

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEES

Mrs D Sioka

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

(21 March 2001 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr L Amathila (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister without Portfolio)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister of Presidential Affairs)</i>
Mr P Tseehama	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr Dr N Iyambo	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Works, Transport and Communication)</i>
Rev W Konjore	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr A Iyambo	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwa	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice and Attorney-General)</i>
Mr A G !Naruseb	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

(21 March 2001 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Safety and Security Development)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr P Kapia	<i>(Works, Transport and Communication)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Mrs)	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr R Ndinyando	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr K Kazenambi	<i>(Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

ACTING SECRETARY

Ms I Wellmann

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr B Ulenga	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr T Gurirab	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>
Ms E Dienda	
Mr R K Gertze	
Ms N Schimming-Chase	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura	<i>(Leader of the Opposition)</i>
Mr J De Waal	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

Mr P Moongo
Mr M Venaani *(Deputy Whip)*

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA

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

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA

Mr H Mudge *(Party Leader and Chief Whip)*

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*
Ms D Sioka *(Deputy Speaker)*
Mr N Angula *(Prime Minister)*
Dr L Amathila *(Deputy Prime Minister)*
Rev W Konjore *(Minister)*
Mr B Amathila *(Government Chief Whip)*
Mr H Booyis *(Deputy Chair of the Whole House
Committee)*
Mr R Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr E Kaiyamo
Ms L Basson
Ms H Christiaan
Dr H Geingob (Mr)
Ms T Mushelenga *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr P Mushelenga *(Assistant Whip)*
Ms M Mungunda *(Minister)*
Mr M Amweelo
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*
Mr B Esau *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr M Hausiku *(Minister)*
Mr P Iilonga *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms P Iivula-Ithana *(Minister)*
Dr A Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*
Dr N Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*
Mr J Kaapanda *(Minister)*
Mr V Simunja *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr G Shihepo *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr R Kamwi (Mr) *(Minister)*
Dr S Ankama (Mr)

Ms L Kasingo
 Mr H Hamutenya
 Mr U Nujoma *(Deputy Minister)*
 Mr J Pandeni *(Minister)*
 Mr I Katali *(Deputy Minister)*
 Dr A Kawana (Mr) *(Minister)*
 Mr L Jooste *(Deputy Minister)*
 Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila *(Minister)*
 Ms L Lucas *(Deputy Minister)*
 Mr N Mbumba *(Minister)*
 Ms A Muharukua *(Deputy Minister)*
 Mr K Kazenambo *(Deputy Minister)*
 Mr J Mutorwa *(Minister)*
 Mr J Nambinga
 Mr T Nambahu
 Ms E !Nawases
 Mr A G !Naruseb *(Minister)*
 Mr I Ngatjizeko *(Minister)*
 Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah *(Minister)*
 Dr E N Tjiriange (Mr) *(Minister without Portfolio)*
 Ms R Nghidinwa *(Minister)*
 Mr E Nghimtina *(Minister)*
 Ms P Haingura *(Minister)*
 Mr A P Tsheehama *(Minister)*
 Mr T Tweya *(Deputy Minister)*
 Mr R /Ui/o/oo

UNITED DEMORATIC FRONT

Mr J //Garoëb *(Party Leader)*
 Mr M Goreseb
 Ms G Tjombe *(Chief Whip)*

NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT

Mr R Diergaardt
 Ms I Hoffman
 Ms A Manombe-Ncube
 Mr C Namoloh *(Minister)*
 Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo *(Deputy Minister)*
 Mr P Smit *(Deputy Minister)*

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
02 JUNE 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Second Reading: *Appropriation Bill*.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any further discussion? Honourable Amathila.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to comment on the drive towards Black Economic Empowerment. None of this questions the need for de-racialisation of the economy and the transfer of ownership of the economy in an equitable manner for the benefit of all our people. Our policy for Black Economic Empowerment must be a broad-based initiative. We must also be conscious of the pitfalls that may defeat the very essence of Black Economic Empowerment. For example, loans are given to the blacks for business purposes, but then they are expected to repay these loans within a very short period. This they cannot do as the business ventures take some time to grow and become profitable. My suggestion is, therefore that commercial banks develop responsive loan schemes that are more favourably attuned to the Black Economic Empowerment entrepreneurs, so that a longer grace period can be given for these people.

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It is thus essential that our Development Bank of Namibia, together with other actors, play a pivotal role in the Black Economic Empowerment process. The State must also find strategies in which large corporations do not compete with upcoming businesses in an unfair way, a situation that would force smaller and new business out of operation. Such strategy may even have to include Infant Industry protection rules. The above approach will largely ensure that the Black Economic Empowerment programme does not leave any party bankrupt and out of business.

My following intervention is the situation among our Local Authorities in Namibia.

Over the past month and weeks we have seen public demonstrations in various towns in Namibia. At the same time, elected Councillors have accused one another of many transgressions and corrupt practices. Evidently, our towns' management is in chaos. Councillors spend valuable time on infighting and the administration of towns is left aside. We should note that this state of affairs spells disaster for our policy of decentralisation, as the lack of skills and commitment, as well as core understanding of rules and responsibilities of Councillors and administrators alike, seems to persist heavily.

Furthermore, whereas utility providers, such as NamPower and NamWater, need to be paid for their services, we must note that communities are poor and that unless some formula to arrest the water and electricity debt situation is found speedily, our towns stand to disintegrate totally. We may then have to degrade their status. Such a move would not be a very plausible policy alternative. At the same time, one does not wish to see Namibia's good name tarnished around the world as a country that denies its citizens access to basic services, such as water.

I am in consensus with the Honourable Minister of Finance that Namibia must improve the system to collect taxes more efficiently. In order to do this in a better way, my thinking is that perhaps we should think about the independent revenue authorities, such as the one in South Africa. This will help us to ensure that more and more people are brought under the tax net and we will thus enhance our tax collection regime.

I wish to express my full support for the Defence Budget. The Government has a constitutional responsibility to protect the citizens. To this end, the Namibian Defence Force must be ready at all times to defend the national borders effectively. It is common cause that the Namibian Defence Force needs sufficient equipment and military infrastructure as well as the upgrading of their living quarters, to be better trained and prepared. We must all be united in consistently improving our military infrastructure.

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Furthermore, it is common knowledge that the Tourism Sector is an important engine for economic growth and job creation. With the advent of community-based tourism, the industry has steadily improved the living standard of our rural communities. With this realisation, we must ensure that tourism promotion, coupled with the development of supporting infrastructures is secured. It appears, however, that Namibia falls far from widely promoting the country as a tourist destination of choice. We must rectify the situation and deploy greater financial resources to this sector.

Lastly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I conclude my speech and give full support to the Appropriation Bill. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Diergaardt and it is a maiden speech.

HON DIERGAARDT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, first allow me to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this very important Debate. May I also congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Ministry and, of course, the Members of Cabinet for a very responsible and realistic Budget? If this would be seen as my maiden speech, it will be the second time that I am privileged to deliver a maiden speech in this august House. I do not regard this as a mean privilege and to me this represents a second political life.

Since I left this Honourable House during 1993, I went on a life journey that took me to hell and back again, a journey which not only exposed the ugly face of unemployment, coupled with poverty, to me, but I also experienced the painful results thereof on my skin. To me this is, therefore, a second chance for which I will ever remain grateful to God. Very few people are offered a second chance and I am, therefore, also deeply indebted to His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for the trust which he has demonstrated in me through my appointment. I truly appreciate it and it will most certainly be one of my driving forces in the execution of my duties.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I also make use of this opportunity to congratulate you and all other Honourable Members with your election and in some instances, re-election to the National Assembly. In fact, the entire Namibian Nation deserves applause with the responsible manner in which major changes were dealt with in Government during the past few months. This is a sign of political maturity. It is clear that all who were involved with the budgetary process must have been very innovative and creative since the

resources were so limited while the expectations and needs exceed all boundaries. The Minister and all those involved could, however succeed in finding a balance and the product thereof is a balanced Budget, which, under the current circumstances, will go a long way in addressing the expectations and needs, even though it cannot fill all the gaps. I, therefore, fully support the Budget under discussion.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, even though I will participate in the discussion of certain specific Votes during the Committee Stage, I wish to make use of this opportunity to address three issues which rest heavily on me and to accentuate it and I shall refer to it often during my term of office, the first one being poverty.

The past ten years especially sensitised me in a practical manner to the needs of the needy and the suffering masses. It was not my first contact with this vulnerable group of people. The difference was that I was involved in aid programmes in the past, but this time I had to look on helplessly because I had to fight my own battle against unemployment and the consequent poverty. It is, therefore, against the background of this personal experience that I wish to speak on behalf of the poverty-stricken members of our society. I am doing so because I wish to commit myself to the plight of the poor. I further wish to identify myself anew with the outspoken and declared passion and care demonstrated by the past and present Heads of State of Namibia, as well as the broader SWAPO Government regarding the plight of the poor and the ongoing battle against poverty.

For many people in Namibia the primary occupation is a daily survival. Forward planning is a luxury they cannot afford. What people need is a worthwhile life, not just mere existence, not just simple survival. They must be able to live out their full human potential. Poverty is not confronting us with a problem, but with people living in a concrete situation against whom we have a responsibility, living people who challenge us because they are real. The poor is someone we must respond to as a person created in the image of the living God, in whose cry of anguish, pain and suffering we hear the voice of God, in whose humiliation we see the suffering of the God so afflicted by the infliction of His people. Even the Almighty God becomes passionately involved when He declares, "*I have seen the suffering of my people*". He does not remain neutral or aloof, but rather unconditionally and uncompromisingly side with the poor, the economically exploited and the socially rejected.

What makes this tragedy even worse is to see the child beggars on our streets. It is very tragic to see how our youth, our hope, our future being pushed aside by society. May I in this regard repeat the words of the former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa and I quote: "*There can be no clearer manifestation of the soul of a community than the way it treats children*".

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am aware of several efforts by Government, churches, schools and many community-based organisations to relieve the plight of the poor and all those selfless efforts should be welcomed with appreciation. The problem, however, is that we are all faced with limited resources. This fact, however, gives so much more impetus to the proposal to start a national dialogue regarding this issue. I am not implying that we should merely accommodate the poor by talking about them or through charity, emergency food conferences, workshops and resolutions. Instead, we should allow our agenda to be prescribed by the plight by the poor. We must learn to take risks for the sake of the poor. The idea behind such a national dialogue would be to establish a network to eliminate duplication in the battle against poverty and to ensure the effective application of the extremely scarce and limited resources.

Nobody can differ from His Excellency, President Pohamba, when he declares that the most effective manner in which poverty can be fought is through a well-designed and effective job creation programme. Even though the allocation of funds for capital projects has been diminished in this Budget compared to the previous book year, this Budget will succeed in its aim to create job opportunities if all funds allocated for capital projects are managed effectively. In this regard, there is much appreciation for the fearless manner in which the Government is stepping in to stem the tide of corruption in Line Ministries, as demonstrated by the thorough investigation into corruption, which is currently being undertaken.

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to discuss the concept of caring as a lifestyle. The universe is so structured that things do not quite work out correctly if men are not diligent in their concern for others. The self cannot be itself without other selves. I cannot reach fulfilment without thou.

Social psychologists tell us that we cannot truly be persons unless we interact with other persons. All life is inter-related, all men are caught within an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny, thus we need each other to serve each other and augment each other in the best interest of our beloved country.

When Archbishop Desmond Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 he mention the *Ubuntu* principle in his acceptance speech, which means a *person is a person through other persons*.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to speak about the principle of servant-hood. In this regard, I wish to mention that I return to this august House deeply aware of the demands of servant-hood. Francis Quarter said on occasion, "*he who lives for himself, lives for nobody.*" I am too aware of the fact that service demands selflessness and the willingness to give ourselves fully

to the cause.

Albert Schweitzer did not ask, “*What will happen to my prestige and security as a University professor and to my status as a Bach organist if I work with the people of Africa?*” Rather he asked, “*What will happen to these millions of people who have been wounded by the forces of injustice if I do not go to them?*”

The urgency of the hour calls for leaders of wise judgment and sound integrity, leaders not in love with money, but in love with justice, leaders not in love with publicity, but in love with humanity, leaders who can subject their particular egos to the greatness of the cause. May I paraphrase Holland’s words: “*God give us leaders, a time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands, leaders whom the lust of offers does not kill, leaders whom the spoils of life cannot buy, leaders who have honour, leaders who will not lie, tall leaders, sun-crowned, who live above the fog of public duty and private thinking.*” I thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable //Garoëb.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, may I, in the first instance before I come to the Budget, join the Head of State and the Government leaders by airing our heartfelt condolences to the families of the horrific accident outside Grootfontein. We are all shocked and clad in disbelief. God bless them all.

Let me secondly congratulate the new President, His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, and all Honourable Members of this House once again for achieving the high positions to serve our Nation. Let me also compliment His Excellency, President Pohamba, for the style and strength in which he took over his position as the second President of the Namibian Nation. He has surprised us positively by starting on his own basis, taking the leadership in his own hands in a decisive way and started well with some basic issues. The Pohamba Government has the full support of the United Democratic Front of Namibia in its fight against corruption, inefficiency in the Government and in all efforts to streamline, re-engineer and especially, decentralising the Government functions, building Namibia as a knowledge-based society, as set out in Vision 2030 and making the Government more transparent.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we also give credit to aims and objectives put forward in this Budget and policies trying to put the national deficit in order,

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success of lowering the inflation and some suggestions made like increasing the alcohol taxes. These policies are welcomed, but there is still ample room for improvement. The UDF has reason to believe that this Government has all chances to build the Nation and capable leadership.

His Excellency, the President, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Libertine Amathila, are as persons better equipped in skills and power to fight against diseases of poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and economic inequalities in the country. We only hope that there is enough political will to do what needs to be done. I also welcome back home the former Prime Minister, Honourable Hage Geingob. Namibia needs him right here.

Our first President, His Excellency, Dr Sam Nujoma, left a very commendable heritage for the Nation and his successors. Namibia must go on the liberation struggle again and fight, as a second phase action of economic equality, to get rid of the oppression caused by colonialism and apartheid regimes in the past. UDF wants to fight this struggle together with other democratic forces in Namibia. We, therefore, call for unity, a national unity and cooperation to be the key of winning the new struggle.

It is clear that we have a common enemy. It is no longer the Government of a foreign country, armies or other powers of physical violence of the past, but it is in many ways the same enemy, the same arrogance, to put it straight, the white capital which do not want to see economic equality in this country, because they are still willing to keep hold of their wrongly achieved interest in ownership of land, capital and real estate, to mention but a few. If we are in the struggle to be liberated from the evil of greediness of a few, based on the poverty of others, we must act as the fighters, using the realistic powers we have. There is no way to do justice by using illegal actions and physical power. Therefore, our liberation forces can only be legislators, strong Government and efficient legislation and regulations in the struggle.

This august House, with His Excellency, President Pohamba, as commander of the forces of Public Servants and Government as Executive, must start this liberation struggle as a decisive process where law is our weapon, justice our vision and reorganised, effective, fast, decisive, transparent and brave Government our strategy. We must rely on people and fight together. All ideas and innovations, unity and political will are needed. Therefore, UDF recalls what we have achieved with SWAPO in Lusaka in 1984 by joining forces against the common enemy, uniting efforts amongst those forces that were ready to push to needed reform and laws through.

Honourable Members, right now Namibia is in a crisis. We need policies and new governance to get this through. Today laziness, slow actions and decisions,

corruption and bossing over citizens is the way some people in our Public Service are behaving. Therefore, it is important to see this Budget Debate as a chance to find victorious strategies in the second phase of the liberation struggle and if so, the actions presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance are not yet enough to achieve victory.

However, before starting hammering and building on our Budget, let me compliment Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for bravely taking a firm stand against conservatism and inefficiency of our private financial sector, the banks. I see this as a warning from Government's side to the banks to move from colonial attitude of supporting only existing interests of white capital, rather than a position of helping the development of the Nation as a whole. It will not help us should the Government remain silent and close its ears for the shortcomings of our banks. It must use all powers of legislation to bring about a change. Legislative reform is seriously needed.

Honourable Members, we remember very well the stands which international finance institutions, such as the IMF, the African Development Bank and the World Bank, have taken in support of privatisation of financial institutions, Public Enterprises and State-Owned Enterprises, which is a good strategy if implemented to address the needs of the Nation. However, the end-result of this policy remains the same, namely continuation of greed and the deepening of poverty.

I am not saying that IMF, the African Development Bank and the World Bank should intrude into our Nation's affairs, but they are, to my mind, strategically placed, with sound technical expertise to guide the process that should ultimately lead to the empowerment of Namibia. How can the economy flourish if small and medium enterprises and other businesses do not have access to finances? How can the economy flourish if the majority of black people are still discriminated against by the existing financial services to own assets?

I know that the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Finance are fully aware of this situation. Hence, we seriously need legislative reform to support the empowerment and socio-economic process in Namibia. I am not for nationalisation of banks, but I am saying very clearly that if radical changes are not forthcoming in this privately owned financial sector, we might not be left with any other alternatives.

It is completely unacceptable that after 15 years of Independence, Namibian citizens still do not have the right of access, like owning real estate because banks have no real will to create systems for this. This responsibility is only left to the Public Sector. It is somehow tragic that the same banks supporting apartheid policies of black people not having the right to own estate properties

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are now asking guarantees of real estate or collateral or high financial contributions as the only reliable assets from the borrower before even discussing the loans.

In our second struggle, therefore, we must hit back to cause changes from privileges for a few to interest of many. Namibia is still a colony of South African capitalism and money-owners. All our key private services are in practice owned by South African companies through transfer prices. Money consumed in Namibia does not support our own economy, but flows back where it has been flowing before Independence. Is this development, which the IMF, the African Development Bank and the World Bank have been looking for?

Unemployment is on the rise, it will soon reach 40%. More than half of our young people under 30 years are unemployed. Land reform is not moving, 240,000 people are asking for ownership of land while 4,500 still own the farmland. Only less than 900,000 hectares of the 31 million hectares Namibians owned in 1884 before the Germans colonisers came have been returned to the original owners after Independence through Government actions. We do not want the Government to interfere drastically to change ownership, but as with the banks, there may eventually be no other alternative. On the land issue the tolerance level has been passed. There is a need for completely new policies and radical reform to make justice happen.

Honourable Members, the global economy is in a shakier situation than Government seems to believe. I have complimented the Government already for actions of dropping the inflation rate, but let me ask one very simple question: How is it possible that changes in currencies in the last five years have not made US products in Namibia over 50% cheaper? We do not see it in any US-based product consumer prices nor do we have cheaper cars, Coca-Cola or American consumer products? The same question can be asked on the imports from the Euro Region. What is our Government doing? If our export industry is suffering and we are paying for the huge deficit of the Bush Administration, do we have to do it at a double loss?

The strong Namibian Dollar can lead us into more serious problems than the Honourable Minister of Finance is estimating. The latest study on future expectations among German industries shows the most pessimistic figures in twenty years. A strong Rand is also a much bigger threat for the South African economy than we can ever believe. This may lead us into the situation where our main export partners are falling into deeper trouble than the Government now foresees. I recommend, Honourable Minister of Finance that you study what happened in small countries in Europe ten to fifteen years ago when currencies were over-estimated.

The outlook of primary industries of Namibia is very modest, most probably

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over-optimistic of the exchange rate fluctuation effect and shows that our own resources are not giving back the income needed to develop the country. We would need, instead of USA, 30% to 50% devaluation to benefit the fruits of growing export income to increase the profitability of export industries, such as mining, fishing and beef.

Now we are in double trouble. Export prices are too high, while in relation to import prices the levels are staying high and limit the income of a growing consuming in internal economy. The reason for high consumer prices is clear, because most of our consumer services are served by South African companies, hence the benefits never cross the borders to Namibia, but stays in banks and companies of South Africa. This is an economical colonialism at worst, arrogant theft every day in our lives, which happens in front of our own eyes. Here we have an issue for the strategy of second stage of the liberation struggle. A good weapon for the Government may be taxation of foreign theft and tax support for own companies.

We must also see the figures in this document, comparing our Nation's competitiveness with our neighbours. We grow slower than Botswana, Angola, Zambia, not to mention South Africa. Why? Do we not work as hard as they do or are there structural things that make us weaker while our country is rich in natural resources?

