% of the National Budget to the two Ministries. To be specific, N\$24.5 was allocated.

However, we know for sure that 80% of the allocation goes to salaries. The question remains, are the financial resources allocated to the component of human resources and skills development of our country sufficient? Money will never be enough, that is why we are budgeting. Education must be supported, from Early Childhood, Primary Education, Secondary, Higher Education, and even the Adult Learning Programmes. The stakeholders start from parents to everybody who derives benefits from education. A good example is what we saw on the news yesterday

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and this has to be commendable – a new vision school in the Otjomuise area, donated by the People’s Republic of China through the Embassy..

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our oversight function should ensure that the resources allocated are utilised strategically and efficiently to build the human capital of our country. We must pay particular attention to wastage in our education and training systems. We must identify the critical inputs necessary to achieve equitable, quality education and training. Moral, ethical and accountable leadership must be provided at all levels of our Education System.

As Members of Parliament, we must ensure that access to inclusive, and equitable quality education and training, as well as lifelong learning is achieved, when we consider and approve the National Budget. It is education and training that have to supply the desired committed, competitive, dedicated and hardworking human resource we need in our respective Offices, Ministries and Agencies respectively, that will take the economy of our country to the next level. To do this, obviously money has to be spent.

Honourable Speaker, as Lawmakers, let us be conscious that education, according to our Constitution and International Conventions that we have ratified, is a basic Human Right and a basis for sustained development. It is important to continuously remind ourselves that we have obligations under our Constitution and International Laws to ensure access to equitable and quality education and training opportunities for all our citizens and residents in the Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we are living in a globalised world characterised by the mobility of labour and skills and global competitiveness. Nations that are world leaders today in various spheres, are those that are paying particular attention to human resources and skills development and are strategically investing in research and innovation. Nations that are not paying attention and investing strategically are likely not to compete globally, and will not grow their economies to eradicate hunger and poverty.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we are living in the era of technology, the global demand is high and, therefore, Namibia is part of the global village. We are acquiring knowledge through e-learning, sending money through the Internet and e-wallet, sending documents via email, doing business through e-banking and getting our prescription and that of our animals through e-health, and the list continues.

The Minister of ICT made his Statement in this august House and shared with us his intention in terms of connectivity in our country and my appeal is – *let us support him for the good of this Nation*. Namibia does not have a choice, if we want to be a knowledgeable global player and part and parcel of a knowledge-societies, grow our economy and create decent jobs, then we need to invest in our education and training systems. They say the wealth of the country is its people. Namibia should, therefore, produce citizens with global outlooks and with the requisite skills, competencies, values and attitudes to contribute to local, national and global development.

We cannot continue to rely on international expertise in all the fields at this stage. I believe that Namibia is at a level where we can go global. A good example, since we are paying attention to our *Education for All*, Namibia, through the Literacy Programme in 2013, won the prestigious UNESCO Confucius Prize, which was a Silver Medal Award worth N\$20,000.00. We must realise that those countries that we are relying on have strategically invested in human and skills development to the extent that they are able to export skills and remittances to their countries of origin. I believe, we can do the same.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in this august House we form one body with different parts. In order for the body to be healthy and function properly, the parts must work in unison to keep the body vibrant. I want to conclude by reminding ourselves that the development of Namibia lies in our collective hands and we must begin to have confidence and trust in all our people, in order to keep this body vibrant.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

With this remarks, Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill and thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. We have now covered each and everyone who wanted to speak on this important topic and I think we have done justice to everybody. Just two things and then we wrap up and move on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON SPEAKER: I forgot at the very beginning to announce to the Members in this House that at the Standing Committee yesterday, there was a very lively discussion about:

1. A move to revive the Parliamentary Groupings that are going to be actively involved in the activities of this Parliament – Parliamentarians for Global Action. This group used to be active within the National Assembly and efforts are being made to revive the activities of this group. Further details will be provided to the Members in due course.
2. Secondly, the Namibia Conservation Parliamentary Caucus (NACOPAC) will be convening an important event on the 15th of March 2016, next week, in the morning and it will be hosting a group of other Colleagues from other Parliaments – Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and United States – as well as guest from the Civil Society, Development Partners, Conservationists, and the Private Sector. The United States will be represented by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation and they are having an important event here on the morning of the 15th.