His Excellency, Dr Nujoma and, therefore, the SWAPO Party was right in the call for the second liberation struggle of Independence, but the liberation army seems to be led by old soldiers whose ideas and strengths are not enough in the new battlefield. You need us all to join forces. We all know that the real world forced SWAPO's political leaders to change their code from Socialist reform to market economy in a short time. It was a tough lesson to be learned and now when we should find the third Namibian way between the two failures, there are too much to be asked.

If our Government stays inefficient and reforms take too long, if we do not find a wider base for our exports, if we cannot strengthen our Independence in fundamental sectors of the economy, in services of public and private sector and if we allow the white capital to slow down changes, our Government will work at the same slow speed. Who wins the liberation then?

Honourable Members, when we see our economic and social needs in building the strategy for second phase of the liberation struggle, the following facts must be repeated. Let me give you the seven most serious problems of Namibia today.

Our biggest problem is inequality. Namibia is one of the most unequal countries in the world, judging by the economic equity standards. More than

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20% of children live in poverty-stricken households. People in Khomas Region earn on average N\$11,400, while people in Ohangwena Region in the North earn on average N\$1,070. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House may rise for tea-break.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Problem number two is death. Namibia is literally dying in many ways. (Interjections) Listen to the statistics. The number of HIV/AIDS orphans is growing like a nightmare. From 1995 to 2003 over 30,000 children lost their parents and, sadly, the estimation for 2021 is that there will be 190,000 orphans among us. By 1991, Namibian women gave birth to six children, today they give birth to four, 33% less. If you add these figures to the following numbers, you will understand the crisis of the death of our motherland ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Chief a question for clarity's sake? Just to clarify a point, the Chief talks about the number of children women gave birth to, but could the Honourable Chief give us the number of children that men gave birth to so that we can get the complete picture?

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will try to get the statistics and come back during the course of the Budget. There are 33% less births. If you add these figures to the following numbers, you will understand the depth of our motherland's crisis. The life expectancy of Namibians has dropped from 63 years for females and 59 years for males in 1991 to 45,3 years in 2003 and lately already under 43 years. After 15 years of Independence, the life expectancy has dropped by 17 years.

Now we come to the third problem, namely the problem of unemployment. The national unemployment percentage in Namibia was 33,8% in 2003 and is still

increasing to 36% in 2004.

Problem number four: Our youth is in a crisis. Over two-thirds of Namibians are under thirty years old. Our children do not have work. 46,4% of young Namibians of the age of 20 to 24 were unemployed in 2001. 110,000 young Namibians, which are 59% of all unemployed people, were without work. 4,500 young Namibians of the age of 15 to 30 were already in prison in 1998 and today it must be extremely high. One in three schoolchildren cannot complete secondary school. This educational sentence for life is one of the main reasons for our youth problems – early sex, drugs, alcohol misuse and crime and the ever-present HIV/AIDS pandemic. The doom of life sentence in Grade 10 is a disgrace, a heavy burden on our children. A way must be found to eradicate this.

Problem five is HIV/AIDS. The message is not yet well understood. In spite of all HIV/AIDS information, only 28,2% of all our women have ever used a condom and only 8,9% of all Namibians are currently using condoms. Think about it while you know that already 116,000 people out of 1,8 million Namibians were HIV-infected in 2002. Think about it if approximately 6% of Namibians are infected and medication is not readily available.

Problem six: Women are also under threat in our society. Every year 15,000 Namibian women are raped. Every fifth violent crime against women happens at home. Three hundred child abuse cases are reported annually to the Police, but the truth is much worse.

Problem 7 is Colonialism. It is still here, this time an economic colonialism. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we must respect our people's right to self-determination of the individual and the reciprocal responsibility of the State to protect and promote the individual citizens which make it up. Every day we are faced with the conflict between property and dignity. The dignity of people must be set as a priority. The money-owning or advanced rights based on misuse of power should never be allowed in future to be in front anymore, as happened in earlier times.

Our target must be to make the Government rational and its institutions as service institutions with highly decentralised structures where the frontline is not in the centre, but in local levels among the people and their institutions.

We see the African future through education and knowledge. We must try to move away from a SWAPO Government to a constitutional Government, multi-party representative democracy and the Rule of Law. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: Honourable Chief //Garoëb, may I direct a small question to you? Honourable Chief //Garoëb, you are a much respected leader both in this House and outside, but to avoid any misunderstanding, would you clarify the statement that we must move away from a SWAPO Government to a constitutional Government? What does that mean if the basis of electing a Government is based, first, on the Constitution, secondly, on the law that was passed in this House and through those instruments, a Party is elected to form a Government. Could you clarify that statement so that there is no misunderstanding?

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me clarify it this way. SWAPO is the governing Party of the Namibian Government. It does not own the Government, as is the attitude in this august House.

The UDF, by nature, is a radical front of change of inequalities in the society, but a very tolerant movement, supporting positive human rights of individuals as long as they are not used against others. Yes, there must always be a balance between the public and private sector, no longer only by regulation but rather by the smart partnerships referred to in Vision 2030. The public decision-making must turn faster and make the private sector more transparent and more responsible to the societies surrounding it. Decentralisation, using e-governance, is a mechanism to ensure institutional integration.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, while I am concluding, let me move away from the philosophy and come back to the essence of the Budget. Let us, first, look back to the two major positive trends of this Budget, an endeavour for which we compliment the Honourable Minister so much. We seem to be living within our means. The Budget deficit of 1,2% of the GDP and deficit estimates over the next three years are encouraging. The focus is on the right areas, namely education, health and other social services.

On the negative side, I would like to concentrate on the following: Firstly, the Ministry of Defence is getting more money than the Police are although crime is a big challenge in the country. The Ministry of Defence's needs for new equipment, uniforms, offices and accommodation could definitely have been phased in over three years. People need to feel safe in the country and for that the Police need more money.

Too much money is going to Air Namibia again. Whilst I agree that tourism is important and that Air Namibia plays a key role, this does not mean we need to continue pumping billions of dollars into the airline. They have to stand on their own feet and generate own revenue.

Expenses on salaries constitute 45% of the total expenditure. It is a known fact by now that we need to have plans in place to reduce this high expenditure on salaries as to spend money on productive sectors in the economy.

Proposed tax on unit trust companies is not good for individuals. Rather tax companies and exempt interest income of individual members of our society who are saving. We need to encourage savings so that the Government is not the only one to look after our citizens in their old age and retirement. Compulsory savings should be considered for retirement.

Let me come to some proposals. The Budget is not only about money being allocated to the various Ministries, but also indicates the policy direction and priorities. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Round up, Chief.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, let us come to Parastatals. We should use the Parastatals to propel economic growth in Namibia. For example, TransNamib, with the railway line to create jobs, facilitate transportation of goods and services and boost economic growth, need to invest on their own and not wait for the Government to provide resources for investment.

NAMPOWER: Investment in our own energy resources will go a long way in reducing poverty, creating jobs and accelerating economic growth.

TELECOM: Investment in fixed lines to rural areas and in new technology will not make us only competitive, but will keep the economy growing. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: On a Point of Order. I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the new management of TransNamib has turned the company around and it is working very well now.

HON GAROËB: We can make more than N\$1 billion by selling in a controlled, selective manner small stakes in Telecom Namibia, NamPower, Air Namibia, MTC, Airports Company, NamPort. Our neighbours have done it

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successfully without selling out the country, as some people might want to call it.

EDUCATION: It is common knowledge that our current education system has failed us. Whilst the amount allocated to education is commendable, we need to ensure we are not spending on a system that has failed us, but on one, which will provide the skills needed for the country. I thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker and I happily rest my case and accept the Appropriation Bill. We support you, Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Chief. Honourable Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am starting this Fourth Parliament with renewed strength when I see a female Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Speaker. I congratulate you, Colleagues.

Let me join others in congratulating the Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and staff members of those offices for presenting a balanced Budget and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Budget before us is one of those challenging ones to all of us, not only Members of this Honourable House, but all members of our society. This Budget is calling on all of us to be prudent in the use of public funds and not to be selfish in ensuring that all Namibians have benefited from the resources of this country.

Emphasis on effective collection of revenue is a welcome call and should be a responsibility of all Namibians who by law are to pay taxes. Tax avoidance is a crime, immoral and an obstacle on our way to address the social and economic challenges faced by our people. We must pay our taxes willingly and not always wait even to the point that legal action is to be taken that costs the State money. We must be patriotic and have compassion for fellow Namibians who can only be taken care of by Government through tax collections from individuals and institutions.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, we as a Nation submit to Vision 2030 and we can only realise that if we all think, plan and act as Namibians at all times. Namibia is not an island but part of the global village. As such, in pursuance of our set

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goals for development, we have to consider the international economic system and other instruments used to bring about economic growth and development. I would like to refer here to the information society that has become part of the international consideration. We all know that in the world of today we cannot escape from the use of information and communication technology. Research has shown that in order to decentralise information, we have to use multi-media phases in order not only to reach out to the majority of the people, but also to let the information flow from all spectrums of life in our country. We must be reminded that ICT is a powerful tool in the fight against poverty. It is a tool for development. ICT should be part of the development of our media and communication plan in our development agenda, as it links to the already existing social networks aimed at improving and promoting social progress in both industrial and poor societies.

It is evident that ICT can be used to enhance and strengthen the social network and should be developed where there is a linkage in order to empower populations in both rural and remote areas of our country. ICT can help us build our capacity to bring out both the tangible and intangible ideas from the marginalised communities. They can help us to bring out the voices of the marginalised people and promote innovative zeal for development once they have access to information.

Against that background, Namibia cannot afford to lag behind on the area of information communication technological age, hence a need for the Government and the private sector to be close partners in the development of ICT.

When addressing students at the University of Dar-Es-Salaam on the 29th of May 2005, His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba reminded the young people of Africa that Africa is left behind because as a continent it has failed to develop Africa's technology and skills to compete with the developed countries.

As we plan our programme and implement modalities in our areas of competency, we must remember to include components of ICT, such as the use of community radio and other multi-media centres through which the local communities can seek information and share their experiences with other people of the world.

When introducing the e-governance in Namibia, in his message Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, the then Namibian Prime Minister then, had this to say:

“The many challenges in building an information society is to harness the potential of ICT to promote the Millennium Development Goals and targets for 2015, namely to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal

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primary education, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, to ensure environmental sustainability and develop global partnerships.”

That statement makes it clear to us that as a Nation we cannot afford not to be part of the world information society. However, what we have to know is that ICT tools can only be useful to those who can master them and make use of them to provide better and good services. If not, they will become more expensive and get deeper into the national assets to the benefit of a few.

The implementation of ICT should begin right at the educational level in order to empower students and learners on how to use and develop those communication tools within society. It is then we can be in control of their use, because in future we will be able to produce them ourselves rather than keeping on importing and transferring the technology from other countries.

It cannot be financially viable to put up a mechanised system when you have no people to maintain it. The result will be that someone will always have to be brought in when there is a breakdown and the result is that time and money will be wasted and services will not be provided. It is a disservice to the nation to have modern means of communication and information dissemination if it is only accessible to the few, for example those in towns, to the disadvantage of those in rural areas.

I am fully cognisant that ICT is capital intensive, however if well managed, the output will bypass the capital invested. That is why I will keep on calling on the Private Sector and the Government to coordinate in this area. We need to train more people in ICT. In any case, the aim is for all Namibians to be ICT literate if we have to achieve the Vision 2030 objectives.

Against that background, it is important for our children to be introduced to computers from pre-primary and throughout their education. We also need to train more ICT technicians. Similarly, Africa as a continent needs to work together on ICT to develop the continent's capacity for research and to develop in that field. India is known to be one of the poor countries, but now that India and China have invested in ICT, they are today the leading exporters of ICT hardware and software. They are being outsourced by big countries such as America and Britain or in short, the developed countries.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, let me quote from the SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto 2004:

“The benefits of ICT should be spread to every village and corner of the country, linking the country's inhabitants to the rest of the world and give them an equal opportunity to take part in the information age.”

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To sum up, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this Honourable House... (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the Honourable Minister, but the Honourable Minister keeps on referring to ICT and sometimes ITC. What is this thing and is it inter-changeable? Can the Minister please explain?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: I am referring to information communication technology. You can also talk about communication technology. I am talking about ICT and CT.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, before that useful intervention to enable me to educate the Member on this technology, I was saying that I want to draw the attention of this Honourable House to the information and communication technology policy for the Republic of Namibia, that among other things... (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask a question? I just want to know how many Ministries have implemented e-systems up to now?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: I am sure if we read the Reports just introduced by the Prime Minister, we will be able to get that answer. However, I can tell you that e-governance is receiving the attention of Government, but what I am addressing here is what we should pay attention to as a Nation.

In that particular policy, among other things, it underlines that ICT has a vital role in the development process of our country and we have to take cognisance of that.

Finally, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am convinced that based on the strong foundation created by our Founding President, His Excellency, President Nujoma, and today under the leadership of His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the whole Cabinet and, indeed, all Members of Parliament, I am sure we will be able to realise the goals of Vision 2030. What it states is "*unity of purpose*". I

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support the Appropriation Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Comrade Deputy Speaker, let me at the outset associate myself with the remarks of the Minister of Environment and Tourism on the conduct of business in this House for the last two days. Yesterday and the day before I thought the dignity and the decorum of the House... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I just want to provide some information to Honourable Gurirab. I think Chief //Garoëb has used up all the time allocated to the Opposition Parties. We should be consistent with the time. If we have allocated a certain time to the Opposition Parties, we should stick to it. I just want consistency.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The consistency is there, I did consult with the Prime Minister that I have this situation on hand and what I should do? He said I must allow them to speak. I think we should respect our leaders.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, my Colleagues who took the Floor before me have already in a fulsome manner congratulated yourself and your senior partner who have been elected to preside over the business of our House. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: What partnership is the Honourable Member referring to? I thought there are a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker. I do not understand the “partnership” here. It sounds a bit suspicious.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Gurirab, can you explain what partnership are you talking about?

HON T GURIRAB: I will not go into an English lesson. Honourable Deputy Speaker ... (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I am very sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, but he made reference to me at the very beginning, which I did not follow, what it was all about. If he could just inform me about what he was saying about me at the beginning?

HON T GURIRAB: What I was saying as regards the Minister of Environment is that I associate myself with your concerns about the conduct of business in this House for the last three days.

Deputy Speaker, I was saying that I associate myself with what my Colleagues have already done in congratulating you for your new position and that of your senior partner. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is a pity that I have to rise again, but I think the Honourable Member needs to withdraw that reference, because there are no partners here and if my understanding is correct, the person he is referring to is the Honourable Speaker of the House. Why does he not refer to him as the Speaker?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Gurirab, you are a senior Member of this Parliament, you know what terms to use. Can you withdraw the word “partnership?”

HON T GURIRAB: I did not use that one.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Senior partner.

HON T GURIRAB: It stands withdrawn. It is not my intention to give English lessons here.

Deputy Speaker, we also extend our good wishes to the Right Honourable Prime Minister and his able Deputy, Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila, in their

new roles. From our side they can expect unambiguous support in courses and programmes intended to promote the welfare and security of all our people, but Honourable Deputy Speaker, we shall at the same time be critical partners, engaging the Government in open and robust Debates on its programmes and management of our common wealth and that is exactly what the Appropriation Bill under consideration is all about, about the management of our common wealth.

The Government of the day is entrusted to tax justly and fairly, but also spend prudently. In that sense the Appropriation Bill every year is one of the most important pieces of legislation tabled in this august House for consideration. It sets out how Government plans to expend the citizens' money in its custody on its planned programmes.

In a small country such as ours, Deputy Speaker, and in a small economy such as ours, the size of Government that is in terms of its expenditure is disproportionate and Government can, therefore afford quite legitimately to use its spending power in a manner to achieve certain social and political targets. For example, if Government wanted to support the local development of some generic pharmaceutical drugs for local production or pencils, for example, its annual consumption constitutes a sufficient critical mass to encourage the development of local industry in those areas.

However, as a country we seem to have foreclosed national Debates on these issues, as Government simply repeats ideological dogma from WTO and the Washington Consensus as some mantra, but we shall return to this theme later. Suffice to say for now that Government should not look at the Budget in a static fashion of income output, but as a dynamic tool for steering public policy and economic development.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this year's Budget is a courageous act as it contains a host of noble ideas on the management of public finance. We welcome those measures as well as those relating to the management of the public debt. Our public system faces a crisis of efficiency, efficacy and delivery. Our governance is becoming a matter of grave concern. Numerous Commissions of Inquiry at State-Owned Enterprises in recent years are not a sign of good governance. On the contrary, they represent a glaring failure of governance. They represent failure by Board and management to steer the business of those corporations properly. It reflects on the poor selection of Directors of those boards by the Government and in turn, it represents a lack of stewardship over these public resources by these would-be Directors.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in private companies, the Directors are held accountable by the shareholders for the performance of their investments and they are criminally liable for any reckless action in terms of the Companies Act.

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It is our belief that directors of State-Owned Enterprises should bear the same fiduciary burden.

Governance at Local and Regional Councils has all but collapsed. Regional Councils are in breach of statutory requirements of the Regional Councils Act (Act 22 of 1992) which requires them to file annual returns of income and expenditure. This is in order to enable us an insight into how public funds are expended and to explore further avenues for resource mobilisation. The Ministry tasked with the oversight of the Regional Councils, for its part, is mum. Yet we are being told that more powers and responsibilities will be transferred to these levels.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as you are aware, the management or the lack thereof at the Local Authorities is now a national scandal.

Incompetence, pilferage, inter-party strife has now paralysed service-delivery to residents of most towns and villages. Again, despite clear responsibilities in terms of relevant legislation, the responsible Ministry and the Government as a whole are impudent or, worse still, indifferent to the plight of the ratepayers. So much for the concept of good governance.

Good governance, Deputy Speaker, does not mean regular elections only, but it requires transparency in the conduct of public affairs. It requires accountability and compliance with the laws and regulations we ourselves put in place for the delivery of Public Services.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, you are aware that our Civil Service subscribes to a Public Service Charter made up of nine points, at least in theory. These are standards, information, courtesy and helpfulness, consultation and choice, accountability, openness, non-discrimination, quality service and value for money. Who would have any quarrel with that? However, despite these lofty principles, the public out there are short-changed and complain daily about poor treatment they suffer at the hands of these Public Servants. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Gurirab, you have referred to the Public Service Charter. In that Charter there will be some recourse action, telephone numbers given so that an aggrieved persons can call and complain. How many people laid complaints and did not get recourse and help from the Government? There is a name to be given by a person and I have tested them that time, I will call, answer, and give their names. Have those who are complaining followed that procedure?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will not be able to answer

the Honourable Member directly because I am not the manager of that system. I raise these issues of governance during this Budget Debate because poor or mal-governance results in waste of resources, both of money and of time. It leads to what we professional economists refer to as misallocation of resources.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the size and rapid growth of public debt is a matter of concern. It is a matter we have raised again and again during the past Budget Debates, yet it is an issue which will serve no one's purpose by saying, "*we told you so*", because there is an inverse relationship between the size of public debt and future prosperity of our country, that is to say if our debt stock grows, our future revenues will largely be committed to servicing debt at the expense of social delivery and economic growth in future.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is for this reason that we welcome the Minister's announcement on handling of future guarantees and loans. From my own experience as a former Civil Servant and trustee and Chairman of GIPF, this is an area where an absence of responsible policy was always shocking. Ours is also a unique country where we export billions of dollars in capital and go out to solicit foreign investments and foreign currency denominated loans. This makes no economic sense. We need to interrogate our national economic philosophy. For now, Government lives by the slogan of "*Private Sector is the engine of growth*" and narrows Government's role to that of a midwife the so-called enabling environment.

Deputy Speaker, this is our submission, in a developing country such as ours where individual savings are low, where technology is backward and where there is death of skills, Government must play an active catalytic role in development and economic growth. The model, which the Government has been sold and which it followed lock, stock and barrel will keep us in perpetual servitude, poverty and backwardness.

It is for these reasons, that we must express our disappointment with the woefully little our country has been able to achieve in resource-based economic development. We must use our resources, our God-given natural resources, in partnership with others offering technology and know-how to create jobs and wealth for our country's not so large population. A frontal attack on poverty can only be made by creating real jobs, that is, not by increasing the size of the number of Public Servants by appointing more and more spokespersons and more and more deputy spokespersons of Ministries, but by assisting in the growth of the entrepreneur class. In this regard, there is a need to rationalise Government's development financing delivery institutions. We fail to understand why it takes this long to wind up the NDC, for example. We fail to understand why it should take this long to transfer the assets and liabilities of the Development Fund to the NDB. We fail to understand the snail's pace at which the newly established NDB considers applications and I am told they are

still considering applications, they have not granted a single loan. We can only expect results in these areas, Deputy Speaker, if we work as entrepreneurs and not as lethargic bureaucrats.