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The key actors in this group are Honourable Jagger – she is not here – and Honourable Steve Bezuidenhout. A request was made that, whoever would like to attend that meeting, is very much welcome.

Having said that, I would like call on the Deputy Minister of Finance to adjourn the Debate in order to facilitate a reply by the Honourable Minister of Finance next week, Tuesday.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, before adjourning the House, let me briefly, thank all the Members for their contribution, more specifically for acknowledging that we have been, and are continuing to allocate the large portion of our Budget to Education. I would like to call on the Nation to assist us by also calling on the learners and the students to acknowledge the fact that Government is trying its best by continuing to allocate more funds to Education.

The Nation should, therefore, call on the students and the learners to study very hard and to make use of the available resource in improving their education, in order for us to be able to build this country. Without an educated Nation, we will not be able to develop Namibia and move this country forward.

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I want to thank you very much and I am therefore, adjourning House (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, only the Debate.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: The Debate, until next week Tuesday, at 14:30. Thank you very much.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members the House stands adjourn until Tuesday, the usual time. Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:20 UNTIL 2016.03.15 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
15 MARCH 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I acknowledge in the Speaker's Gallery the presence of the esteemed Parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Hungary consisting of:

1. His Excellency Dr Kövér the Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary accompanied by his dear wife Mária Bék Kövér;
2. His Excellency András László Király the Ambassador of Hungary to the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa;
3. Dr Gábor Staudt – Member of Parliament;
4. Honourable Csenger-Zalán, Zsolt Member of Parliament;
5. Mr László Veress – Chief of Speaker's Cabinet;
6. Dr Péter Sárdi – State Secretary, Director of foreign Affairs

They are all accompanied by a number of staff both from Budapest, Hungary and the Embassy of Hungary in Pretoria, South Africa. I wholeheartedly welcome the Speaker, whom we also refer to as the President, and his delegation to the Republic of Namibia and particularly for visiting us at this hour in the Chamber. You are all welcome.

Today the 15th of March 2016, also happen to be the National Day of Hungary and I offer them the warmest congratulations and best wishes

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**ANNOUNCEMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

from the National Assembly of Namibia and from the people of Namibia.
Best wishes.

That said, we move on to the next important announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have the honour to inform all Members of the National Assembly that Namibia will be celebrating its 26th Independence Anniversary Celebrations in Windhoek, in this Region, on the 21st of March at the Independence Stadium, starting from 08:00 to 13:00.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation wishes to advise that all the Members of the National Assembly are invited to attend this historical occasion in our national calendar followed by a luncheon to be held at their Hockey Field at 13:00. You are indeed, expected to honour this invitation.

The last announcement: The Ministry of Environment and Tourism invites all Members of Parliament to an Awareness Raising Workshop. This is to enable Members of Parliament to understand the Provisions of the *Environment Management Act* and measures needed to enable its effective implementation. The Workshop is to take place on the 16th of March 2016, at the Windhoek Country Club Casino and Resorts, from 09:00 until 13:00, to enable you to make your way back to the Chamber on time. That concludes the various messages.

HON SPEAKER: I now call for any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes, the Honourable

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ITHETE**

Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of:

- (i) The Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2014, and
- (ii) Regional Council of the //Karas Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011, 2012 and 2013.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Well, I think we are doing well.

On that note, I will leave you in the good hands of the Deputy Speaker to continue with the Deliberations in the House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**COMMITTEE STAGE – PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL [B.2 – 2016]**

15 March 2016

**COMMITTEE STAGE – PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON KAPOFI**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill* [B2. – 2016].

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs Move that the Assembly goes into the Committee?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I do so, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I will now call on the Assistant Chief Whip to coordinate the Committee Stage, Honourable Hambyuka.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order! The Committee has to consider the *Presidential Remuneration and other Benefits Bill* [B.2 – 2016].

I put Clause 01. Any discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 02. Any discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clauses 03. Any discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

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I put Clauses 03, 04, 05 and 06. Any discussions? Any objection?
Agreed to.