Whilst we welcome the efforts in aquaculture, for example, given our resource base, we believe our country should be a significant player in the beneficiation of fish and other marine resources. Instead, our Government is satisfied with *Mickey Mouse of Fishcor*. Our country is a fishing power, we should add more value to fish and in the process create more and more jobs and increase State revenue.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Government's approach in the area of land reform to date has been limited and ineffectual. Government's land reform policy rests on two wobbly legs of resettlement and affirmative action loans. In fact, the Affirmative Action Loan and the Resettlement Schemes are a grandiose and elaborate hoax. Last year a visit by a Parliamentary team to the Otjozondjupa Region showed, amongst others, that the resettlement units are either unviable at an average of 400 hectare of land or where they are sizeable, where land up to 3,000 hectares of land are allocated to Civil Servants, these settlers have no title over this land and thus locked out of any credit. Therefore, you give people land and then they sit there, to do what with the land?

In Omaheke, the settlers in the Kalahari Constituency at places such as Gemsbok, Blouberg and Dankbaar are sitting without any water or support from Government and these areas are rapidly becoming marginal communal areas. Therefore, Government's resettlement policy neither contributes to social development, nor to economic advancement, yet Government under-spends habitually, annually on its N\$50 million Budget. What is the point of having N\$50 million if you are going to spend only N\$2 million annually?

It is the same tale for the affirmative action farmers. Weekly we read about the repossession of affirmative action farms and many more are facing the Sword of Damocles. Instead of contributing to the economy and economic growth and Government revenue, these unfortunate citizens may soon become wards of the State.

In conclusion, Deputy Speaker, we welcome the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and the implied financial discipline thereof. The Minister has our full support to reign in the runaway expenditure and the shift away from line to programme budgeting. We must conduct our business in such a manner not to mortgage the future of our country. We are all partners in this process. I thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Loide Kasingo.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I stand to make a short intervention to the Debate on the current Budget, as presented by Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to recognise the entire membership of the SWAPO Party who voted en masse to ensure that SWAPO Party gained more than two-thirds to the Parliament in which I am accommodated.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, at the centre of this victory, may I single out the visionary leadership and wisdom of the President of the SWAPO Party and the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Shafishuna Nujoma. I wish him strength and good health during his retirement period. I have no doubt that he will continue sharing with us his wisdom to shape and reshape the Nation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we as lawmakers are not here in a vacuum, we are connected by umbilical cord to the other branches of the Government, namely the Executive and the Judiciary. Hence, good governance policies and democratic values, as expressed by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba, should be backed up by implementable dynamic laws, laws that are able to change in accordance with the changing needs of our Nation. It is against this background that I wish His Excellency, President Pohamba, strength and wisdom from above to lead the Nation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in making my short intervention, I will quote an important phrase, which I regard as central to my intervention.

Firstly, Vision 2030, in describing the many challenges facing the Namibian Nation and how to overcome them, states *inter alia*: “*In order to achieve our aim for the future, we must all work together to resolve the problem that confronts us as a Nation. A national long-term vision provides the direction in which all partners should be moving, including Government, Non-Governmental Organisations, private sector, university, community, civil society, international development partners. A vision provides a strong framework for cooperation and collaboration.*”

This previously mentioned statement was echoed by the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, when he delivered his last State of the Nation Address on the 24th of April 2004 and stated, *inter alia*,

“Here in Namibia we have embarked upon the second phase of our struggle to bring about economic prosperity to all Namibians. This demands unity of purpose in all what we do, so that we can safeguard the interests of the Namibian people without compromise.”

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the centre of these two phrases emphasises the need for collaboration, working together to meet the Central Government halfway. I call it, in my own words, “*burden-sharing*”.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, while our international development partners are doing their level best to meet our Central Government halfway, in particular the social sector, education and health, I am afraid to state that our local private sector institutions and Parastatals are doing the minimal.

Let us look at the job market. I have been saying that industrial peace is a condition *sine quo non*, for democracy, peace and stability for any democratic country. I am sad to note industrial disharmony, in particular in the fishing industry, where retrenchment is the order of the day. Honourable Deputy Speaker, in any democratic Government the employer must be obliged to open their books so that the workers will be able to see whether they are making profit or loss. In Namibia, this is regarded as taboo and as interference with the private affairs of the company. I call for transparency in this field. The companies should open their books. If there is a loophole in the Labour Act, it should be brought back here so that we can close that loophole and that is why I am saying we must make dynamic laws.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe in high productivity. At the same time, I also believe that high productivity is equal to highly motivated labour. Labourers are motivated, amongst others, when they are ensured of job security, a decent living wage and ownership. With ownership, I mean, for example, in the Fishing Sector. Apart from retrenching workers, these companies, which are making big profits, could think in terms of giving shares to the workers.

This in turn will lead, slowly but surely, to the reduction of poverty, narrowing the gap of inequality, lead to industrial peace, which in turn will lure investments locally and from abroad, which will create jobs.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let us briefly look at education. If we accept a notion that education is the core to development, then we must apply Affirmative Action to provide quality education to this sector, in particular in the rural areas. I am happy to note that every year the Central Government is giving half of the National Budget to education, but unfortunately, the Private Sector is doing nothing to meet the Government halfway in sharing the burden. Look at some institutions, such as the Government Institutions Pension Fund, which is boasting to be billionaires, but it is sad to note that this institution is

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not involved in building schools, hostels and clinics in Rural Areas. I would like to urge that certain Parastatals must be allocated a number of students in Regions and they must also be obliged to build schools in Regions, depending on how much that Region was neglected, etcetera.

The Private Sector is also obliged to do something and here I would like to single out a unique citizen of this country, the owner of Mount Etjo. He built a school for the kids of his farm workers and even the late Werner List did the same thing for his employees. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am calling upon men and women, black and white, with money to part voluntarily with the money to meet the Government halfway.

On the crime front, Honourable Deputy Speaker, this House has passed many laws – the Criminal Procedures Act, the Anti-Corruption Act, Domestic Violence Act and many others. These Acts need a well-qualified, specialised unit in the Police Force and well-motivated Prosecutors to make a positive impact on the criminal justice system.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am sad to note that the Budget of the Police Force has been cut. Maybe the component of S&T of Deputy Ministers and Ministers must be transferred to their specific Ministries, so that we can shift the burden and control it there. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Comrade Kasingo, would you suggest to Honourable Peter Tsheehama that the S&T of our VIP staff could be transferred to the Ministries who are responsible for the programmes? If that is what you are suggesting, then I support you fully.

HON KASINGO: Comrade Deputy Speaker, another component of burden sharing is on crime and by us in the National Assembly as lawmakers. Every now and then, we bring proposals on crime, but not a single person here has said that “*in my Region, in my Traditional Authority I have done this or that.*” We must move from a proposal-oriented approach to action.

In rounding up, we as lawmakers are holding hands to come up with deterrents for violence against women. We seem to look at the rapists as if we are implementing the Namibian Defence Force slogan on landmines, “*Do not touch it. Report it.*” We must do something to meet the Government halfway. In short, this is my contribution. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Kasingo. Honourable Minister !Naruseb.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me to use this opportunity in joining my fellow Members of this august House who congratulated the outstanding leadership that was rendered to this Nation by the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Dr Sam Nujoma, together with his co-leaders who were very instrumental in shaping the initial destiny of our country and under the co-leaders I definitely include the founding Prime Minister, Comrade Hage Geingob, and the team that was part of the Cabinet. I want to repeat the same sentiments for the founding Speaker of the Republic of Namibia. We all experienced his sterling leadership that he was granting to this House. The same sentiments are repeated for the new leadership in the person of the current President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the current Prime Minister, Comrade Angula, and Comrade Libertine Amathila. We all know what they are capable of. I am sure and very positive that with our support and the support of this House, they will be acquitting themselves superbly of their responsibilities.

I also want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for a job well done in presenting the Budget under Debate to this House. At the same time, I would like to make the following observations:

Women make up a substantial majority of the Namibian population. However, if we compare the lives of the Namibian inhabitants, we would discover that women and children experience the harshest deprivation.

They are poorer, malnourished, and less likely to receive medical services, clean water, sanitation and other benefits. The prevalence of female-headed households, the lower earning capacity of women and their limited control over their spouses' income all contribute to this disturbing trend. In addition, women have less access to education, formal sector employment and, consequently, social security benefits. Women form part of the rural-urban migrants and many even comprise the majority of the urban population. Historically many of these women were simply accompanying their spouses. A growing number of single women migrated to big towns and cities, such as Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Lüderitz and Swakopmund, in search of economic opportunities. With the exception of the Public Sector, the majority of women find employment in the Textile and Fishing Industries. Consequently, the majority of women represent the bulk of inhabitants of the informal settlements.

The increase in the number of single female migrants has also contributed to the

rising proportion of urban households headed by women, which tend to be poorer, experience tighter resource constraints and ultimately, and perhaps inevitably so, some resort to prostitution as their last solution. This trend is not only alarming to the Namibian Nation, but also embarrassing to us as lawmakers. In this regard, I would support the Finance Minister's allocation to the Budget Vote to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, hoping that they will institute necessary measures to ensure those destitute women and those who are practising prostitution, as they attempt to escape from poverty, are assisted in one way or another.

Many women run small business ventures, which require little or no start-up capital. They are also involved in the marketing of homemade foodstuffs and handicrafts. Despite the impressive record of the current credit programmes, such still do not address their financial needs. The vast majority of institutional credit is still channelled through formal sector agencies and as a result, women generally find themselves ineligible for even small loans due to lack of the so-called required collateral.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare should work together with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to ensure that budgetary provisions are made in order to find innovative ways to train women in business and build their capacities in entrepreneurial skills. I am sure that all of us agree with the notion that when you educate a woman, you educate a whole Nation. The same with development, if we want to develop this country, we have to develop our women.

It is on this basis that I feel that women should get all the support they need in order to replicate whatever benefits they get, as they usually do it to the rest of the Nation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, tackling poverty at its roots means tackling rural underdevelopment. The majority of the poor live in rural areas and depend largely on agriculture for their livelihood. Thus, without accelerated economic growth among the rural poor, poverty will not be reduced significantly.

I support the Food/Cash-for-Work Project, as proposed by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development that seeks to encourage people to remain in the rural areas and to improve their nutritional and economic well-being. However, I would have liked to see other projects different from the Food/Cash-for-Work that will steer growth, economic development and improve the living standards of people in the Rural Areas.

As we all know, institutions of higher learning do not readily exist in our rural areas, thus the majority of our young people come to cities, especially to

Windhoek, for further studies. Once they have completed their studies, very few of them go back to work in rural areas. In most cases, we cannot blame them for not doing so, because even if they want to work there, they will not find jobs that fit their level of education and field of expertise. It is on this basis that I am calling on the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to collaborate with the Ministries of Education and National Youth Service, Sports and Culture in providing incentives for our youth to remain in the Rural Areas.

In addition to employment creation as an incentive to keep people in the rural areas, provision of basic necessary amenities, such as clinics, schools, water, electricity and telecommunication remain a pre-requisite. Further budgetary provisions will need to be spent on rural public works projects. Such projects would provide employment opportunities for recent graduates as well as for the semi-skilled and unskilled labour force.

Alcohol and drug abuse is another social problem that needs to be challenged. The number of shebeens has increased during the past years. As a general understanding, I agree that people must do something to sustain themselves, however the damage caused by alcohol on the moral and social fabric now far outweighs the economic benefits. Alcohol and drug abuse is destroying our Nation. Most of our productive youth are engaged in criminal activities, unprotected sexual activities and lose their employment opportunities due to alcohol and drug abuse.

Having looked at the allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, I can only congratulate our Finance Minister for a fair consideration made in relation to that specific Vote and would like to request my Colleague in that Ministry to devise a better strategy to this problem. Perhaps another business direction with less or no destructive products should be found to substitute and ultimately reduce the growing number of shebeens in our society.

Educational attainment remains one of the key indicators under which our human development is measured. People judge our level of our human development, irrespective of what constraint is keeping us at the level where we are. It is therefore important for us to pull up our socks in order to improve more on our educational attainment. Investment does not always mean financial investment, but the provision of education to our children can also be regarded as significant investment. As for parents, let us cultivate and instil a culture of learning and discipline in our children.

HIV/AIDS is another social problem that has to be mentioned. It has become a compelling part of us and we have to live with this. Our lives depend on how we manage ourselves in this era of HIV/AIDS. Wherever we are, be it at home, in the community, at work or school, at sea or on military deployment, we

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should be mindful of making proper and necessary arrangements on how to live with this disease. I appreciate that the Minister of Finance devotes her time and talent in making HIV/AIDS a priority in spending on programmes in every Ministry rather than being the focus of separate programmes. It is a well-known fact that HIV/AIDS flourishes well in poor families. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, Honourable Member.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I only have a page left. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: But how will we accommodate the others?

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: The other issue that I really thought... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Honourable Minister...

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I am just concluding it is just a page.

Greediness among our people is another issue, which is growing alarmingly in our country. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Why are the young people not listening to the Deputy Speaker when time is up? We grown-ups did that. Please sit down.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The young people are not listening.

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HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, I am concluding. This is particularly happening in State-Owned Enterprises.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Conclude, say thank you very much and sit down.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade, I respect you, I respect everyone, but I really want to make this point.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, everybody has points but we stopped them because of time. You are consuming other people's time.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Well, on that very unhappy note, I am unhappy because I am being denied my right to speak.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it happens, Honourable Minister. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: It is not fair at all. Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I support the Budget.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now call on Honourable Nghidinwa. Ten minutes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is customary that new Members make maiden speeches, signalling the first opportunity that they are speaking in this august House. Accordingly, I am happy to deliver my maiden speech which reflects on the Budget estimates tabled by the Honourable

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Minister of Finance. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yours is not a maiden speech, it is a normal speech.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am happy to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for the budgetary allocations to all Ministries and Government agencies. We have many challenges in our country to which our major resources are to be allocated. Unemployment, underdevelopment, poverty, diseases, for example HIV/AIDS, ignorance and the lack of adequate infrastructure in many regions of our country remain challenges, which we need to face and address as a matter of national urgency. I am especially encouraged that the Honourable Minister of Finance has outlined the challenges and the possible solutions to overcome the utilisation of primary, secondary and Tertiary Industries as engines of economic growth for our country and its people.

The Budget tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance emphasises job creation and poverty reduction. The allocation to the Development Bank will support small and medium enterprises and will empower the previously disadvantaged Namibians, as it will create job opportunities. This will be supplemented with cash balance and other assets from the Development Bank of Namibia.

Thirty two percent of the Budget allocated to social sectors, especially education and health, will empower citizens to exploit economic opportunities to get themselves out of poverty. Statistics show that the higher the level of educational achievement, the lower the prevalence of unemployment.

The Airport Upgrading Programme, especially at Walvis Bay, will promote the export of our products, such as fish, beef and grapes, to international markets and thus support export growth.

The Budget also indicates the upgrading of infrastructure, such as the Lüderitz-Aus railway, Tsumeb-Oshikango railway, Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru road, Kamanjab-Opuwo road and Oranjemund-Rosh Pinah road. These linkages will add more value to the economy.

I believe that the campaign to generate more funds to build the bridges between Rundu and Calais, as well as between Nkurenkuru and Kwangali, will become a

reality in due course after consultations between the Namibian Government and the Republic of Angola. These two bridges will also contribute to our economic growth in Namibia and SADC, in particular.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the former Minister of Agriculture was talking about food storages to be established in Namibia, so that food produced in Namibia should be kept in Namibia, rather than sending it to South Africa, which could contribute to the high prices of food commodities in Namibia. Once the storages are in operation, it will reduce the skyrocketing prices of food commodities.

There is a reason why citizens of our country have raised complaints on the services we provide as a Ministry. With the allocation of funds through this Budget, we shall endeavour to transform the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration into a friendly centre of service delivery throughout the country. In so doing, we undertake to focus on capacity building of our staff and seek to acquire the necessary equipment to facilitate the delivery of services to our citizens and visitors.

As the Ministry responsible for immigration, we are the first point of contact for our visitors and we are responsible for providing the necessary national documents our citizens require in order for them to live, travel and work in Namibia. In this manner, we must display attributes of caring, compassion and hospitality to those who depend on our services. At the same time, we must also create some nets in which we are able to separate those who are genuine visitors from those who are abusing our hospitality and law-abiding citizens from those who want to break our laws for selfish and ulterior short-term personal interests.

After 9/11, many countries worldwide have sought to mobilise their Home Affairs Ministries to meet the challenges of modern living, including the sophistication of electronics as well as the rise in sophistication in fraudulent activities being carried out by those who are against peace and tranquillity, but instead run to have a quick ladder of self-enrichment and thus, corruption. The clarion call of Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba is clear and I quote: *“Corruption shall not be tolerated in this Government”* and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration shall work around the clock to expose and root out all criminal and corrupt elements within our Ministry.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, allow me, in closing, to appreciate the historic and revolutionary role that the Founding President of Namibia has played in the reconstruction of our society and country. If ever there was a prophet responsible for paving and bringing Independence to Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma is that person. I, therefore, congratulate him and give him the assurance that all his followers shall never transgress the national aspiration for Namibia, that is

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peace with itself and its neighbours.

I also want to express gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, who endured hardships for the liberation of the motherland, Namibia. It is in particular very humbling to me for having been appointed by His Excellency in this responsibility.

In supporting this Budget, I appeal that the directive of the President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister shall be implemented in my Ministry particularly, as it relates to prevention of corruption. It is my expectation in this respect to establish a unit within the Ministry to deal and act as a whistle-blower to any acts of corruption taking place in any part of my Ministry.

With these remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill as presented by the Minister of Finance and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Haingura. It is a maiden speech.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, before I begin with my statement, allow me to thank the Founding President and the Father of the Namibian Nation, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for the just fight he fought and won, for his bravery and determination, his love of the Namibian people, his vision for Namibia's Independence, peace and democracy. Thank you Tate Sam Nujoma, we your children shall forever treasure and revere you.

In the same vein, I thank Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, our second President, for following in the footsteps of a great African hero, for the support you provided to Comrade Nujoma during liberation struggle and in Independent Namibia. I commend you, Comrade President, because in your hands Namibia will continue to be safe, peaceful and democratic and corruption free.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I am in this august House because of the SWAPO Party. I am in this House to represent the constituency or the people who voted for the SWAPO Party during the 2004 Presidential and National Assembly elections. I am, therefore, in this Honourable House to give meaning to the hopes and aspirations of those masses who overwhelmingly gave the mandate of State power to the SWAPO Party. I state this right from the onset in order that there is no confusion or ambiguity about what my

motivation is for the next five years.

I know that people vote for Political Parties based on the manifestos they present. Thus, once elected, such Parties must ensure full implementation of the promises stated in such political contracts with the people. It should, therefore not be strange or uncomfortable to anyone that we as SWAPO Members of Parliament feel the obligations to ensure that our 2004 Election Manifesto is implemented without fail.

It is understood that without a SWAPO Party, none of us would be here. Moreover, the people voted for the SWAPO Party to form the Government and they did not vote for Government to form the SWAPO Party. We must never forget that in voting for the SWAPO Party, the majority of Namibians have expressed their trust and faith in the SWAPO Party. The people believe that only SWAPO Party can effectively address the Nation's burning issues, such as unemployment, health, education, peace, stability and economic growth.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy with the Budget for 2005/2006 as presented by our Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. My Ministry will ensure that the allocated Budget will be used in an effective and efficient manner. When the Budget is well used, it should be sufficient to fight unemployment, poverty, diseases, underdevelopment and threat to our national security and interest.

The prognosis of a possible surplus anticipated in the coming years is certainly good news for our country and, therefore, for the Ruling Party.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance for allocating a big portion of the Budget to the Ministry of Education. We believe that education is the key to a better life. That is why the SWAPO Party Government has put education as a priority area and as a vehicle to achieve NDP2, Vision 2030 and the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. In this respect, teachers, parents and learners should advocate and understand the importance of education, especially among rural communities.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I applaud and welcome the Budget allocation to the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Having placed this sector as one of the priorities, shows the seriousness the SWAPO Party Government attaches to building a healthy Nation. It recognises that the people of Namibia are our greatest assets. As our 2004 Election Manifesto clearly states, we as a country have scored tremendous success in the development of infrastructure during the past fifteen years of our Independence. We have rehabilitated health facilities and constructed new ones to cater for and reach the majority of our people, especially those that were historically denied such amenities.

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Let me draw your attention to some challenges facing our Nation. It is common knowledge that the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on the socio-economic development of our country. Those affected and infected by the pandemic deserve not our scorn, but moral support and sustainable efforts to reduce the stress on the family structure throughout the country. I, therefore, will condemn in the strongest terms anyone who out of ignorance and disrespect places a stigma on those infected by the disease. My wish is to work hard to eliminate stigma and just to see those people infected with the disease treated like those who suffer from chronic diseases, such as Diabetes and Cancer, to mention but a few.

In the past year, my Ministry has worked hard to fight the pandemic and some activities were achieved, such as the centre for voluntary testing has been established, Anti-Retroviral drugs are made available, protection of mother-to-child transmission is in place. Health workers have been trained in counselling. The availability of Anti-Retroviral drugs has made a huge impact. It has improved the quality of life of those who are HIV-positive, reduced sick leave, which is good for the economy and prolonged life. However, all these new services have put a strain on the nursing staff and we are facing staff shortages among nurses and social workers. In the rural areas, there is a need for registered nurses. Therefore, I appeal to all qualified nurses to consider giving one or two years of their profession to serve the rural communities.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, another area that is of national concern is the nightmare of violence against women and children in our society. It is sad that in many parts of our country, women and children are unsafe even in their bedrooms, homes and workplaces because there are some men who at times seem to depict hostile tendencies against their fellow human beings, in this case the vulnerable group in our society, namely women and children.

It used to be argued that unemployment, illiteracy and poverty are contributing factors to such behaviour. However, in recent months we have seen that the perpetrators of such acts are not confined to given social classes, because even the affluent in society stand accused of such behaviour.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I applaud the visionary action of His Excellency, President Pohamba to appoint a person with disability to Parliament. I am also aware that President Sam Nujoma, our Founding President, has done a lot in this regard. Therefore, as the Ministry responsible for Health and Social Services, I believe that it is a national duty for us all to ensure that all Government buildings are made accessible to people with disability. In addition, the private sector architects should consider that.

In conclusion, together with my Minister I urge all our health workers to serve

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the community to the best of their ability and to work as a team wherever they are, using the following principle of dedication, efficiency, effectiveness, friendliness, cleanliness and hard work.

With those few words, I support the Appropriation Bill and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you very much. Honourable !Nawases.

HON !NAWASES: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to address this august House with a great sense of joy and pride. In so doing, I wish to acknowledge the spirit of all previous Members of this august House who have come before me. I am indeed honoured to stand here today as a young Namibian, following in the footsteps of gallant, fearless and patriotic Namibians from different political persuasions, but fighting for a noble goal and representing the will of the people.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I will do my best to honour the noble principles of peace, democracy, fairness and social justice. These are the values and principles on which the SWAPO Party has governed our great Nation over the past fifteen years. These are the values and principles that the Namibian people cherish. I call on all Honourable Members on both sides of the House to continue embracing these principles and to have the courage to make some fundamental improvements in the lives of the Namibian people. I know there are many on the other side of the House who shared the ideas and vision of the ruling party and I am keen to work with you across party lines and to help this country achieve greater heights.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I pay tribute to the Founding Father of this great Nation, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for leading the SWAPO Party during the struggle for freedom. I also pay tribute to President Hifikepunye Pohamba and would like to thank him for having brought with him the refreshing sense of, "*I am because you are and you are because we are.*" The goals of the new Government equally reflect the sense of working for the common good of all.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Deputy Speaker of this august Assembly. Equally, I would like to congratulate Honourable Members who have been elected to this august House and wish them wisdom and foresight.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, all that said, allow me to

focus on the issue at hand. In so doing, I will first focus on the Budget, followed by my special areas of interest, which are the youth, education, health and development. I hope to give a brief but crucial contribution on what I deem as of great importance in our national development efforts. I wish to echo a view of the previous speakers throughout this Budget Debate and congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for a job well done and for the admirable progress and achievements, she has recorded in her portfolio. The Budget embodies our national priorities. Keeping the balance is a great challenge and you have indeed risen to the challenge.

Namibia has stable macro-economic conditions, as observed from the Appropriation Bill presented to this House. This, however, has been negatively affected by global, regional and domestic conditions, for example the US Dollar, textile quotas, drought, HIV/AIDS, capital flight, oil prices and others. It is clear that we need to move away from market fundamentalism because even so, it is very critical and central to our situation. The market on its own is incapable of solving all the problems. We need to intervene and create a three-tier economy in order to move our people away from the persistent unemployment and poverty, which are further exacerbated by HIV/AIDS. We must identify drivers of local economy and divide the country into various economic zones, focusing on activities for which it has competitive advantage. The Green Scheme is certainly an example.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I am here on the Ruling Party's ticket and more particularly, the youth of Namibia. I am gratified that in this changing environment our own youth are becoming an important catalyst to bring about new competence to solve today and tomorrow's problems. They have shown leadership and team spirit, they have also shown boldness and confront the problems as they seek to address them. I am convinced that the future of our country is secure as we gradually pass the torch onto the next generation.

We often talk about Vision 2030, we talk about NDP2, and we talk about Namibia being at peace with itself and with its neighbours. We talk about Namibia being economically prosperous. These are our shared dreams. These dreams shared will remain nothing but dreams unless we prepare our youth and children to build on Namibia's common destiny. We need to enhance efforts to improve the housing and rights of children. We need to promote family planning to improve the quality of life of families, women and children and we need to become proactive in reducing child and woman abuse in all forms. We often say that the youth are the leaders of tomorrow, we often say that the children are our most precious resource. If indeed that is the case, let us give them the best we can in Namibia. Let us renew our solemn commitment of protecting the rights of the children. Let us provide opportunities to our youth and prepare them for their future roles. Let us make a commitment that the

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youth and our children will have first call on our national resources.

Now is the time to invest in our children's health, our children's education, our children's safety. Now is the time to equip our youth with solid education and training. The time has come for all of us to make health, education, safety and the future of our youth, the children, our cause and deepest personal commitment. Let us devise programmes together with the private sector and communities to enable our youth to have access to resources, which will enable us to become productive citizens.

Equally important is the need to redouble our efforts in our collective fight against HIV/AIDS. The scourge of HIV/AIDS is a serious socio-economic problem with devastating effects on the social fabric of our country. The rate at which the disease is spreading is alarming and the care of the increasing number of people affected by the HIV-virus puts a heavy burden on our health resources.

The future of our youth, our communities and the country is too crucial to be left to the market forces alone. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. It, therefore, requires full commitment, forward thinking and practical policies to address the needs of our youth and children. Only then, our country, the Land of the Brave, will be assured of a bright future underpinned by the sustainable economic development.

With these remarks, I commend Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for presenting the nation with a Budget full of hope and practical thinking. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In terms of Rule 90, automatic adjournment, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning, 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:05 UNTIL 2005.06.03 AT 09:00

FIRST SESSION, FOURTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 3 JUNE

The Assembly met Pursuant to adjournment.

The Deputy Speaker too the Chair and read the Prayers and Affirmation

FIRST ORDER READ:

Resumption of the Debate on the Second Reading – Appropriation Bill [B. 5 - 2005]

Question before the Assembly on Thursday 12 May 2005: As Moved by the Minister of Finance that the Bill be now read a Second Time

Agreed to.

SECOND ORDER READ:

Resumption of Debate on restoration of place names to their pre-colonial indigenous names.

Question before the Assembly on Tuesday 17 May 2005, as Moved by Mr Kaura

On the Motion, Mr. Amathila, seconded by Mr Diergaardt, the Debate adjourned until Thursday 09 June 2005

NOTICE OF A MOTION

The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry seconded by Mr. Ankama, moved:

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Animal Disease and Parasites 1956 so as to redefine certain expressions; to prohibit the searching of

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individuals without a warrant, to increase penalties; and to provide for matters incidental therewith.

Agreed to.

Animal Disease and Parasites Amendment Bill – [B.2 - 2005] read a First Time.

The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry moved, subject to Rule 26(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, seconded by Ms Kasingo that the Bill be now read a second time.

On the Motion of Mr Moongo, seconded by Mr Venaani, the Debate adjourned until Wednesday 8 June 2005.

On the Motion of the Prime Minister, seconded by Mr Diergaardt, the Assembly adjourned until Tuesday 7 June 2005.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
07 JUNE 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have three announcements. Firstly, a gala dinner will take place at the Country Club today at 18:30 to 19:00 and all Honourable Members are invited.

Secondly, I wish to remind Members who have not yet had their photos taken to report to Room 59 between 12:00 and 13:00 and in the afternoon between 15:40 to 16:40.

The last announcement is on our Budget programme. The Minister of Finance will reply today and tomorrow we will deal with the outstanding Bills. On Thursday, the ninth, we will have the State of the Nation Address by His Excellency, the President. On Friday the following Votes will be introduced, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 10 and next week we will continue with the rest of the Budget.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 16th of June 2005 I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

During March 2005, Thomas Kandove was harassed by members of the State Security Services. Mr Kandove was threatened with handguns and marula beer was thrown in his face because of his association with the pre-independence security forces. A certain Mr Katumbe, using a vehicle N20297SH was apparently involved in the incident:

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1. Can the Right Honourable Prime Minister investigate this incident and confirm whether the abovementioned vehicle belongs to the State?
2. Is there any policy in place to prevent citizens from being harassed because of their past association?
3. Is there a code of conduct for members of the State Security Forces to prevent human rights violation?
4. Would the implementation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, similar to the one in South Africa, not prevent future human rights violations?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Gurirab.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON T GURIRAB: I Move without notice that leave of absence due to official travel be granted to Honourable Reinhardt Kalla Gertze until 15 June 2005.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Further Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned last Friday, the 3rd of June 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The

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Debate was concluded and the Minister now has the Floor to reply.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. As I rise in this august House today, eight days of hard work lie behind us, eight days in which this House has deliberated on the Appropriation Bill for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. I wish to thank the Honourable Members for sharing their comments and thoughts on the Budget. I thank you for the supportive statements, for specific comments, but also for your critical remarks. A critical Debate is vital for our democracy. By scrutinising the Budget and providing a detailed and critical analysis, you have been doing your job. I feel encouraged by the good quality of some of the replies we have heard.

At the same time, Honourable Members, I have to express my disappointment that some of the interventions concentrated on issues that were, although constructive, unrelated to the Budget Debate, while some interventions were, sadly so, not at all constructive. It would be in the interest of the debating culture of this House in the interest of the quality of our deliberations and in the interest of the Namibian people if we could use the precious time allocated to us to make constructive comments to the point and not to abuse this forum.

As we were discussing the Budget in this House, other stakeholders, the media and the ordinary people on the street, were also expressing their views on the Budget. I also wish to thank them for their constructive contributions. Let me assure the external stakeholders that I have listened carefully to their comments. I believe that an informed and constructive Debate on the Budget is most useful to this country. I see Budget Debates as an opportunity to discuss the progress and the next steps in the development of our country towards Vision 2030.

During the discussions, we have heard three kinds of comments. Firstly, comments were made on the overall priorities of the Budget. This includes the allocations made to one Vote with respect to others and the overall level of expenditure and the resulting fiscal stance.

Secondly, the Honourable Members were not shy in making comments about various Ministries, suggesting alternatives or simply pointing to where they see grievances.

Thirdly, the Honourable Members made specific queries to programmes or figures contained in the Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we are deeply committed to produce a transparent Budget that is accessible not only to the Honourable

Members of Parliament, but also to the ordinary men and women on the street. We have put many efforts into producing a document that clearly sets out our priorities, our programmes and the corresponding funding. I wish the Debate in this House and in the public had paid more attention to our efforts in reforming public finance management and in moving from line item budgeting to programme budgeting. I, therefore, welcome the comments received in this regard. I hope that the upcoming Debate in the Committee Stage will see more specific references to our programmes, activities and performance measures.

Before I answer to the queries, I would like to comment on the Budget cycle as such. As you might know, the macro-economic framework, which forms the basis for the Budget cycle, is the outcome of a consultative process between the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission, the Treasury Cabinet Committee, the Cabinet itself and the Bank of Namibia. Thus, unlike suggested by some Honourable Members, a process of consultation has taken place in the preparation of this Budget, with experts in the various institutions providing their detailed and thoughtful comments.

The fact that the Opposition Parties are not approached as individual units to make an input into the Budget has to do with the fact that the Opposition simply does not form part of Government. This might be a bitter pill for some Members of the Opposition to swallow, but it is the direct result of the overwhelming mandate that SWAPO has received from the Namibian people. Still I am disappointed to hear that *Honourable Mudge* sees this Debate as a futile exercise. As I have indicated, we submit the Budget to the scrutiny of Parliament and the public to justify our views, explain our actions, but also to listen and improve where possible and I shall welcome any suggestions on future Budgets. These can be directed to my office well before the Budget. Such suggestions will, of course be considered based on their impact on the economy and fiscal policy and within the limits of available resources.

It is my duty and pleasure today to answer to the questions raised in the past weeks without anticipating the Debate in the Committee Stage. I will answer to the questions as far as the Budget and the Ministry of Finance is concerned. My Colleagues, the Honourable Ministers, have expertise in their own fields and I will, therefore leave it up to them to address their areas. This does however not mean that I regard those comments as irrelevant. After all, by making the Medium Term Plan of each Ministry public through the Budget document, we are inviting you to scrutinise our activities, but the Honourable Members will understand that many of the issues raised are beyond my influence and responsibility and will be much better answered by others.

Our fiscal targets provide essential guidance for our fiscal policy. There is a saying that goes, "*if you do not know where you are going, you should not be surprised if you end up somewhere else*". Our fiscal targets are the milestones

for our fiscal policy and the development of our country. Adherence to the targets ensures that we are not living beyond our limits. With an envisaged deficit of 3% of GDP and a debt stock of 25%, moderate GDP growth ensures that the debt level stays in check. Not matching these targets one-to-one, however, does not mean that we are living in a crisis. In fact, the targets are formulated over the medium term and allow for flexibility, depending on economic cycle. Still they show the general direction of fiscal policy.

Honourable Venaani questioned the efforts we are undertaking to achieve these targets. I know that the Honourable Member would not have missed that for the first time there was no additional Budget in 2004/2005. The estimated Budget deficit for the 2004/2005 Financial Year is 2,4% of GDP and the expenditure for that year is projected to be firmly within the ceilings approved by Parliament. For a first time a Budget surplus is envisaged for the last two years of this Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. These are visible in serious efforts that underline our commitment to achieve our targets.

The art of budgeting is to balance the needs of different Ministries and at the same time pursue a fiscal policy that is sustainable. We cannot leave our children and grandchildren with unsustainable levels of debt. Future generations will need their precious resources to address the needs and priorities of future days and should not be loaded with an irresponsible debt burden we have incurred on them. It is this responsibility and the totality of resources generated from our economy that determines the size of the cake. Giving one Ministry a bigger slice of the cake implies giving less to another.

However, before I explain to you why this Budget reflects the right priorities, I would like to urge the Members to consult the Budget documents carefully when stating that expenditure in a certain area is being cut.

Take for example expenditure in the areas of health and education. A full assessment of Government activities needs to take into account donor funding. Moneys received from the Global Fund are assisting us in the fight against HIV/AIDS and several other development partners support programmes in education, both inside and outside the Budget framework. These contributions are often coupled with much-needed technical assistance, make a significant contribution to the service delivery in these sectors, and need to be taken into account when assessing the activities in the sector.

Still the overall share of grants in our Budget, *Honourable Mudge*, is very limited and the funds listed in the Budget are committed funds. Hence, the danger of relying heavily on uncertain grants, as you have claimed, is not real and your criticism, therefore, is not founded.

Having said that, unlike some commentators have perceived, health spending

from Government sources is not being cut. Instead, it is being increased. I think misunderstandings may have come about because of the transfer of the provision for social pensions to the Ministry of Labour. Education also received an increase over the sums announced in the 2004 Medium Term Expenditure Framework, but some reallocation has occurred to target resources more cost effectively.

In the case of primary education, implementation of the revised staffing norms agreed with NANTU is reflected in a lower allocation for 2005/2006, but it is hoped that in future this will free up resources for other educationally beneficial expenditures, such as textbooks.

DEFENCE: In the context of the overall allocations, a number of Opposition Members have expressed their concern about the allocation in the Budget to the Ministry of Defence. The sovereignty of our country is one of the highest goods that we are determined to uphold, as this is the cornerstone of our Independence. I can only support the comments by some of the Honourable Colleagues on this side of the House that we have to ensure that the national Defence Forces are in a position to defend our country, which requires constant investment in equipment and training. In the past, the former has been seriously neglected.

Our national Defence Force is using all the equipment donated by the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) in 1989. This equipment needs urgent replacement and as it lies in the nature of military equipment, it is expensive. Therefore, either you buy it or you opt not to have a Defence Force at all.

We should also not forget that our Defence Force is carrying out important non-combat activities, such as sea patrols, which safeguard our resources at sea. Furthermore, the NDF needs to be geared towards the new challenges it is facing in international peacekeeping missions. In assessing the spending for the Defence Force, therefore, one needs to take into account the substantial revenue of N\$121,8 million which will be received as reimbursement of peacekeeping operations in Liberia, to answer the question of Honourable Venaani.

On health, poverty and pensions, it is important to emphasise that our allocation to Defence has not shifted prioritisation away from direct poverty reduction programmes, like education, health and job creation. The social, economic and infrastructure sectors still take a substantial chunk of budgetary resources at 48,7% and the share of Defence in Budget remains at 9,5% of the total Budget. However, from the Budget documents you will also see that priorities are more than just allocations and numbers. We need to look beyond the numbers and focus on the outcomes. Hence, in the same way as increasing expenditure, does not necessarily mean increasing service delivery. Expenditure restraints may trigger re-prioritisation and improvement in outcomes.

The Budget reveals that we are doing more for orphans and vulnerable children and have increased allocations to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The programmes for Health include the provision of Anti-Retroviral Treatment in 22 hospitals and we hope to provide it to all the regional hospitals by the end of 2005.

Addressing poverty and inequality are the key themes underpinning our Budget discussions. Specifically, we have increased substantially the coverage of grants to orphans and vulnerable children. Social pensions are a vital source of income for the elderly poor. They are an important part of our policies to reduce poverty in particular, because the elderly often play an important role in taking care of the orphaned and vulnerable children.

Honourable Moongo, I would have loved to be able to increase pensions substantially, but due to competing demands, I could not satisfy every need. In the end, the additional allocation made to the orphans and vulnerable children will bring alleviation to many of the elderly who provide care for orphans with their social grants. I believe that creating employment and enhancing the capacity of our people are essential to poverty reduction. These are high priority areas of public spending. In this regard, I fully support the revitalisation of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and call for a coherent policy formulation by all Ministries involved.

The strategy needs to combine short-term poverty relief measures, with medium and long-term approaches. At first sight, it seems imperative to concentrate on short-term measures, because the immediate needs seem more pressing as they are more visible. However, it is equally important to address the roots of poverty. In the end, poverty reduction measures are also needed to widen the economic base of Government's operations, otherwise short-term relief measures will soon become unsustainable.

We are propagating the use of labour-intensive methods in building infrastructure to create much-needed employment for the poor. I fully concur with the remarks of *Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila* that tourism plays an important role in bringing employment into rural communities and we have increased allocation to this sector under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. In addition, I have referred to a number of job creation schemes to which substantial resources are allocated, including the Green Scheme and aquaculture projects.

BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, I fully share the importance stressed by several Honourable Members on advancing Black Economic Empowerment. I strongly support the call for an accelerated implementation of Black Economic Empowerment. To this end, the Office of the Prime Minister will soon unveil their plans of a Black Economic Empowerment framework.

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Our review efforts of the Tender Board Act will also give further impetus to Black Economic Empowerment and job creation.