I put Clause 07. Any discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 08. Any discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put the Title. Any discussion? Any objection? Agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendments.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Committee has gone through the Bill
[B.2 – 2016] as set forth in the accompanying copy and agreed to it
without Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Bill reported without Amendments.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of
Presidential Affairs Move that the Bill now be read a Third Time?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I so Move,
Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to.

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**THIRD READING – PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON KAPOFI**

Any further discussions? Does the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs wish to reply or say something?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Members for their unanimous and overwhelming support for the Bill. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the question that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to.

The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

**THIRD READING – PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL [B.2 – 2016]**

SECRETARY: *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill [B.2 – 2016].*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING – APPROPRIATION BILL [B.2 – 2016]**

15 March 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

SECRETARY: Resumption Of Debate On Second Reading –
Appropriation Bill [B.2 – 2016].

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 10th of March 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Debate was concluded. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the Floor, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Fellow Namibians, I rise today, to respond to questions, comments and matters raised during the Second Reading of the 2016/2017 *Appropriation Bill* and the 2016/2017 to 2018/2019 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

Honourable Speaker, I listened objectively to the interventions that the Honourable Members made on the various Policy and allocations proposed in the Budget.

Additionally, since the tabling of the Budget, I had the privilege to engage the Civil Society and the business community on the Budget Proposals in different Regions of our country.

I held five post-budget discussion fora here in the Khomas Region and

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engaged the public and the business community in the Erongo, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshana Regions, respectively. And I look forward to the public discourse in other Regions during the coming weeks and days.

During these interactions, I had the opportunity to appreciate how the public largely embraced the Budget and the confidence expressed in the Government's track record of Public Finance Management. Indeed, I had the opportunity to appreciate how Namibians aspire to make a meaningful contribution to national development, from the passionate aspirations of, for instance, the *Ohangwena Business Women Network Association*, aspiring to engage in collective income generating activities, to a fine example of an Enterprising Namibian in the form of Robby Amadhila, the owner of *Roama Gates Manufacturing Pty Ltd* in Ondangwa, specialising in farm gates manufacturing with a good local Retail Industry outreach.

The proposals put forth during these engagements, and the various interventions made in this august House, reflect the common aspirations with regard to the Budget as an important Fiscal Policy tool that can unlock immense socioeconomic development opportunities for our country.

At the same time, the Budget Policy proposals have also benefited from the unfettered opinion of our Credit Rating Agencies. Both Fitch and Moody's Investor Services have reaffirmed our credit rating position and conferred confidence in the fiscal stance and policy interventions proposed in the Budget before you.

Honourable Speaker, during the Second Reading of the Bill, the Honourable Members have expressed general support for the Bill. Alongside this support for the Bill, good proposals and calls for effective budget implementation and sectoral reform interventions have been made, which will no doubt, improve the allocative efficiency and spending quality going forward.

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I, therefore, wish to thank you, the Honourable Members, the respective Political Parties and the public at large for the support and for the specific suggestions made, which will no doubt improve the Budget going forward.

I wish to thank the representatives of the DTA – Honourable McHenry Venaani, Honourable Muharukua, and Honourable Dienda, who are all not present, for their input. I would like to thank Honourable Maamberua, from SWANU, who is also not here, Honourable Murorua and Honourable !Auxab from the UDF; Honourable Mike Kavekatora from the RDP, Honourable Van Wyk from the UPM, Honourable Kaapala from the Workers Revolutionary Party and Honourable //Gowases from the Republican Party for their valuable inputs.

It will be remiss of me, if I did not thank the Honourable Members from the Ruling SWAPO Party, who took the Floor to make their contributions in support of the *Appropriation Bill*. In this regard, I would like to thank Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Honourable Minister Alweendo, Honourable Minister Tweya, Honourable Minister Nujoma, Honourable Deputy Minister Klazen, Honourable Deputy Minister Iipumbu, Honourable Deputy Minister Mushelenga, Honourable Deputy Minister Witbooi, Honourable Deputy Minister Simataa, Honourable Karupu, Honourable Katoma, Honourable Caley, Honourable Hambyuka, Honourable Kafula, Honourable Jagger and Honourable Kandumbu.

Honourable Speaker, the interventions made reference to various sub-themes of the Budget. I will respond to the questions and proposals raised from the perspective of these sub-themes. I may not necessarily refer to the names of the Honourable Members who intervened on this themes, but I hope that, with my response I will cover the issues that they have raised.

The sub-themes made are mainly in regard to:

- (i) The Budget Policy Coherence with Vision 2030 Objectives;

- (ii) Macro-fiscal Projections Underpinning the Budget;
- (iii) Budgetary Allocative Efficiency;
- (iv) Spending Efficiency in the Social Sectors;
- (v) Provisions for Budget Deficit Financing and Safeguards for Debt Sustainability; and
- (vi) Proposals Related to Public Enterprises Reform and Infrastructure Development.

**COHERENCE OF BUDGET POLICY PRIORITIES AND
ALIGNMENT WITH VISION 2030**

Honourable Muharukua and *Honourable Maamberua* have asked if the Budget is back-tracking on Vision 2030 objectives and whether this reflects implicit change in our Policy stance.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, to the contrary, the Budget Policy Statement, right up front, articulates the key priorities for the Budget and the MTEF. The Statement articulates the priorities for achieving shared prosperity for all Namibians, developing the skills base, eradicating poverty; diversifying and industrialising the economy and improving the living standards of Namibians in an inclusive manner. These are the defining goals for Vision 2030, carried over in a more concrete way to the National Development Goals 4 (NDP4). This is, therefore, to confirm that the Budget has not diverted from the Vision's objectives, nor from the targets in the NDP4.

This Policy Coherence is embedded in the proposed spending priorities of the Budget. It is of Policy significance that the Budget increasingly provides funding for the implementation of Programme initiatives to achieve these National Goals.

I have also emphasised that to achieve these National Goals and, thus, Vision 2030; we need to accelerate the implementation of the funded Programmes, drive internal efficiency and implement Policy and administrative reforms to realise value for money and optimise outcomes.

The thematic focus of the Budget emphasises the *growth* and *pro-poor* dimensions, which are critical elements of Vision 2030 and the Budget split reinforces this thematic approach. In this way, with the forthcoming Budget we realign our approach to emphasise outcome rather than merely inputs; this concept has already taken shape via the Performance Management Systems, which have been introduced in the Civil Service, and being rolled out to Parastatals.

Thus, the coherence between the Budget and Vision 2030 goals is provided for in the following respect:-

- The Budget prioritises and funds interventions for inclusive growth and sustainable development, wealth creation and shared prosperity, poverty eradication and the improvement of social welfare as well as improved service delivery,
- The alignment of the MTEF to NDP4 and, subsequently, the pillars of the high-impact, **“Harambee Prosperity Plan”** to provide development momentum as we transition to NDPs, and
- The National Development Plans to which the Budget and the MTEF are aligned are a stepwise progression to achieving national aspirations contained in Vision 2030.

MACRO-FISCAL BUDGET PROJECTIONS

Honourable Deputy Speaker, some concerns were raised in this House regarding the accuracy of the projections for economic growth, which is projected at 4.3 percent in light of lower growth for South Africa, which was estimated at 0.9 percent, as well as the projected revenue growth that underpins this Budget. *Honourable Kavekatora, Honourable*

Muharukua and *Honourable Venaani* have, in particular, spoken on these matters.

Indeed, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the South African economy has faced a number of key constraints that do not afflict Namibia, chief among which are load-shedding and major industrial relations issues. In 2014, for instance, Namibia registered a 6.4 percent economic growth, compared to 1.5 percent for South Africa, while the estimated corresponding growth figures for 2015 are 4.5 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. Thus, there is some level of decoupling, although comparisons should take into consideration the relative sizes of the two economies.

On the other hand, Namibia's growth rate is set to slow more marginally in the medium-term as boom cycles in construction, retail and financial services taper off. The cyclical nature of these effects suggests a temporary phenomenon, rather than a more permanent structural trend. It is, of course, a dynamic environment which requires adjusting to changing circumstances.