The Development Bank of Namibia is fulfilling a role that is of utmost importance. Apart from the funding foreseen in the Budget, the Development Bank will also receive a transfer of funds from the Development Fund of Namibia. Together the strong financial position of this bank will enable it to give a significant boost to the much-needed entrepreneurship in this country. The transfer of the Development Fund assets to the Bank will soon be affected, as all formalities have now been finalised.

Since the Bank's launch in April 2004, it has received 56 applications. These have largely been from emerging Namibian entrepreneurs wishing to start up ventures mainly of a manufacturing nature that aim to add value to locally available raw materials, such as tanning, semi-precious and dimension stones processing and manufacturing of building materials. Additionally, the Bank has received a number of applications for large infrastructure related projects and for projects in the area of new non-traditional export oriented industries, such as aquaculture.

While no disbursement has been made to date, I am happy to report that the Bank is actively appraising and negotiating with relevant project promoters. By year-end, it anticipates to have committed just over N\$100 million or approximately half of its available capital, which after approval of this Budget will stand at some N\$216 million.

The Bank is putting a premium on sustainable and commercially viable entities with profound development impact. Therefore, it is compelled to conduct in-depth appraisal of each application to ensure that these criteria are met.

To assist with the prevention of crime, the Police received additional funding for the purchase of vehicles in the 2004/2005 Financial Year. Hence, your call, Honourable Moongo, to provide the Police with new vehicles has long been answered. This provision of N\$50 million also explains the high spending in that year and this causes an apparent drop in expenditure in the following year.

The new State House is a national property. This State House is not one individual's project but a national asset. We want to invest in assets that will be durable. As some of the Honourable Members have stated, the new State House is a symbol of State power that is also important for governance. We cannot expect our President to squat on the street and lead the country.

The President has appointed a Minister for Presidential Affairs in terms of the powers vested in him by Article 32(3)(i) of the Namibian Constitution. The Minister of Finance is obliged by Article 126(1) of the same Constitution to

ensure resources are appropriated to all office of Government as established by the President so that they can carry out their functions. Because the appointment became effective before the Budget was approved by Parliament, I had to allocate funds through the provision in Section 9(2) of the State Finance Act to enable the Minister to execute the mandate for which he was appointed by the President.

Overspending was a concern that was repeatedly raised by Members of the Opposition Parties but also by some of my SWAPO Colleagues. Let me assure you that curbing overspending is one of my sincere commitments. I would like to refer you to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document and my Budget speech where I outlined the measures being taken to curb overspending, but for the sake of addressing the issue raised by Honourable Venaani, the concrete measures to curb overspending are as follows;

1. Overspending by any Ministry in one year will result in the following year's ceiling being adjusted downwards accordingly.
2. The completion of forward year planning statements and Treasury authorisation warrants on a monthly basis by all Ministries, will be required prior to the release of any funds by the Treasury.
3. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of spending patterns on a monthly and quarterly basis will ensure remedial actions can be taken in a timely fashion to avoid unauthorised and overspending.
4. The launch of the Integrated Financial Management System will be a major step in the monitoring and timely evaluation of current expenditures.
5. The Ministry of Finance is planning to undertake capacity-building measures at the level of Offices, Ministries and Agencies in order to improve the Budget control and comply with the State Finance Act. These will include clearance of suspense accounts as well as timely and accurate reconciliation of accounts.

Our efforts are already showing results. Preliminary analysis of the expenditure in the 2004/2005 Financial Year, *Honourable De Waal*, indicates that no overspending has taken place. More specifically, the second run of the general ledger shows that expenditure stood at 97% of the amount appropriated by this House. While I have to point out, that these figures are preliminary and a further reconciliation with different Offices, Ministries and Agencies is still outstanding, these results are very encouraging.

Turning to the Revenue side, I am very pleased to hear that our efforts to

improve the collection capacity of the Receiver of Revenue have received a positive reply throughout all Political Parties and the media. This issue is among the highest priorities for the Ministry.

With respect to specific revenue issues, the taxation of the mining industry played a significant role in the Debate. *Honourable Schimming-Chase and Honourable Venaani* enquired about the projected revenue to be generated by the royalties on non-diamond mining activities, which has been recently announced by the Ministry of Mines and Energy. I have been informed by the Ministry of Mines and Energy that this mining royalty did not take effect last year as originally planned. Consultations are ongoing between the Ministry and the affected companies. It would be premature, therefore, to include estimates in the Budget on issues, which are still pending clarification.

Our projections of revenue from the diamond mining companies, both in terms of royalties and income tax are based on information that we collect directly from those companies. Even though the global conditions might point to more favourable production conditions and we can hope for increased turnovers in profits, we base our estimates on the firsthand information we have received.

On the affordability of the new mining royalties, Honourable Members, we all agree that the mining industry should pay a fair amount of taxes. My understanding of “fair” in this respect is that our natural resources are exploited to the benefit of all Namibians and that at the same time companies engaged in this business operate with adequate profits. The mining industry in Namibia is in a very healthy state and global mineral prices are on the rise. We need to ensure that this outlook has positive and lasting effects on the development of our country.

Land Tax was only implemented towards the end of last Financial Year and a minimal amount was paid in. Our colleagues from the Ministry of Lands will first have to finalise certain procedural aspects before they can come up with authoritative figures on what is to be expected. It should be noted, however, that land tax payments that were due on the 22nd of March 2005 had their deadline extended by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement to until the end of July 2005. Despite the extension, some land owners did pay and the amount of N\$4,8 million was received.

Honourable Mudge stated that the corporate tax in Namibia, currently at 35%, is along with Ghana the highest in Africa. It is easy to compare a country’s tax rate against other countries’ rates and concluded that your rate is the highest. It is, however, not that simple from a tax administrator’s perspective. A comparison of nominal corporate tax rates between countries can be made, but this is fraught with complexities, of which I want to mention only a few.

1. Such a comparison does not take account of the effective rates actually paid or of the legal definition of the tax base on which they are assessed.
2. International competitiveness and foreign investment are also influenced by political and economic stability. It could, therefore be argued that a tax rate should include a sovereign risk discount or premium.

Furthermore, double taxation agreements often negate the regional benefits afforded to corporate. We must also not ignore the fact that Namibia offers a range of tax incentives which effectively reduce corporate tax to as low as 18% for manufacturers and actually zero percent for export processing zones companies.

In the case of South Africa, it must be noted that the imposition that a secondary tax on companies, which is payable on dividends distributed, significantly raises the effective tax rate. Against that background, Namibia is not that much out of line as the Honourable Members has suggested.

I wish to inform the Honourable Member that the review of the tax system in Namibia also stated that the potential for the revision of the tax rates is downwards, provided all the regional comparisons have been made, but the corporate share of tax revenue should preferably be increased through a careful review of transfer pricing practices and the streamlining of incentives and this is exactly what the administration is doing now in order to achieve the relevant results.

The statement by the Honourable Member with regard to transfer pricing is well taken. He claims that the problem of transfer pricing will remain as long as the corporate rate of tax in Namibia remains higher than that of South Africa. This cannot be accepted because transfer pricing is evident in countries such as Botswana with a corporate tax rate of 25% when trading with South Africa.

The Member should further note that the current problem is that South African holding companies charge excessive fees to their Namibian subsidiaries. This results in less tax from the Namibian subsidiaries and high tax losses for the South African holding companies, but the reverse also happens when Namibian holding companies charge excessive fees to their subsidiaries in South Africa and Botswana. It is, therefore, difficult to predict the real outcome because the transfer pricing legislation was also only recently passed by Parliament and the enforcement will only start from now on.

With regard to the imposition of a higher rate of Vat on luxury items, it would only apply to items that are considered luxury and not the commodities regularly acquired by the middle-income salary earners. Hence, it would only place an additional burden on those who can afford it.

Unit trusts will not be taxed with retrospective effect. Tax laws are amended with future effect. We are already consulting the unit trust industry to work out the modalities before the relevant proposed Amendments will be tabled in Parliament for consideration.

Honourable Goreseb suggested that the threshold for individuals should be increased from N\$24,000 to N\$35,000, but as the Honourable Member rightly pointed out, one should be careful not to diminish an already limited source of taxation, namely tax on individuals. Normally if one lowers the threshold, one has to adjust the brackets elsewhere and care must be exercised when considering the other brackets, especially the maximum marginal rate as it influences the attraction of skilled labour and needs to be considered *in tandem* with the corporate trade.

A look at tax systems of countries that have very generous welfare systems, which all of us advocate for shows that any expansion of fiscal policy in this regard goes hand-in-hand with higher tax rates. Unless we agree on reprioritisation, especially by curtailing operational expenditure, any expansion of welfare service provision can only be financed through increases in taxes. Such considerations, however, are of a broader nature than the annual Budget and it is for the Government as a whole, rather than the Ministry of Finance, to pronounce itself on this issue, that is the curtailing of operational expenditures. There is also no such thing as a perfect tax scale. All scales involve value judgments and trade-offs amongst simplicity, revenue generation, marginal rates and redistribution. However, it can be said that there may be scope to reduce rates further when compliance improves. This can be achieved by intensive audits, like the ones we have instituted.

As I have mentioned on other occasions, the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council is prioritising the formulation of a dividend payout policy for Parastatals. Currently, many establishing Acts put dividend payouts at the discretion of the Boards. The new policy aims at improving the communication between the shareholder and the Boards of State-Owned Enterprises. The new policy will be in the best interest of the State-Owned Enterprises and the shareholder, but at the same time, it will not put vital services out of reach of the poorer people.

The establishment of the Governance Council and its role in overseeing the State-Owned Enterprises is an important step in improving the governance of the State-Owned Enterprises. From the side of the Ministry of Finance, the publication of financial statements in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework that expose the performance of the State-Owned Enterprises is an important step, as this will increase public pressure to increase performance. I cannot, however, support the innuendos of ethnicity that were made by some Members of the Opposition.

I would like to point out to the Honourable Members who have expressed their disagreement with our policy towards Air Namibia, that the company's operating losses in 2004 were down by 8% from N\$161,5 million in 2003 to N\$147,6 million in 2004. However, a high impairment of fixed assets and a reduction in foreign exchange gains, due to the appreciation of the currency, forced the higher net loss from operations. Gross operational loss or profit is a more accurate indicator of performance and an improvement in this regard gives cause for optimism. This does not mean there is no room for further improvement. We have impressed upon the airliner company the need for further improvements, both in the area of cost reduction and revenue increase. In the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, we project a consistent decline in budgetary interventions, which should eventually be phased out.

The free trade agreements are not bilateral agreements between Namibia and South Africa. *Honourable Venaani*, the trade consultations have long moved beyond that. We are talking about increasing trade relations between SACU and other trading blocs, such as the European Union and MERCOSUR. The outcome of these will affect industries in both South Africa and Namibia. These agreements are not about South African industries dominating Namibian industries, but opportunities for Namibian and South African companies to strengthen their trade links with other regions.

The new SACU-sharing formula is the democratisation of the previous agreement, dating back to 1969. This means that countries will benefit from the SACU revenue according to three criteria: The relevant size of their economy determines the share they get on the pool's excise collection. The relative share of intra-SACU imports determines each country's share of the customs pool. The development component is divided between the members according to their GDP per capita.

In conclusion, the new SACU sharing formula is the more democratic way of sharing the SACU pool.

Finally, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope that the answers and clarifications that I have just given have helped to highlight the significant efforts made under this Budget to address our national priorities. This Budget strikes the balance between the responsibilities we have towards our future generations in terms of the debt burden we load upon them and the urgency to address the current needs. This Budget addresses those needs and sets the right priorities. It will ensure that our people will stay healthy, be educated and it will secure jobs in a peaceful and secure environment.

This Budget shows our determination to improve service delivery in the Public Service and that it is set to increase efficiency and enhance transparency as well as accountability.

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To conclude, let me again thank the Honourable Members for their interventions. I shall now present the Appropriation Bill for your approval. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your satisfactory answers which you gave us. I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

APPROPRIATION BILL

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill.*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
TRANSFER OF CONVICTED OFFENDERS BILL**

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I Move the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

**TRANSFER OF CONVICTED OFFENDERS
BILL**

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HON TSHEEHAMA**

SECRETARY: *Transfer of Convicted Offenders Bill*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor to introduce the Bill.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, may I take this opportunity to introduce the Transfer of Convicted Offenders Bill which seeks to provide for the mutual transfer of sentenced offenders between Namibia and foreign states for the purpose of serving their sentences of imprisonment and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, during the Fourth Conference of Eastern, Southern and Central African Heads of Correctional Services, popularly known as CESCA, in Arusha, Tanzania 1999, a resolution was adopted that CESCA member countries have to recommend to their respective Governments and advise to adopt legislation on the inter-transfer of convicted offenders. This resolution was again reiterated during the Fifth CESCA Conference held in Windhoek on 4–7 September 2001. My Ministry undertook to honour the resolution and advised the Government to adopt such legislation that I am now introducing to this House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the adoption of the legislation on the transfer of convicted offenders will enable us to transfer foreign offenders who are in our prisons to their countries of origin on conditions provided for in the Bill. This transfer will not only ease overcrowding in our prisons, but will also provide opportunity for the transferred offenders' families to play their highly needed roles in the rehabilitation process. Thus Namibian nationals, who are sentenced in foreign countries, if transferred to Namibia, will be able to have close and regular contacts with their relatives. This will help the offenders psychologically and with the encouragement of the family members, the

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offenders may be convinced and be ready to participate voluntarily in rehabilitation programmes, which are an essential prerequisite for their ultimate successful reintegration into society as law-abiding citizens and this being the main mission of my Ministry through the Namibian Prison Service. Thus, it is better to have our nationals serve their sentences in our prisons where the conditions are better suited for their rehabilitation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, you will notice that it has taken a long time to bring this Bill to this House. This is because we were engaged in wide consultations with other countries who have or who are intending to adopt such legislation and with influential international organisation in corrections, such as International Corrections and Prison Association, Penal Reform International, Association of Paroling Authorities International. Further, on drafting the Bill, we also studied and considered United Nations, Commonwealth and European Union model agreements on the inter-transfer of convicted offenders.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as per procedure, the Bill was first submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation for consideration before being submitted to Cabinet and thereafter, to this august House. The Cabinet Committee on Legislation considered the Bill and raised very constructive concerns that, I believe, we explained to the satisfaction of the Committee. With your permission, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to touch on some of the concerns by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation as some of the Honourable Members in this august House may have the same concerns on the possibility of abuse.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Cabinet Committee on Legislation indicated worries whether the legislation will not be open for abuse. I would like to remove such worries by indicating that the ultimate authorisation to transfer an offender from Namibia or to Namibia lies with the Minister and as such, we do not see any possibility of abusing the legislation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Cabinet Committee on Legislation also indicated concern relating to crimes that may differ from one country to another and as such, cause an obstacle on considering transfer. According to the provisions of the Bill, consideration is mainly on the sentence to be served. The offender to be considered for transfer will be already convicted and such transfer can be refused, as one of the conditions for transfer is that the proper authorities of both countries have to agree on the transfer.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the concern of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation was that the transferred offender might be pardoned by the President of the country to where he or she is transferred earlier than expected, while he

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or she committed a serious crime here in Namibia. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the provisions of this Bill makes it very clear that the transferred offender can only be pardoned by the President of the country from where he or she was transferred, unless the two countries agree otherwise. Thus, there must be no fear of too early pardons as only our President may pardon those offenders transferred from Namibia. The Cabinet Committee on Legislation at a certain time considered the possibility to entrust the President with the executive powers in the legislation and, therefore, the authorisation to transfer the offender be done by the President.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the transfer of an offender does not change the nature of sentence and the offender will continue to serve it. Thus, the Minister who is entrusted with corrective matters and who is accountable to the President and to this House can do that work without any fear. However, as indicated above, when it comes to pardon or reprieve, the Bill recognises the constitutional power of the President on those issues.

Honourable Deputy Speaker and Honourable Members of this House may I now explain briefly how this legislation is going to be implemented. As you will see in Section 20 of the Bill, the Minister has the power to enter into agreement with foreign states. Thus, the underlying principle in the inter-transfer is entering bilateral agreements with States that indicate readiness for inter-transfer of convicted offenders with our country. Several countries have indicated such readiness. They include the Netherlands, Great Britain, Spain and Egypt, not mentioning CESCO countries. These countries were asked to wait until the adoption of this legislation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Bill on the transfer of convicted offenders consists of four parts and twenty-four Sections and I will now briefly explain some of the Sections.

Part 1- Section 1 is a preliminary one where definitions of some of the terms used in the Bill are provided for.

Part 2 – Sections 2 to 12 deal with transfer of sentenced offenders to and from Namibia. Section 2 provides in general for the persons who are liable to be transferred to or from Namibia. These are Namibian nationals who are sentenced in a foreign state or foreign nationals who are sentenced in Namibia. Sections 3 to 6 provide for the procedure to make applications for transfer. Section 4 enlists the conditions for transfer. Amongst the conditions are that the offender should be a citizen of the country to which he or she is applying to be transferred, the judgment on the offender is final and no any appeal or review still pending, the remainder of the sentence to be served by the offender is more than six months or the sentence is indeterminate, that is life imprisonment and

the proper authorities of the two countries agree to the transfer.

An important provision is made to the effect that both countries shall ensure that an agreement is reached for the transfer of the offender who satisfies the requirements and unnecessary obstacles should be avoided.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Section 8 provides for the necessity for the offender to give his or her consent to be transferred and the possibility of the party to verify such consent. Sections 10 and 11 provide for the effect of transfer of the offender from or to Namibia, respectively. This underlying principle is that the enforcement of the sentence of a transferred offender shall be in accordance with the laws of the country to which the offender is transferred.

Part 3 – Sections 13 to 18 provide for the enforcement of sentence after transfer. It is emphasised by Section 13 that the transferred offender continues to serve his or her sentence in the country to where he or she is transferred as if he or she was not transferred. This means that the portion of sentence that the offender already served before the transfer shall also be recognised by the country to where he or she is transferred as served.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, Sections 14 and 15 provide for the procedure to be followed where a Namibian national, who is a juvenile or a person of unsound mind, respectively, is transferred to Namibia. The Sections provide for the possibility of the juvenile to be brought before the High Court for possible sentencing as a juvenile or for the Minister issuing an order for the person of unsound mind to be detained in a mental hospital or institution.

Section 16 provides for the power of the President to pardon or reprieve offenders who are transferred from Namibia and that where a Namibian national who is transferred to Namibia and is pardoned by the country that sentenced him or her, such pardon shall have effect as if it were granted by our President.

Part 4 – Sections 19 to 24 deal with miscellaneous provisions. Section 19 provides for issues relating to costs involved in the transfer. The general principle is that each party shall defray the costs in such proportion as it may be agreed upon in the bilateral agreements.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Section 20 provides for the Minister to enter into agreements with foreign States on inter-transfer of offenders. The Section emphasises that such agreements shall not be effected until their ratification has been agreed to by the National Assembly.

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OFFENDERS BILL
HON RIRUAKO**

Section 21 provides for the possibility for the Minister to delegate certain powers, except powers to enter into agreement or to make regulations or to assign duties to the Commissioner of Prisons or any staff member in the management cadre of my Ministry. Section 22 provides for the power of the Minister to make regulations.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, may I conclude by requesting the Honourable Members to remember the importance of this Bill, as I indicated above. The adoption of this legislation will be a clear indication to the Namibian Nation that this House cares not only for the Namibian nationals who are in Namibia, but also those who are outside this country and who happen to find themselves in conflict with the laws of the countries where they are. I, therefore, ask the Honourable Members of this august House to support and pass this Bill. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I now invite further discussions. I now recognise Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not want to postpone the Debate, I would rather prefer to say it has something to do with extradition. If not, I do not want anything to be scrutinised and go through in a different direction. If the answer is no, I do not have anything to do with it. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief, have you gone through the Bill?

HON RIRUAKO: I read it while he was speaking.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: But you were asking a question here.

HON RIRUAKO: The question is whether anybody else can be extradited through this Bill and he said no. I scrutinised the Bill and the fact remains that if it has nothing to do with the extradition of anybody else through this Bill,

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then I do not think there is anything to talk about.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until the 14th of June 2005.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:45 UNTIL 2005.06.08 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
08 JUNE 2005**

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?