We are of the opinion that, in spite of weak commodity prices and relatively slow growth in external demand, the coming into operation of a large-scale mining project will support decent levels of economic growth.

Namibia's output of Uranium in 2017, for example, is projected to be more than three times the volume produced in 2015, thanks to the large Open-pit mine – the Husab Uranium Mine. Gold output is similarly expected to be more than triple in 2016, relative to 2014, and that is as a result of the opening of the B2Gold Mine near Otavi in the Otjikoto Region which will reach full production.

This considerable improvement in growth in the Mining Sector is expected to be accompanied by an eventual recovery in agriculture from the low base created by drought, and a relatively mild slowing in growth in major Service Sectors such as the Retail and Financial intermediation.

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Furthermore, Tourism and Export-oriented Industries are expected to benefit considerably in 2016, from the recent depreciation of the Namibia Dollar.

In respect to revenue outlook and tax administration reforms, I have announced a broad range of tax base broadening and deepening as well as a host of tax administration reform measures. The work on the establishment of a Revenue Agency – the Semi-autonomous Revenue Agency, is on course with the Draft Legislation having been approved by Cabinet. The Bill will be subjected to further public consultation and legal certification and we are gearing up to the establishment of the Agency by 2017. The work to develop the Integrated Tax System (ITAS) has also progressed well and we are envisioning the launch of the new tax system over the same calendar.

The Large Taxpayers Office has proved critical in providing efficient services to taxpayers and we are leveraging international tax cooperation to boost local capacity on matters of audit, transfer pricing and tax planning.

The Government's forecasts for economic growth are in line with the equivalent projections from the IMF, which foresaw 5.0% growth in 2016, Fitch Ratings, which forecasts 4.6% growth, and Moody's Rating Agency, which sees growth averaging 5% over the coming few years. We are taking a cautious approach and our prediction is 4.3%, which is the lowest of all those international Rating Agencies or Institutions that had projected growth for Namibia.

In respect of SACU Revenues, there will indeed be challenging times ahead, but the Government has already demonstrated its flexibility in coping with these conditions. Both in the Mid-Year Review of the 2015/2016 Budget and the Budget before you, we are currently debating significant restraint of non-core Operational and Development Expenditure, in order to align the expenditure lines to the revised revenue outlook. Simply put, when times are relatively tougher, we have shown that we can *do more with less*.

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There were also concerns raised regarding the impact of low global commodity prices on revenue, suggesting that this impact has been underestimated. Namibia's economy and the tax base are considerably more diversified now than was the case in the past decades, so that commodity-linked revenue has fallen in relative importance.

The Mining Sector accounted for just 29.5% of company tax receipts in 2014/2015, with company taxes also being significantly less prominent than Individual Income Tax, VAT and SACU receipts. For this reason, we feel that the impact of low commodity prices has been incorporated as accurately as possible into the published revenue forecasts. It is also encouraging to note that a gradual recovery in the prices of gold and diamonds has taken root since the beginning of 2016.

With regard to the plausibility of the projected revenue, the year-on-year growth in revenue for Financial Year 2016/2017 is only estimated at about 2 percent, compared to 14.2 percent achieved in the last three years. This projected slowdown reflects the extent to which downside risks to economic and revenue growth have been considered in the projections.

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND SPENDING EFFICIENCY IN
SOCIAL SECTORS**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, several interventions were made in regard to the budgetary allocations to the Social Sectors of Education, Health and Housing in relation to the quality of outcomes.

The Honourable Members, have expressed their support for the priority attention accorded to these basic enablers of our economic and social development.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, indeed, the quality and outcomes that are commensurate with the levels of spending in these Sectors remain a matter of national concern. I share this concern. The respective Line Ministries are seized with the implementation of the necessary reforms. From the Public Finance Management point of view, I have announced in this

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Budget that we will undertake targeted Public Expenditure Reviews, particularly in the Social Sectors; in order to assess outcome-based spending quality and value for money. No doubt, outcomes from such fund-tracking undertakings will contribute to the system reforms in these crucial Sectors.