**TABLING: TRANSNAMIB HOLDINGS LTD
ANNUAL REPORT 2004**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:
I lay upon the Table, the 2004 Annual Report of TransNamib Holdings Ltd.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any
other Reports or Papers? Notice of Motions? Notice of Questions? Message
from State House? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the
First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING: ANIMAL DISEASES AND
PARASITES AMENDMENT BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Second Reading: *Animal and Parasites
Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Friday, 3 June 2005,
the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of
Agriculture, Water and Forestry, that the Bill be now read a Second Time.
Honourable Moongo adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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HON MOONGO**

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a good thing to introduce an Amendment Bill to protect humans and their animals against all kinds of diseases. It is well known that animal diseases and parasites can in some cases also affect humans. Livestock live amongst people and diseases can spread from animals to humans. In some areas, people are not yet aware of the dangers of, for instance, eating the meat of diseased animals. I, therefore, propose that small farmers in the remote communities be educated to be aware of the risk involved in doing so.

Mr Speaker, animal diseases are widespread and skin and liver diseases *Okawenyo* and *Onyango* occur in some areas. Working animals are also affected by diseases and I do not know why our Veterinary Services are not vaccinating the animals against all diseases, but only against diseases, which are not common in the area like *ekondo*. We would like to appeal to them to vaccinate against diseases which are killing the animals.

We often see a donkey chasing the goats, biting it and carrying it in its mouth. This type of disease is common and they do not vaccinate the animals, but only vaccinate against the ones, which never occur. We often see goats walking in circles and the next morning the goat is dead. I, therefore, do not understand why they cannot vaccinate against all common diseases so that our people will not lose so many animals due to those diseases. I know that we do not have enough trained veterinary staff, but that is no reason... (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Headman-*cum*-communal farmer a question? Honourable Moongo spoke about donkeys chasing goats. When we were doing primary education, we were told of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Can the Honourable Member maybe tell me under which category the donkey falls because I thought it falls under the herbivores?

HON MOONGO: I did not participate in all those courses because I was a freedom fighter and I did not have time. I liberated Namibia and I did not participate in all those courses.

I know that we do not have enough veterinary staff, but that is no reason why this very important service should not be delivered. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. I think the Honourable Member should now be serious. Firstly, he is the Vice-President of the DTA and he has been elected as a Headman of a village, so he should behave in such a manner and not come and make jokes here. He is also a Member of Parliament.

HON SPEAKER: What the Honourable Member is saying aside, he looks quite orderly in the House and he may proceed.

HON MOONGO: The Honourable Minister was on Robben Island, he also did not take such courses to know all the veterinary terms. I was a freedom fighter, he was in prison, and we are therefore in the same position.

I, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to look into this matter and to ensure that animals are vaccinated against all common diseases.

Mr Speaker, the community-based veterinary persons who were trained to help the communities are doing well. However, they must become fulltime workers and must be paid full salaries. They are doing excellent work.

The Minister should not only look at the laboratory side of the problem, but must also educate our people and create awareness in order to prevent these diseases to continue to pose a serious risk to the Nation.

Honourable Members, the Amendment that no person or home can be searched without a warrant, authorised by a Magistrate, is in line with Article 13 of the Constitution dealing with the privacy of a person. We, therefore, fully support this Amendment.

Mr Speaker, allow me to ask when the Veterinary Cordon Fence is going to be removed so that farmers beyond Oshivelo will be free to market their animals the same as all other farmers. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, I am taking some notes. Could the Honourable Member spell that word he used just for my notes?

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HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Which word?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Something like “condon”. (Laughter).

HON SPEAKER: It is up to the Honourable Member whether he would like to reply.

HON MOONGO: I know some of you on that side like Femidoms, but I did not say that, I said cordon. The people living beyond Oshivelo are discriminated against as they cannot market their animals at a profit. I appeal to the Minister to remove this Veterinary Cordon Fence. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information. What we have before is an Amendment, which is very clear. What the Honourable Member is addressing is what he could probably have addressed under the Budget. It does not really fit in what we have here. You could have taken the Floor last week and made those general remarks.

HON MOONGO: I take the point, but I have to raise the problems surrounding your Ministry in order to improve on circumstances affecting the living standards of the people. We in Namibia are free, but the people beyond the Veterinary Cordon Fence are still not free. People in that Region feel that they are discriminated against and that they are deliberately being prevented from sharing in, for instance, the overseas markets. I appeal to the Minister to explain why this fence is not removed. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Sir. I am rising to make a humble contribution to the Second Reading Debate of the Animal Diseases and Parasites Amendment Bill which was tabled and eloquently motivated by the Honourable Dr Nicky Iyambo, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

The Honourable Dr Iyambo was more than hundred percent correct, in my view, when he in his motivation statement on the very first Page, *inter alia*, convincingly argued as follows: *“It is the responsibility of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and that of the Private Sector, the farming community and, indeed, the general public to safeguard the livestock sector to ensure that it remains viable and continues to grow in ensuring provision of effective animal health legislation that underpins the delivery of efficient and production services.”* I fully agree with that statement. In my view, Comrade Speaker, that is a very profound, powerful, forward-looking and reassuring statement to all of us here and also outside, in particular the very large constituency of Namibians who make their daily living from subsistence farming.

As I was dissecting and analysing the quoted statement, Comrade Speaker, I concluded that my humble contribution would have to be based on and centred on the following issues and questions:

The first one is, what mechanisms are in place – and I know of quite a number of things that you are doing – or are envisaged to be put in place that would ensure the farming community and, indeed, the general public, with particular and deliberate reference to the subsistence or communal farmers, that they get the necessary training, incentives and other technical support to properly safeguard their livestock? When I look at what Government is doing in terms of ensuring the health of our people, quite a number of things have been done and are being done, including even the animals. I am not talking about domesticated animals, but if you look at what the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is doing in terms of protecting wildlife, the flora and fauna, it is quite a lot that is being done and we need to further intensify the efforts when it comes to our domesticated animals which, as the Honourable Minister correctly stated in his motivation, are the source of our livelihood as Namibians, commercial as well as communal.

How do we ensure that efficient animal health and production services are actually delivered to our people? When one looks at the reality on the ground – and nobody is to be blamed here – we have very few trained, qualified people to take care of the animals. We have very few veterinarians in this country and we have to intensify our training programmes in that regard.

In addition, when one looks at the centres where these services are actually to

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be delivered to our people, they are very few and I am not talking about the commercial farming areas. In the communal areas, you will find maybe one veterinarian in a big Region, based in a town such as Oshakati or Rundu or Katima Mulilo, to take care of the whole Region. If you actually go down and see the number of animals in that particular area that are supposed to be taken care of by these very few trained people, I think the task just becomes too enormous and we have to do something in that particular regard.

In this context, it is important for us all as Parliamentarians and leaders to take note of the caution as articulated in the main document entitled, "*Namibia-Vision 2030*". On Page 143 the following caution is actually given: "*Although 94% of rural households identify agriculture as the main activity, it has begun to make a declining contribution to communal farmers' household income*".

Comrade Speaker, this trend is worrying, especially when one considers that the large majority of our people live in communal areas and they are almost exclusively dependent on subsistence farming. Of course, one of the instruments that could be used to positively address this trend is what the Minister is not proposing to this Honourable House through this Bill, which Bill aims to regulate and deal with the health status of especially our domesticated animals.

Apart from the fact that there are a few qualified trained veterinarians in our country presently, I am also disappointed to observe that even shops sell medicine for animals. These shops are mostly located in towns south of the cordon fence where the subsistence farmer has to buy the medicine. The time has come, 15 years after Independence, that these shops cater for the whole country, such as in Rundu, Oshakati, Opuwo and Fransfontein where money is also available. In this particular regard it is important that we need hear the voice of the farmers as organised under the Namibia National Farmers' Union, to reach out to those areas in terms of providing the services which are only located in certain areas. The very same money that is to be acquired in towns is also available, if not more, in those Rural Areas.

Comrade Speaker, Sir, before I take my comfortable seat here, I would like to get some clarification from Honourable Minister Nicky Iyambo, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Comrade Minister, on Page 2 of your statement you clearly articulated the intention of amending the main Act of 1956 when you stated as follows: "*The intention is to update the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act of 1956*" in order to achieve the objectives that you outlined in Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of your statement. However, as the Act was promulgated 49 years ago, four years before the birth of SWAPO and one year before my own birth, do you not think that the time has probably come, when looking at the objectives we want to achieve in the Amendment Bill, to bring it

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in line with the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia? Pleading ignorance of what the main body of the Act stipulates, do you not think the time has come that we need to look at the whole Act of 1956? I can imagine it is an Act, which was drafted in 1956, probably in line with the policy objectives of that time of Bantustans and homelands, trying to contain the diseases in the Communal Areas.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. After fifteen years, we have those laws here. Is he blaming Honourable Minister Nicky Iyambo or is he blaming the whole Cabinet? It is something you were supposed to remove from the books and you are talking about it. It should be removed.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Otherwise, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I think this piece of legislation is very important as it addresses the nitty-gritty of the lives of our people on a daily basis and, therefore, it has my wholehearted support. I also commend the Minister for the efforts that you are doing in terms of making sure that the status of our animals' health is tops, but we need to do more. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I would also like to make a few brief remarks in contribution to the Amendments tabled by the Minister and I would like to state right from the start that I do not have any problem with the particular Amendments tabled by the Minister. My problem is almost similar to what Honourable Mutorwa just mentioned. I would have expected that the Minister would have made use of this opportunity to introduce a complete overhaul of this piece of legislation. I went to the trouble of digging out this Act, Act 13 of 1956, and I see that in comparison with the Act as a whole, the Amendment that we have in front of the House now brings a few aspects in line with the Constitution, but they are very superficial. The Act was a South African Act, and continues to be so. It does not really look into the reality of the Namibian situation.

Honourable Speaker, the meat industry in Namibia, I understand, started about

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170 years ago in 1835. I am now talking about the beginnings of the modern Meat Industry. I am not talking about the hunting and the drying of the *biltong*. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Is the Honourable Member aware that in 1889 Charles Anderson exported cattle from here through Botswana to Transvaal? Are you aware of that?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for that important piece of information. If you listened to me well, I cited the year 1835. That is the time when the smuggling or exportation of cattle started from Namibia. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, you were telling Honourable Kaura that there were no cattle hustlers. The person by then who exported or hustled the cattle was Afrikaner. In 1835, it was Jan Jonker Afrikaner and then Witbooi, the cattle hustler, and not a white man. They were sending those particular people to take the cattle from here to South Africa. However, the way he put it is correct, but we ought to erase these kinds of laws which are uncalled for. Let us sit down, change all the laws, and not argue about the issue.

HON ULENGA: Luckily every one of us was in Government before once. I was in Government and there was a time when the Chief was in Government and could have done his bit then.

The point that I want to make is on the question of the complete lack of sanity with regard the line we have across our country now, called the Cordon Fence. I understand when the meat industry started in Namibia, cattle goat and sheep were bought over the whole area, stretching right into the middle of Angola and other areas. Animal diseases and parasites did exist in those years and those who were involved did make efforts to eradicate that in order to safeguard the livestock sector and to make it grow. The goals have continued up to the present Government, as the Minister stated in his statement that the aims and the goals of the Government and the responsibility of everybody is not only making this sector viable, but to make it grow.

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I have also noted that the Minister said in the last Paragraph of his statement that his Ministry does not only have the mechanisms, but even the zeal to make sure that the Amendments are properly implemented.

I have spoken to a few farmers, especially those living in the communal areas, and they feel very bad, they are complaining that services and especially health services for their livestock have completely broken down. Even where they are available, they are very far from the supposed service points and I cannot understand the mechanisms, which exist, and the zeal, which exists in the Ministry if it is not used to correct this kind of situation. Therefore, I hope the Honourable Minister will look into the whole question of the breaking down of the services in the livestock sector.

Honourable Speaker, there are perceptions about animal diseases....
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I will answer when the time comes, but I want to give information. It is particularly on the point of the breaking down of the health services for the animals in the communal area. Honourable Member, there are those diseases for which there are programmes to vaccinate the animals and as far as I can recollect, the last time foot-and-mouth disease, for example, has broken out in the communal area in the north-west was 42 ago. That was the last time. It does break out now and then in the Caprivi Region and that is because of the presence of buffalos, which are carriers of that disease and there is nothing we can do about it.

Then you have a disease such as botulism, which occurs when an animal has eaten something, that is infected and botulism does occur in the communal area as well as this side of the Cordon Fence. It only occurs when an animal has eaten a particular thing. It is not included in the vaccinating process.
(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: And Anthrax?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: You can vaccinate against Anthrax, but there is an outbreak now and then, for example in the Etosha. I do not know which breakdown of services the

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Honourable Member is actually referring to. Is it for the diseases which can be vaccinated or is it the diseases which occur as an incident that has happened? Could you make a difference between the two?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I did not speak about a breakout of diseases, I spoke about a breakdown of services. There is a difference. There has not been any breakout of a disease, which I remember and that is actually the point. There is a perception, which has turned the whole fifty percent of the livestock sector in the country into a second-degree sector. There is the first class sector, south of the Cordon Fence. Then there is the other, which, just because of the practice on the ground, has become like second-rate. Everything that is produced there is second-rate and the reason is for the biggest part in the perceptions about animal health risks. However, if you look at the history this is not really corroborated on the ground. As I said in the beginning, when the meat industry started, meat was bought all over the country. Serious animal health efforts were carried out all over the country. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, I think when we are debating an issue of this nature, we must also not play ignorant of the factors that are influencing some of these issues. Yes, the Cordon Fence has an impact on half of our farmers who are living north of this Cordon Fence, but the fact of the matter is that it is the European and other consumers who are complaining about these diseases and this does not affect Namibia alone. The neighbouring countries, such as Botswana, are demarcated along the same lines. These are geographical facts and rather than playing politics and ignorance about it.... (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you can take the Floor and contribute.

HON ULENGA: It is very unfair the way the Speaker allows these things to happen. Anyhow, Honourable Speaker, I am perhaps being misunderstood if people think I am playing politics. If I am playing politics, it is definitely not against the present Government. I know that it is specifically cited in NDP1

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and NDP2 that part of the Government's aim will be transform agriculture and specifically the livestock sectors in the communal areas, to carry out a transformation that will eventually make it unnecessary for the existence of the Cordon Fence. Therefore, I am talking in the same direction as the long-term goals of the Government.

What I want to say, Honourable Speaker, is that we do not see much of it happening on the ground right now. About ten years ago, the said transformation was promised and what we see now is rather a deterioration of the situation. Therefore, I want to make a specific proposal in this regard and of course, I know about the perceptions that exist in Europe. Let me tell you that they did not start in Europe. They started here. Those perceptions were created here not during our era, but during the pre-Independence era. That is when it started that even though the whole country a hundred years ago was likely to get all these kinds of diseases the Minister was citing, it was decided that the north is more dangerous than the south, which makes no sense and I cannot understand why it should be like that.

When Rinderpest broke out about a hundred and something years ago, it did not start in the north, it started right in the central part of the country. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: It started in Zambia.

HON ULENGA: Wherever it started, it does not justify the present Cordon Fence. I think the Minister should consider this specific proposal, that a second Fence is erected, so that we have the primary area south of the present Cordon Fence and let us have a second area that is also safeguarded in such a way that in time we can talk about a complete eradication of animal diseases and parasites and that we can talk about a proper integration of the livestock sector in the country.

Talking about the zeal that the Ministry has, for example, you find along the present Cordon Fence that there are so many gates where Government officials are involved in trying to stop and control the so-called importation of Namibian animals into Namibia, but we do not have this kind of zeal applied on the borders of the country. I cannot understand that. Why do you have people very eager to search you when you are at the Werda Gate or when you are at Mururani, when you are at the gate on the way to Tsumkwe and all across the middle of the country and you do not have the same zeal at the real-risk area, which is the Namibia-Angola border, where chickens and everything is coming

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in on a daily basis.

However, I wanted to address this issue and focus the attention of the Minister specifically on the question of erecting a second fence that will safeguard in time the entire productive zone of Namibia's livestock sector. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, it is unfortunate that Honourable Ulenga has concluded his speech, as I did not understand what he meant when he referred to the second fence. Is it to be constructed along the borders? (Interjections) I wanted to know what the point of erecting a second fence inside the country is. It does not make sense. I just wanted to remove the confusion Ulenga is trying to create. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. First, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for tabling this Amendment. I rose to seek clarification from the Honourable Minister, because I think this Amendment has serious implications for some of us who live in the communal areas.

My understanding of this Amendment is that it seeks, first, to protect people from unwarranted search, under the pretext that people are looking for "*animal parasites, infectious thing or other thing or the progeny of any animal.*" I understand that is the purpose of the Amendments. The Amendment calls that if someone is going to do the search, that somebody should have a warrant. I am now putting myself in a situation where I am at my village at Onyaanya and there is a dog with rabies. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Order. I refer you to Article 35 and 41 of the Constitution, which talks about the composition of Cabinet and

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talks about the duties, functions and collective responsibility. My question therefore is does the Right Honourable Prime Minister, as the Leader of Cabinet, not seek clarification on Bills when they are in Cabinet? Does he have to come and do it here?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The Honourable Members know very well that we are to make laws and when I come to Parliament I study them very carefully in terms of its impacts on people and I am now speaking about how this law is going to impact on people.

If you are in a village such as Onyaanya and there is a dog suffering from rabies, running around and biting children, chicken and everything else and goes into somebody's house, do you go to Ondangwa, fifty kilometres away, to get a warrant to come and search for this dog and by that time the dog had maybe gone to another house, biting people or what are you supposed to do? I am just trying to apply this law to my situation.

When this dog enters somebody's house and you do not have a warrant, the owner of this house can take you to Court and you have to pay N\$1 million. (Interjections) Yes, look at the law. That is the punishment! Section 7(3) says that if you enter a person's dwelling without the said warrant, you will be sentenced to N\$1 million upon conviction. Now you have a rabid dog spreading rabies all over the place, it runs into somebody's dwelling, you cannot enter the dwelling without a warrant, therefore the dog continues to spread rabies and people's health is being threatened. Now I am trying to find the balance between privacy and health, which one is more important. Perhaps I do not understand this Amendment properly, but I want the Minister to explain this to me because I think this Amendment has serious implications.

Sometimes in the villages, the neighbour's chickens have bird flu or the neighbour's pigs are suffering from something and you want these pigs to be treated or eliminated, but now you must get somebody to do an inspection, go, and get a warrant in Oshakati or Ondangwa while you are from Okongo, which is very far. Is this applicable or is it just applicable in town? I want the Minister to explain how this law is going to be implemented in the place where I live myself.

There are many animal diseases and one serious one is rabies. Normally you chase the rabid dog around until you find it somewhere and eliminate it, but if it runs into somebody's house, you have to go and find a warrant to search that house. Will this work Honourable Minister?

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HON KATALI**

Besides asking that question, I have another question on Paragraph 1(a)(i) which reads: *“Provided that this Paragraph shall not be so construed as to prohibit the carrying out of any such search without a warrant in the circumstances contemplated in Article 13(2)(b).”* It means that you can only search if there is a danger of prejudicing the objects of the search or public interest. Would this really help the situation, that there is danger, but in the name of privacy you cannot address the danger and if you address it and violate this law, you will be punished with N\$1 million. Is that not excessive punishment? (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question? Honourable Prime Minister, I want to find out, if a dog with rabies runs into somebody’s house, would the owner of that house accommodate that dog or would he look for help to get rid of the dog because the dog is going to bite his children. Will the owner of the dog and the owner of the house not cooperate to get rid of the dog?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That is just one of the conditions. It can also go into the house when the owner is not there. Once you enter while the owner is not there, you have to pay N\$1 million. Rabies is just one of the diseases, there are many others, which can occur in these villages, and you want somebody to go there and determine what is the cause of death of that cow, but to do that, even if you are a health officer, you must have a warrant. I just want clarity from the Minister how this law is going to be implemented in a place like my village.

HON SPEAKER: I am sure in responding to the query the Minister would look at Article 13(2)(b) under the privacy provisions. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for bringing this Amendment to the House. I do not really have a problem with the principle of the Act, an Act that is older than I am, and I am not going to address the principle of this Act, I will probably wait until it is brought here.

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HON SHIHEPO**

However, Comrade Speaker, in the motivation of the Honourable Minister there are three intentions with the Amendment, but when you look at the Amendment itself, there are only three Amendments, which are the Amendment of Section 1, Section 19 and Section 28.

The Amendment of Section 1 deals with the definition and I do not have any problem with that, but when it comes to the Amendment of Section 19, I want to know what prompted the Minister to come up with this Amendment. Was there any problem with a person who was searched without a warrant or what prompted this? I am asking this because, as the Right Honourable Nahas Angula indicated, if I suspect something, then I must leave the village to go and get a warrant in order for me to be able to come and search. That will take unnecessary time and create room for such a person to take those things somewhere else. I want to know what the purpose of this Amendment was.

The second one relates to the Amendment of Section 28, which deals with the fine. N\$1 million is something that is normally not affordable. Why do we have to put a deterrent, which is unaffordable, meaning we are putting a fine simply because we are expecting some people to contravene this law and, therefore, they need to be punished? If we are really to punish somebody for a search without a warrant with a million, what are we trying to achieve? Can we not come up with a more affordable fine? I hope to get clarity from the Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Shihepo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I will be brief. It is only something I want to bring to the attention of the Honourable Minister while we are on this topic, namely the drugs or medicine.

I heard over the radio that there are places where you can buy these drugs, but some of these drugs need to be kept in a cool place and our people have a tendency to keep these drugs and sell it to the farmers. Sometimes the drugs have expired and you are not doing justice to the animals if you vaccinate them with these drugs. I was thinking that maybe the Farmers Union, together with the Ministry, could check at these places whether these medicines and drugs are kept properly the way it should be and they have not expired. Thank you.

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HON IILONGA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I just want to contribute to this Amendment and thank the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Many of the points, which I wanted to raise, have already been mentioned by previous speakers, but I only want clarification on one point. The Amendment seeks to authorise a search with a warrant and they are only talking of a home, but the concern here is parasites and infectious diseases. Now I want to know, what about vehicles being subjected to search at Oshivelo, especially those coming from north of the redline? They used to be searched at the gate and the Amendment is silent on this. What would happen if the owner of the vehicle challenges the officials to provide him or her with a warrant authorising them to search his or her vehicle? (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: I am sorry to interrupt, but on a Point of Order. Since we are always concerned about the Small and Medium Enterprises, we have contracted a Catering Company of small people. If we continue and then after the adjournment we all leave for home, what they have prepared will be wasted. Are they charging us whether we come there or not? They ought to because they have incurred costs. Since teatime is now over, will we go to the Cafeteria so that they can make money or will they charge us because we have committed ourselves that we are going to drink tea there.

HON SPEAKER: Bearing that in mind, the Speaker sought the pleasure of the House and the silence indicated that we should proceed. However, we shall honour the contractual obligation and stop by at the Cafeteria before we leave.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, the people of the Cafeteria will respond to the concern of the Honourable Member.

Comrade Speaker, we really need to look at this issue, as we will have trouble. If it is for parasites and infectious diseases, then we must know they are not only in houses. Is our meat confiscated at Oshivelo because they might have parasites? I want us to consider this Amendment and the concerns

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expressed about the fine and the warrant only to be issued by a Magistrate. I feel it is going to be difficult to implement this Amendment in practical terms. I hope the Minister will look into these points seriously, come up with something affordable, and bear in mind the disadvantaged Namibians.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Kazenambo.

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

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Before I support the Bill, I want to register my concern on the aspects where the Amendment is silent and the connotations of the term “home”, because in the areas where some of us are farming as subsistence farmers, animals are being transported from neighbouring countries, disease polluted areas, and there are no Magistrates’ Courts in those areas. Sometimes these stolen animals are taken to areas near commercial farms, we do not have access to those areas, and then we hear that the veterinarians are saying that the animals, which crossed from Botswana, affected the whole industry, no animals are going to be sold, but the people have to send their kids to school. These Amendments should take note of those issues and pronounce it on those animals, which are brought illegally into the country and taken to commercial farms where the poor communal farmers have no access.

The Prime Minister said some of these issues are critical, because you cannot enter a commercial farmer’s farm, he will tell you that you are trespassing and he will call the Police, but the impact is devastating. That is my concern. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I take it the last speaker is Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I need your assistance if my question or statement is irrelevant or out of place. I want to put the question to somebody but there is nobody on the Floor, therefore I will raise a concern.

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ADJOURNMENT

I am concerned about animals crossing the rivers between Angola and the northern part of Namibia. When I was in Rundu some years ago, I was fishing at the river then I saw *Mukoro (Wooden Canoes)* approaching this side and something in the water in between. I then realised that it was a cow with only the nose above the water. They bring their animals to be sold in Rundu. I am concerned about the spread of diseases between Angola and Namibia. Are there any measures in place to prevent it?

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Will the Minister reply?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Speaker, I will reply next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Debate is postponed until next Tuesday. I call on the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It is now my honour and privilege to adjourn the House until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:55 UNTIL 2005.06.09 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
09 JUNE 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

WELCOMING ADDRESS

HON SPEAKER: In accordance with Article 32(2) of the Constitution, the President and the Cabinet shall each year during the consideration of the official Budget attend Parliament. During such Session the President shall address Parliament on the State of the Nation and on future policies of the Government, report on policies of the previous year and shall be available to respond to questions. It shall be done accordingly with my brief welcoming remarks.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Honourable Members of Parliament, invited guests, fellow Namibians. On 5 April 2005, Your Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, you delivered an inspiring and forward-looking maiden address at the Joint Session of the House and officially opened the Fourth Parliament as our new Head of State. That was yet another making of history following Your Excellency's brilliant inauguration on the 21st of March 2005 as Namibia's second President.

Today marks no less a major event of historical significance for our country and the people. Your Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, I, on behalf of the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf welcome you back to this august House and I congratulate you for doing us proud and making us walking tall. We feel this way, seeing as we do and celebrating the admirable way in which you had taken up your onerous task of keeping us united and reassuring us of our Nation's prospects ahead during your tenure of office.

We would also like to mention in her absence the First Lady, Madam Pohamba, and reiterate our support for the First Lady's best efforts in urging our people and communities to promote reconciliation and self-reliance in their daily pursuits.

We are also honoured on this special occasion as Members of Parliament to recognise and welcome Dr Mosé Tjitendero, the first Speaker of the National Assembly and Mrs Sandy Tjitendero.

To all, accept our jubilant and sincere acknowledgement and best wishes. We

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are proud of you and treasure your unceasing contributions to peace, stability and development of the country and welfare and security of all our people. Let Parliament continue to be your home individually and collectively and to all Namibians.

It is understood that as Members of Parliament we will expect and welcome your encouragement and support in carrying out our national duties as lawmakers and Public Servants. Namibia is safe and secure in Your Excellency's tested and able hands. We are firmly moving in the right direction, guided by Vision 2030 if only all of us steadfastly uphold the noble virtues of optimism, unity and hard work. Team Namibia's spirit is good for business, as for the Public Sector and the Civil Service. We must and we shall move forward together towards a peaceful and prosperous Namibia.

Your Excellency, the President, the House felt uplifted and reinvigorated by your maiden address that conveyed a promise of a new beginning and a better future. I now have the distinct honour and privilege to invite our esteemed Head of State, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, to deliver the State of the Nation Address. Your Excellency, the Floor is yours.

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HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA: Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Your Honour the Chief Justice, Honourable Members of Parliament, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished invited guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen.

As part of our Governmental checks and balances, Article 32(2) of the Namibian Constitution enjoins the President of the Republic of the Namibia to address Parliament on the State of the Nation, on the future policies of the Government during the consideration of the national Budget, to report on the policies of the previous year and to be available to respond to questions. I am privileged and honoured to stand before you today in order to fulfil that constitutional provision.

This is my first State of the Nation Address as the second President of the Republic of Namibia. As such, this is a historical occasion not only for our country, but also for me personally.

On the 21st of March this year, our country witnessed historic events in its

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relatively short existence as an independent and sovereign Republic. We celebrated fifteen years of freedom, peace, progress and social stability in a troubled world. In view of a difficult history of the armed liberation struggle, we are indeed fortunate to have succeeded in moulding a united Nation and a society where the rights and freedoms of all our citizens are respected and where our people enjoy equal protection before the law.

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, my duty here this afternoon is to inform the Namibian people about Government activities in the last Financial Year and also to share with them the plans for the coming ten months or so, but now that the Minister of Finance tabled the Budget in Parliament during the first quarter of the year, with the State of the Nation Address following shortly thereafter, understandably this year there is a slight delay. I wish to assure the Nation that the delay is not the result of anything sinister. It is all part of the process of transition that we find ourselves in, which necessitated the realignment of some Government Ministries, Offices, Agencies and Departments.

It is my intention today to give a broad overview of the state of our Nation, covering themes and topics related to the process of national socio-economic development. Secondly, I will address the various sectors and sub-sectors and how they influence the lives of our citizens across the country within the context of the Financial Year ending 31 March 2005. Thirdly, I will contextualise the orientation of our SWAPO Party Government with regard to the values and policies that we will pursue in this Financial Year and beyond.

Indeed, as I look back, I see many areas where Namibia continued to produce positive results, but I also see many areas where work remains to be done. We must, however remember that the talks of nation building cannot be accomplished overnight. After all, as it is often said, "*Rome was not built in a day*". Fortunately, however, today we live in a technological age, a time in which we can build faster, plan well and deliver results more efficiently if we adopt appropriate mechanisms, strategies and technologies. The challenge, therefore, before us is to search for technologies that are appropriate to our country, to identify appropriate partners, to move forward with renewed and sustained commitment, determination, optimism and hard work. Where there is a will there is a way and we have the will. We shall succeed.

I am saying this with profound confidence and boldness because of what we achieved since the dawn of our political Independence on the 21st of March 1990. I am a very proud citizen of this country, I am very proud because of the following:

Together we cultivated and nurtured the spirit of national reconciliation and national unity, together we cherished a culture of peace and social stability,

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together we fought for, attained and sustained democracy in our country, together we demonstrated the power of mutual tolerance and respect and together we promoted respect for and upheld the Rule of Law and democracy in our country.

All Namibians can be proud of these achievements. Our country's exemplary democracy is increasingly enabling our people to enjoy the freedom of electing leaders of their choice, leaders whom they think are best qualified to represent their interests at all levels of decision-making, starting with the Local Government up to Parliament. I commend all our citizens who worked so hard, so professionally and so selflessly to ensure that our elections to date were pronounced free and fair and devoid of any acts of intimidation. Here I am referring to the elections of last year.

I also wish to acknowledge our Founding President, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for his patriotism and selfless dedication to the service of our country and her people over the years. He will always occupy an honoured and special place in Namibia's history, because through him and his able leadership and Statesmanship, we consolidated the gains of our freedom and Independence in the first fifteen years of our nationhood. I wish he were present in this House this afternoon.

Since Independence, the Namibian economy has been registering a positive economic growth. During NDP1, from 1995 to 2000, the economy grew by 3,8% on average. The recent mid-term review of NDP2 indicated that the economy grew by 2,7% during the first three years of the implementation of NDP2. Although the Namibian economy did not grow according to our expectations, the economic performance has been higher than that of the pre-Independence era. However, Namibia should have done better if the prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection could not be reduced, especially among the most productive section of our Nation, such as the youth. I believe that as we move toward the end of NDP2, there is a need for introspection.

The resource allocations in the new Budget, in particular the development Budget, are oriented in favour of the development of physical infrastructure. These investments are aimed at expanding the capacity of our economy to grow in the long term. This is because concurrent with imperative of investing in our national priorities of social sectors, there is a need to foster sustainable impetus to our economic growth so that we can sustain our investment in our long-term goals.

In the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2005/2006 to 2007/2008, the development Budget allocations are as follows: 23,6% for Social Sectors, 23,3% for Public Administration, 41% for infrastructure and 11,7% will be allocated to productive sectors.

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Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, there has been a considerable shift over the past five years in the areas of development cooperation, notably the gradual phasing out of traditional grant forms of assistance towards trade and development and the acquisition of soft loans. The promotion of partnerships between the public and private sector is gaining impetus. There is a growing appreciation for the advantages of Budget support and the sector-wide approach, as opposed to support for stand-alone projects.

Some development partners are also moving towards regional forms of development cooperation instead of focusing on individual countries. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has taken note of these changes and has moved to position itself to effectively deal with the new realities and it will maximise the benefits that can be derived. Our particular interest is the visible drop in bilateral assistance from N\$947,01 million in 1999 to N\$418,5 million in 2003, respectively. It should be noted that this assistance in the form of grants will gradually decrease after the 2007/2008 Financial Year and other forms of cooperation would be phased in. These will include more commercial cooperation, institutional cooperation, exchange of experts and research programmes, concessional loan financing and increased regional cooperation through our regional body, SADC.

Our country needs to establish a comprehensive statistical database of inward development assistance flows. At present, over 90% of aid-flow to Namibia is channelled outside the State Revenue Fund. The Government would prefer that external resources are directed through its own financial systems so that the Government can account for all external financial inflows and thereby improve predictability of development assistance from our respective development partners.

As we implement the next generations of our national development plans, starting with NDP3 in 2008, continued support from our development partners will form an important component of the Government's social programmes. It is important for us to be able to measure the pace at which we are moving towards our goals to continuously monitor and establish policy impacts with a reasonable degree of accuracy. Therefore, official statistics constitute an important tool to ensure systematic monitoring and evaluation of policy, programmes and their respective outputs and outcomes.

In this regard, adequate attention must be given to performance audits in the same manner that the Government Financial Audits are handled. This entails the production, processing, dissemination, planning, coordination and supervision of the national statistical system. I am pleased to state that the census analysis of the 2001 Population and Housing Census has been carried out as planned. It is also important to state that the "Namibia Household

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Income and Expenditure Survey” is critical to provide socio-economic data for evaluation of NDP2 and benchmark data for NDP3. It is for these reasons that care and attention must always be devoted to the collection of data to ensure quality output.

I would also like to mention that the Namibia Census of Agriculture 2004/2005 would provide benchmark data for NDP3 plan formulation. The review of NDP2 will also be useful to other policy interventions in the agricultural sector.

The National Planning Commission, through the Central Bureau of Statistics, produced an improved Consumer Price Index, which is representative of the entire country as compared to the Interim Cost Consumer Price Index, which was confined to Windhoek. The new Index launched in February this year and continues to be disseminated on a monthly basis.

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Honourable Members of Parliament the performance of our economy is vital in our efforts to improve the living standards of our people and place our country on a steady path towards the realisation of Vision 2030. It is, therefore, necessary for me to shed some light on the broad economic performance of our country.

I wish to state that while the analysis from the Bank of Namibia offers good news in some areas, it also offered difficult insights that highlight the mammoth challenges that we still face. The Namibian economy is projected to stabilise at 3,8% in 2005, moderately below the estimated rate of growth of 4,4% in 2004. This growth will be supported by an increasing production of offshore diamonds and a higher output in base metals, notably zinc and copper. The medium-term growth prospects are likely to stay the same, with economic growth remaining in the region of 3%.

The unemployment rate in Namibia continues to be one of the most pressing concerns facing policy-makers at all levels. According to available data, unemployment is more acute among the Namibian youth, particularly in the age group of 20 to 24 years.

A further consequence of slow economic growth is the high level of poverty in our country. At present, about 35% of our citizens are living in difficult circumstances. This compels us to ensure that Namibia’s economic policy reform should continue to focus on addressing poverty and unemployment if the goals of Vision 2030 are to be attained.

Economic reform is by no means an easy undertaking, but a task that we must face with courage and determination. The necessary reform should include the enhancement of skills, promotion of labour absorbing export sectors,

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improvement of access to finance, establishment of new financing vehicles, such as venture capital and by increasing the local ownership of our Financial Sector.

A related issue is the persistent outflow of Namibian savings, which are mostly invested in the neighbouring countries, particularly in South Africa. As these funds are needed to finance investment and growth in Namibia, the Government will continue to implement measures already approved by the Cabinet last year to minimise such outflows.

In terms of regional economic integration, Namibia has made its due contribution to regional organisations in advancing regional economic integration. We have contributed to the implementation of the new SACU Agreement and played a significant role in the setting up of the SACU Secretariat in our capital. We believe that meaningful monitoring integration at the regional level can only be achieved through coordinated macro-economic policies.

As the Ruling Party for the past fifteen years, the SWAPO Party has always been guided by the provisions contained in its Election Manifesto to deliver services and social amenities to all our citizens. During the period under review, development programmes implemented by the Government and other public agencies reached all corners of Namibia, influenced the lives of our citizens positively. The SWAPO Party Government and we believe that our most valuable economic asset is our people. If our people have solid education and training, if they are provided with appropriate scientific and technological skills, if they are provided with an enabling environment that permits them to apply their knowledge and expertise fully, then our country stands a good chance of achieving rapid socio-economic development.

I must state that we have made notable progress in education over the last fifteen years. More than 80% of adult Namibians are now literate and more than 90% of eligible children are in primary school.

Enrolments in vocational and technical education have increased twelve-fold since 1992 and the tertiary enrolment has increased by more than 50% since 1991.

Despite these efforts and related gains, many challenges remain. We need to produce more sufficiently skilled and educated citizens for our workforce. Thus, there is a need to improve the quality of our education. It is for these reasons that the education and training sector undertook a comprehensive analysis of our education system. The analysis identified the need for sector-wide reforms to improve quality, responsiveness, effectiveness, internal efficiency and to redress the lingering inequalities. This has led to the joint

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development of the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme. The Strategic Framework and Road Map for the period from 2005 to 2020 was adopted by Cabinet earlier this year. Already other measures are being imposed to improve the quality of formal education.

The inspectorate and advisory service in the Ministry of Education had been reorganised. National standards and performance indicators for schools have been compiled in a manual. The first core group of inspectors, education officers and advisory teachers were trained in its use in February this year. Moreover, curriculum reform is underway to ensure that school subjects are relevant to the needs of our country's development. In this respect, the new lower primary curriculum for Grade 1 and Grade 2 was implemented in January this year, with Grade 3 and Grade 4 scheduled for implementation next year.

Parallel with this process is the localisation of senior secondary examination. In fact, the first localised senior secondary examination is scheduled for 2007, by which time Namibia will have fully taken over the administration of this examination from the Cambridge International Examination. Already 85% of examinations are marked in Namibia by Namibian markers.

I am also pleased to state that practical initiatives have been taken to promote the use and application of Information Communication Technology in our Education Sector. These include relevant training for staff members of the Ministry of Education, the establishment of computer laboratories at all four Colleges of Education and the establishment of computer refurbishment centre at the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre. I must state here that I had the privilege to launch the project just yesterday.

Namibia is experiencing serious problems with unemployment, especially among the school-leavers. As a result, the Presidential Commission on Education, Culture and Training Report recommended that entrepreneurship should be strengthened in the school curriculum in order to equip our youth with the necessary skills. The Ministry of Education decided to introduce entrepreneurship as a compulsory subject in the Junior secondary phase as from 2007 and it is exploring options to secure funding so that the subject is implemented successfully and that teachers are trained and that the necessary materials are available.

In addition, a National ICT Literacy Project, aimed at providing unemployed youth with internationally recognised basic ICT certification, will soon be initiated with the assistance of the Social Development Fund of Namibia. I am pleased to announce that the funding for this project was recently approved by the Cabinet. In addition, as part of this drive, computers are being installed in a growing number of schools and an ICT Policy for Education has been adopted. Its implementation plan is envisaged to be ready by the end of this month.

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Steps have also been taken to integrate HIV/AIDS awareness in the education sector. With the assistance of the Global Fund, activities to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in the education sector are due to increase significantly in 2005 and 2006.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairman, one of the most important yardsticks to measure progress in education is the examination results. We are encouraged that at the end of 2004, improvements at both junior secondary and senior secondary levels were registered. It is, therefore, our hope that renewed national efforts to improve the quality of education will continue to bear fruits.

I also wish to mention that the vocational education and training system is being restructured to address concerns, such as relevance, efficiency and the quality of training.

A task force was appointed to facilitate the establishment of the National Training Authority within the context of improving equity and access.

A tertiary programme for visually impaired students has commenced at the Ongwediva College of Education and Valombola Vocational Training Centre. The objective of this programme is to ensure that inclusive education forms part of the curriculum for teacher education and for vocational education and training. In the same vein, a programme to increase the number of teachers for Mathematics, General Science and Agriculture is well on course. Under this programme, 600 students are to be trained at teacher training institutions in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Access to adequate housing is a basic right that all our citizens should enjoy. However, many challenges still exist in this sector. Many citizens still face inadequate or poor living conditions, particularly in our urban and peri-urban settlements. In order to address this problem, the Government is now actively working with local authorities in settlement areas to provide affordable housing to our people. The Government believes in the principle of community participation in addressing the problems of access to decent housing. To this end, we coordinate our efforts with the Shack Dwellers Association. From time to time, our SWAPO Party Government allocates funds to provide housing to pensioners and other vulnerable groups of our society.