In respect to the sector-specific measures to improve the efficiency of the systems and service delivery models, I am sure that my Honourable Colleagues who are heading those respective Ministries, will during the Committee Stage, when we discuss Votes, specifically provide the necessary details during the discussions of their Votes.

RELEVANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN THE BUDGET

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is general concurrence on the need to invest in efficient public infrastructure, especially in the Economic and ICT Spheres. Through interventions in this Sector, we have been able to build good harbour and road infrastructures. Funding is provided to refurbish the Railway Sector as a key component in trade facilitation and regional integration agenda. All these is with the overall goal of the establishment of a Logistic Hub in mind.

Concerns were raised over the risk of water shortages and their potential harmful impact on economic performance as well as the needs in the Electricity Generation Sector.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, water security is being addressed through the activities of the Department of Rural Water Supply of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the operations of Namwater.

Among the many initiatives underway in this area, are Water Recycling Programmes, improvements to treatment and reclamation facilities and efforts to encourage lower water consumption. Desalination is

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furthermore emerging as a viable option in the Water Sector. The Honourable Minister has recently stated that emergency and alternative water supply sources have been found to avoid a crisis in the central area.

On the Energy Sector, the capacity of some of the existing Power Generation Stations has been improved and new renewable power generation capacity has come on stream. Government's Policy stance on this area has adopted the aim of achieving energy self-sufficiency as soon as possible, while also diversifying our energy sources onwards toward Solar, Wind, Hydro and Biomass Energy Generation, areas in which there is great potential for Power Purchasing Agreements, thereby injecting competition and a diversified supply of energy.

As a result of the affordability concerns, the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project has had to be deferred.

In these crucial utilities of electricity and water, Government recognises the importance of pricing, both in ensuring that consumer's interests are kept at heart, and in maintaining the country's competitiveness as a place to do business.

With regard to the scarcity of serviced land in various Local Authorities, the Budget proposes scaled-up allocations for land servicing over the MTEF to fast-track delivery of affordable housing in line with the national commitment in this regard. These allocations and related budgetary support to various levels of Local and Traditional Authorities, will be made through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. I think the Traditional Authority should be replaced by Regional Authorities as there are various levels of Local and Regional Authorities.

With respect to the operations of Public Enterprises, I should state that repeated bailouts of some of these enterprises constitute a drain on State

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Coffers, while the underperformance of others denies the public reliable and efficient services. Hence, the ongoing review by the Ministry of Public Enterprises is timely.

The proposed assessment for partial listing of some of these entities is designed to reduce reliance on the Budget, regain efficiency and provide good returns to the shareholders, while improving the reliability of service delivery from these entities.

ALLOCATIVE EFFICIENCY ACROSS VOTES

Several interventions were made with regard to the relative weight of budgetary allocations to various Budget Votes.

The share of non-interest expenditure on the Social Sector has increased by 5 percentage points to 47 percent, reflecting the Government's commitment to improving access to services in this Sector. In spite of the fall in the overall non-statutory expenditure ceiling, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has seen its allocation rise by 13.0% to what is now at the ceiling of N\$12.79 billion, and the Ministry of Health and Social Services has likewise seen an increase of 11.4% to now N\$7.23 billion.

While the relative share of non-interest expenditure to the Economic Sector has moderated to 14 percent in Financial Year 2016/2017 from 16 percent in Financial Year 2015/2016, this reflects the streamlining of expenditure on non-productive outlays. Additionally, the Economic Sector benefits from the targeted capital budgetary transfers to Public Enterprises. This is the Sector in which Public Private Partnership arrangements and the leveraging of capital from the Private Sector can most contribute to infrastructure development.

I concur that in order to realise our *Growth at Home Strategy* and make a

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dent on poverty, improve the trade balance and stabilise the balance of payments, foster domestic productive capacity, food security and domestic agro-processing, we need to, among other interventions, improve both the budgetary allocation and productivity in the Agricultural Sector.

While the allocation to the Social Sector has been strengthened, the current need for expenditure consolidation requires that fiscal expansion be curtailed in order to stabilise public debt within sustainable levels and regain fiscal space that will subsequently allow us to provide optimal funding.

It is for this reasons that allocations to other Sectors have not expanded appreciably in this Budget and over the MTEF. It is only through this short-term adjustment that we ensure long-term sustainable operations.

As such, the allocation to the Defence Vote has been reduced from N\$7.23 billion in the Financial Year 2015/2016 to N\$6.60 billion proposed in the Budget as a result of the consolidation framework, but also to free up resources to protect gains in the Social and Economic Sectors, and without compromising on safety and security.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the National Defence is a professional force – I think the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has, in her Statement, very eloquently addressed that – which needs to be mobile to be able to cover the geographical spread of our vast country and our adjacent exclusive economic zone in the ocean. During times of civil national need, the force has provided the necessary support to social courses.

Additionally, Namibia – as a product of international solidarity and support – participates in regional and international peace keeping operations for which the Defence Force plays a critical role. Clearly, the reduction in the proposed allocation to Defence is a trade-off that has to be made, against the backdrop of an increasing need to improve the living, conditions of our servicemen and women.

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**BUDGET DEFICIT FINANCING AND SAFEGUARDS FOR DEBT
SUSTAINABILITY**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, with regard to the financing of the projected Budget Deficit for Financial Year 2016/20 17, I have indicated that an

amount of US\$190 million from the Eurobond proceeds has been set aside to support the financing of Budget Deficit.

The remainder of the financing needs will be sourced from the domestic market and, if need be, from the regional market.

Comments have been made in regard to the growth in public debt during the Financial Year 2015/2016. This was necessitated by the need to meet the budgetary commitments against the backdrop of lower-than-projected economic growth and revenue as well as the need to support the country's international reserve position. As I have stated, the expected gains in increased exports from recent new projects and the related moderation in heavy machinery imports for same projects will support the reserve rebuilding efforts over the long-term.

However, this does not take away the urgent need for accelerated and targeted measures to improve domestic productive capacity as we go forward.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, to conclude, allow me once again to express my gratitude for the support shown for the Budget by the Honourable Members and the public at large.

Significant emphasis was laid on the need for effective implementation of the Budget, Policy Reforms to amplify the impact of the Budget on development outcomes and innovative reforms to improve internal efficiency. This cannot be further re-emphasised.

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In this fiscal consolidation framework, we are called upon to work collaboratively for sustainable development results and to *do more with less*.

I may not have answered each and every question individually, but I have attempted to cover the main topics. My Cabinet Colleagues, as I said earlier, will surely be in the position to provide detailed clarifications, specific to their respective Votes and Sectors, when we have reached the Committee Stage.

With these remarks, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you all for your support for the *Appropriation Bill* of the Financial Year 2016/2017. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your brief response. I now put the question that the Bill be read the Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill for a Second Time.

APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2016]

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill* [B.1 – 2016].

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will now read the Third Order of the Day.

15 March 2016 **RATIFICATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER
ON THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF
DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
HON SHANINGWA**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON RATIFICATION OF THE
AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF
DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Ratification of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation and Local Development.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 2nd of March 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Honourable Van Den Heever adjourned the Debate and she is not here. Is there anyone who would like to take the Floor?

In the absence of any, does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?
Honourable Minister, do you wish to reply or adjourn the Debate?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. In the absence of the Member who postponed the Debate, I have nothing to respond to, because she was supposed to be here to either pose her questions or make a contribution. Therefore, there is nothing else for me to do, but to thank you all for the support.

HON MEMBER: *Iyaloo! (Applause)*

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that it, you have nothing to add? Okay. It is fine, I think I understand now.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Charter is very clear. The aims and objectives were attached to the Charter, therefore, I think we all have to support the Charter and ratified it. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know put the questions that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. This brings us to the end of today.

We are blessed with lovely rain. On this note, I would like to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr Sarah Kuugongelwa Amadhila to adjourn the House until Thursday, the 17th of March 2016. I was informed that there are no items on the agenda for tomorrow.

Please kindly adjourn the House until Thursday.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move that the House adjourns until this week, Thursday?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

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ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The usual time.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The House is adjourned until Thursday, at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:50 UNTIL 2016.03.17 AT 14:30