An amount of N\$19,5 million was spent on the conversion of single quarters into family living units at Grootfontein, Okakarara, Gobabis, Gochas and Keetmanshoop. Another amount of N\$2,8 million was allocated for the improvement of informal settlements at Witvlei, Eenhana, Okahandja, Leonardville and Kamanjab.

The Build-Together Programme has been decentralised and continues to be a

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useful mechanism for the provision of affordable housing across the country. With a view to strengthen this programme, personnel from Regional and Local Authorities were given in-service training in various aspects necessary for the effective execution of their duties.

During the 2005/2006 Financial Year, the National Housing Enterprise plans to build 562 houses at the cost of N\$43,6 million. Another impediment that has constrained the pace for the provision of housing is the lack of adequate resources in some Local Authorities to develop infrastructure needed before residential neighbourhoods can be developed. These challenges call for a united response from the Government, the Private Sector and all social partners.

In the area of health, infant mortality has decreased from 67 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 52 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003.

The proportion of one-year old children immunised against measles has improved from 63% to 72%.

It is also worth noting that the proportion of rural households with access to safe drinking water increased from 45% in 1992 to 80% in 2003, while the proportion of rural households with access to basic sanitation increased from 15% in 1992 to 21% in 2003. Today illnesses, such as polio and tetanus, are no more reported in Namibia. Measles incidences, which were very high in the 1990s, are no longer a public health threat.

However, the HIV/AIDS pandemic remains a major challenge for our country as it affects all other sectors and sections of the society. Despite a relatively small population, Namibia is ranked amongst the countries with the highest infection rates in the world and HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of hospitalisation and death in our country. Every Saturday people are burying the dead.

The Government has introduced nationwide programmes to deal with the pandemic. The National AIDS Control Programme is being implemented through measures such as anti-retroviral therapy and the prevention of mother-to-child infection. The prevention of mother-to-child infection programme has grown since its inception in 2002. It is now provided in 32 health facilities in all 13 Regions. Likewise, the provision of anti-retroviral treatment therapy, which started in 2003, is now available at 25 public hospitals countrywide. The regular HIV/AIDS Survey of women attending antenatal care was again conducted by the Namibian Institute of Pathology from July to October 2004 in 24 hospitals. The result of this survey reflects an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 19,8%, which indicates a decline of 2,2% compared to the prevalence of 22% in 2002. The good news is that the most sexually active age group, those between 15 and 34, all experience a decline in HIV prevalence.

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Comrade Speaker of the National Assembly Comrade Chairperson of the National Council, Namibia is considered the most arid country in southern Africa where water is scarce for both human beings and livestock. Therefore, our SWAPO Party Government has placed considerable emphasis on the provision of water for household use and agriculture. To this end, we have managed to improve water supply service to our rural population by more than 75%. The target is to reach 80% by 2006 and to cover 100% of the rural population by 2030. Last year 332 community water points were made operational across the country and are now under the management of respective communities.

Government is fully aware of the valuable contribution that indigenous plants and their products make to the livelihood to the majority of the Namibian farming community, particularly small farmers. We have continued to invest into improving the value and the quality of these products. For example, we have helped farmers to produce oil and juice, among other products, from fruits like marula and the baobab fruits, as well as products of pharmaceutical value from plants such as devil's claw and hoodia. These products are now reaching export markets in Europe. I must, however stress the importance of sustainable harvest of these plants and their products. Last year Government started with trials to test the viability of commercial cultivation of devil's claw in Omaheke Region.

For a developing country such as Namibia, the availability of reliable electricity is a measure of socio-economic advancement. It has a direct and positive correlation to the improvement of the standard of living of citizens. Electricity is necessary to drive economic activities and to enable our people to take advantage of new economic opportunities with a view to improving their lives. I can report today that the restructuring and rationalisation of the electricity supply industry has started to bear positive results. Three regional electricity distributors have been established, namely NORED in the north and eastern regions, ErongoRED in the west and the CENORED for central and southern towns. NORED is already operational and the other two will start operations next month. Negotiations to establish regional electricity distributors for central and southern regions are in progress.

The Rural Electrification Programme remains an important priority of our SWAPO Party Government. To date, the Government has invested more than N\$260 million in electrifying rural centres in all 13 Regions of our country. In the off-grid area, the Government has also electrified more than 800 households and small businesses by means of solar power home systems. To date, more than 800 solar systems had been installed countrywide. Other sources of renewable power have also been implemented, including the use of biomass energy. The National Bio-Mass Steering Committee has been established with the aim of promoting the use of this energy source. Training on the

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manufacturing and marketing of biomass was carried out at Ondobe, Okahao, and Khorixas as well as in Windhoek.

Last year Cabinet mandated NamPower and NamCor to develop the Kudu Gas-to-Power project. We now expect a final investment decision to be made towards the end of this year and the construction of this project to commence in 2006. Plans are underway to implement the Caprivi Link, connecting the Namibian electricity network with that of Zambia. When implemented, the link will make it possible for the Caprivi Region to receive electricity directly from our national power grid.

Namibia is also participating in the Western Corridor initiative, to exploit the huge potential of the Inga Rapids in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The aim is to build a hydropower station at Inga Rapids, which has the potential output of 39,000 megawatts. With such output, it will generate enough power to supply the entire continent and still have surplus electricity for export elsewhere. Other participants in the project are electricity utilities from South Africa, Angola, DRC and Botswana.

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, in a caring and compassionate manner our SWAPO Party Government has always brought to the centre the needs of vulnerable groups in our society. This is precisely because we hold the view that the elderly, the poor, children and people living with disability and those facing natural disasters have special needs that warrant special Government intervention. It is for this reason that the Government continues to provide for old-age pension, disability grants, subvention for war veterans, assistance or orphans and vulnerable children as well as other forms of social assistance, including provision for funeral benefits for our elderly.

Through the timely intervention of Government and its development partners, the 2003/2004 drought disaster was averted. A comprehensive drought programme was implemented from November 2003 to May 2004, benefiting a total of more than 600,000 people. During the same period, 5,000 people in the flooded areas of the Caprivi Region were evacuated and provided with the necessities.

In order to promote quality early childhood development, the Government will continue to support community-based early childhood development centres countrywide, especially in the previously disadvantaged communities. We believe that early childhood development programmes can be an effective tool to fight poverty and to break the vicious cycle of illiteracy. We are pleased with the progress that has been made so far in this area. More than 4,000 centres have been established countrywide. More than 108,000 children are currently enrolled. I am pleased to state that 57% of them are girls.

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It is also important to note that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has started with the construction of recreational centres for children in Oshakati, Rundu, Katima Mulilo and Kalkrand. The initiative will still be expanded to other parts of the country in the coming years.

I can also report that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare together with the National Institute of Education Development have jointly developed an appropriate pre-primary school syllabus.

Our SWAPO Party Government is committed to meet the needs of orphans and other vulnerable children through the provision of appropriate services and assistance. During the 2004/2005 Financial Year alone, Government spent more than N\$54 million for such assistance and services. The National Policy for Orphans and Vulnerable Children was finalised in December last year and launched on the 9th of February this year. Thus, all wheels should get into motion to ensure its full implementation.

In line with the provisions of the Affirmative Action Act, the Office of the Prime Minister has established a Disability Advisory Unit to advise and assist the Office of the Prime Minister on matters pertaining to people with disability as well as on issues of policy formulation and execution. The Unit represents Namibia on the United Nations *Ad Hoc* Committee that is formulating an international integral convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignities of persons with disability.

In conjunction with the Electoral Commission of Namibia, the Unit facilitated the production of the special ballot papers, which made it possible for the Namibians with visual impairment to vote in last year's Presidential, National Assembly and Regional Council elections. The Unit also facilitated the translated of the Public Service Charter into Braille to make it accessible to visually impaired persons.

During the period under review, the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Social Services distributed more than 800 devices to people living with disability and 828 cataract sufferers had their sight successfully restored, thanks to Dr Ndume.

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, I indicated earlier that our national Budget is oriented in favour of strengthening and expanding our physical infrastructures. Here we are talking about public buildings, roads, railways, harbours, airports, telephone lines, cellular networks and, indeed, other facilities.

During the 2004/2005 Financial Year, more than twenty major capital projects were completed at a cost of more N\$135 million. These include renovation and

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extension of hospitals and district hospitals in various parts of the country, such as the Nyangana, Andara, Khorixas, Omaruru, Okakarara, Windhoek Central, the Cardiac Unit at the Windhoek Central Hospital and the Karibib Health Centre. Construction work was also successfully completed at the Keetmanshoop, Oshona and Otjiwarongo Military Bases, while the Swakopmund Sport Complex, the Frans Dimbare Youth Centre and the Ongwediva Women's Centre were also completed. In addition, the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication has standardised the design of certain public buildings, such as schools, hostels and houses.

Progress has also been made in the alienation of Government houses, with 350 houses sold countrywide, generating an income of more than N\$91,6 million.

Moreover, the accounting function for leasing and letting State land and buildings has now been computerised as part of our efforts to address concerns of malpractice and self-enrichment that were detected in the renting and allocation of Government accommodation.

On the same note, I urge the Ministry to address the lack of security and vandalism of Government properties, particularly Government-owned apartments. The Ministry should also move speedily to evict all illegal occupants from Government flats and houses. In many cases, these illegal occupants contribute to the deterioration of the physical condition of these facilities.

Communication and transport networks are the backbone of our national economy. Thus, they must always be kept in a state of good repair through regular maintenance and when resources allow, we must continue to expand them. Several road construction and maintenance projects were undertaken during the period under review. Construction work on the Aus-Rosh Pinah road is progressing well and will be completed in March next year. Construction of the Opuwo- Omakange road and the rehabilitation works on the Ondangwa-Oshikango road are expected to be completed in August this year. Construction work on the Kamanjab-Omakange road will commence in July 2006.

An amount of N\$8 million is provided in the current Financial Year as counterpart funding for the construction of the Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru road. Pending the conclusion of negotiations between the Governments of Namibia and Japan in order to open the northwestern parts of the country to increase the trade and commerce, the Government is investigating the feasibility of building Namibia's third harbour near Cape Fria or Agra Fria. The pre-feasibility study is expected to be completed in July this year. The envisaged third port will expand our country's capacity for handling increased regional trade and commerce, serving the land-locked countries in the Region.

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Our efforts to improve and expand rail transport in the country are also progressing well. The Northern Railway Extension Project reached an important milestone in its first phase with the opening of the Sam Nujoma Station at Oshivelo. The event coincided with the maiden voyage of the Ongulumbashe Star, Namibia's new high-speed train. The first of the project, covering a distance of 250 kilometres from Tsumeb to Ondangwa is due for completion in October next year.

The rehabilitation of the rail link from Aus to Lüderitz is progressing well. Its completion is scheduled for the end of 2007.

The Government has seen it fit to improve our Airports to ensure smooth travel for businesspersons and tourists alike. The runway at Walvis Bay Airport will be extended to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft. Under the same agreement, fire-fighting equipment will be upgraded and new meteorological and aircraft control equipment will be installed at Hosea Kutako International Airport, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz, respectively.

Another important component of our physical infrastructure is the telephone and mobile communication network. It is pleasing to note that the telecommunication backbone system in Namibia is now hundred percent digital. This will lead to the introduction of a new and a more efficient communication technology. In the area of mobile communication, 48% of our huge land mass is now covered. This translates into 88% of our population being covered by the cellular telephone footprint.

In the electronic media, a new station was launched for some listeners. With the expansion of its studios and transmitter network, the NBC reaches approximately 95% of our national territory, while television services have also been expanded. Despite these developments, many communities will continue to use more mundane forms of communication, such as postal services, in the coming years.

In the last Financial Year, new post offices were opened at Oshikango, Okankolo, Oshigambo as well as Otjomuise here in Windhoek. In addition to the traditional role of delivering mail, post offices are now providing other important functions, including banking services, thus providing indispensable facilities, particularly in those areas where conventional banking facilities and services do not exist.

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, the private and the commercial sectors of our economy continue to be the engines that drive economic growth in our country. Naturally, therefore, on an occasion such as this, the role of our Private Sector

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and the commercialised State-Owned Enterprises should come under the microscope of public scrutiny.

The Mining Industry continues to be the indisputable champion in our economy due to its pre-eminence as a source of revenue for State coffers. In recent years, the industry has experienced healthy growth with the inflow of significant investment capital and the opening of new mines. For instance, the year 2003 was a blessed year for the Sector, witnessing the commissioning of the Scorpion Zinc Mine and the opening of Ongopolo Mine and Processing Limited at Tsumeb. The latter resulted in full mining operations at three mines, namely Tsumeb West, Kombat, Otjihase as well as the reopening of the Tsumeb Smelter.

In the same year, Anglo Gold Namibia carried out extensive studies to prolong the life of Navachab Gold Mine near Karibib. In the second quarter of 2004, Sakawe Mining Corporation acquired the liquidated Namibia Mineral Corporation and started an offshore mining operation. Today the company mines and polishes Namibian diamonds at a modern Windhoek-based factory, which employs more than 500 workers.

Moreover, NAMDEB made a significant investment of N\$458 million in the Elizabeth Bay Resources Extension and pocket Beaches projects. Full production is expected at the end of this year.

We are encouraged by the level of spending by investors in local exploration activities, which amounted to N\$264 million during the period under review. New mining projects are also underway. A new shaft was sunk at Asis Far West near Kombat and the Matchless Mine is expected to be reopened during the middle of this year. The feasibility study at the Lanka Uranium deposit in the Erongo Region is at an advanced stage.

Paladin Resources, an Australian company that holds mineral rights, is expected to apply for a mining licence this year. We also expect African Rainbow Minerals to apply for a mining licence for the coal prospect between Otjiwarongo and Otavi. Diamond exploration in the Kavango Region by Matopa Diamonds is continuing.

The Fisheries Sector is currently experiencing difficulties due to economic and operational factors. These problems are not unique to Namibia as they are being experienced by other fishing nations around the world. Despite this, however, the sector remains one of the most important contributors to our economy, second only to the Mining Sector in terms of export earnings and GDP contribution. At present, more than twenty commercially important species are landed by 279 vessels, which are licensed to fish in Namibian waters. The Government will continue to manage our marine

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fisheries in a sustainable manner to ensure continuous contribution of this sector to our socio-economic development.

In the short term, Government has introduced a number of measures to help the industry weather the current difficulties. We are encouraged by research, which indicates that no abnormal environmental phenomena were experienced in our waters during 2004 and that major fish stocks have shown signs of growth. For example, the spawning bio-mass of hake was estimated at 1,3 million tons and the horse mackerel total bio-mass stood at 1,4 million tons in 2004.

The Government views the development of aquaculture as a key priority due to its potential to improve national food security, generate employment and increase investment. With aquaculture legislation now in place, the Government is actively facilitating the expansion of aquaculture projects in different Regions. At present, six fish farms are being developed in the Kavango and Caprivi Regions. In addition, communities and small-scale farmers in other Regions, such as Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Oshana, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Hardap and Karas have been receiving fingerlings in recent months to start their own projects.

In Omahenene in Omusati Region, a small-scale hatchery raises fingerlings for small-scale farmers. In April 2004, the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, officially inaugurated the Inland Aquaculture Centre at Omahenene. The first harvest of two tons of tilapia took place at the centre in August 2004. The centre produces breeding stocks and provides training to small-scale fish farmers in aquaculture practice. Since its inception, the centre has distributed 200,000 fingerlings to 165 fish farmers.

Other Government-funded initiatives include the Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Institute, which is being built at Kamutjonga in the Kavango Region. The private sector has also welcomed the huge potential of aquaculture and has already brought some projects on-stream. Commercial marine aquaculture is currently dominated by oyster production in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Lüderitz.

Agriculture continues to be the mainstay of our economy, particularly in terms of employment creation and food production. The sector is supported by the Agricultural Bank of Namibia which provided loans to the tune of N\$285,9 million for farming operations and related activities during the period under review.

The Affirmative Action Loan Scheme provided N\$143 million for the purchase of land in the commercial farming areas. Under the National Agricultural Credit Programme, N\$22,8 million was granted for community-based agricultural activities. At the end of February this year, the total loan book for

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AgriBank stood at N\$1,51 billion.

Given the low rainfall and the unreliability of rain-fed agriculture, irrigation development has become an important strategy to increase local food production as part of the Green Scheme. The Government has improved plans to increase investments in irrigation growing cereals, grain and horticulture crops, and using water from rivers of the Zambezi, the Kavango, the Orange River and the Kunene.

At the moment we are developing eight agricultural projects, namely at Etunda, Ndonga-Linena, Vungu-Vungu, Mashare, Kalimbeza and Hardap. There is huge interest from investors both locally and internationally and we expect a significant growth in the crop sector over the next five years.

Government has further approved plans to construct marketing infrastructure for perishable hot culture produce and construction will start during this Financial Year.

Land reform and the land redistribution is one of the core policies of our SWAPO Party Government. The Government will continue to implement our land reform policy in line with the relevant laws and the provisions contained in the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. The Government will also endeavour to provide assistance and agricultural inputs to resettled farmers in order to enable them to become productive.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our Government has sought to transform and reorient our economy from its heavy reliance on the production and export of raw materials towards industrialisation and manufacturing. The objectives are to expand the country's productive base, create jobs, effect skills and technology transfer and contribute to the economy's overall growth.

In April last year, the Development Bank of Namibia was launched to address the gap in the development financing and to give effect to the Government's effort to empower our people economically. The Bank has already put in place the necessary operational mechanism to start fulfilling its important mandate.

Cabinet has also endorsed a special industrialisation programme as a vehicle to kick-start manufacturing. The drop in Namibia's competitive ranking in Africa from fourth to the fifth place is a great concern to us. Therefore, the Government will work closely with the private sector, trade unions and other stakeholders to make sure that we improve on our competitive ranking. I believe that efforts, such as those made by the private sector under the Team Namibia umbrella, to market local products here at home and internationally under the Naturally Namibian branding strategy are steps in the right direction.

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In recognition of the critical role that the small and medium sized enterprises can play in the socio-economic development of our country, the Government has put in place an SME Policy and related programmes. These include sites and premises development programme, the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust and others. To date, 19 SME models have been built across the country at a cost of N\$104 million. Cabinet has also approved the transformation of the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust into a self-sustaining micro-finance institution, which will require capitalisation of N\$40 million over a period of five years.

A Special Development Fund has been established as part of the Development Bank of Namibia to improve access to financing for the small and medium enterprises sector. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is also planning to carry out a nationwide SME census in order to establish the characteristics of SMEs in Namibia, their contribution to the economy, their growth rate and to identify problems and challenges facing this sector.

Many Namibians derive economic benefits from the sustainable use of our natural resources through tourism. With a view to further strengthen this sector, a National Tourism Policy is currently being finalised to guide the sustainable and equitable tourism development for economic empowerment. Tourism has grown rapidly in recent years from approximately 254,000 international tourist arrivals in 1993 to more than 700,000 in 2004. This represents a growth rate of almost 200%. It is also projected that within a few years, tourism could become the second biggest economic sector in our country. The number of international tourist arrivals increased by 13% in the last year compared to a global average of 2,7%. These encouraging developments give us hope for the future growth of this sector.

Globally tourism accounts for one in every twelve jobs. In Namibia it is currently estimated that tourism provides at least 23,000 direct and 25,000 indirect jobs. These figures are likely to expand as the sector grows.

According to the latest statistics, direct spending by tourists visiting Namibia in 2002 for leisure amounted to more than N\$2,8 billion or 80% of Gross Domestic Product. Similarly, notable progress has been made to enable rural communities to enter the mainstream of the Tourism Industry through the conservancy model. A total of 31 Conservancies up from 15 in 2003 have been registered across the country. In addition, twelve registrations are still pending. Approximately 40,000 adults are currently registered as conservancy members.

This programme has shown significant results evident both from the high degree of public interest, recovery of wildlife population and revenues earned through tourism, hunting and other activities.

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In 2004, total revenues earned by Conservancies amounted to more than N\$15 million. This is an increase of 27% over the previous year and is expected to increase further in 2005. The number of tourists visiting community-based tourist enterprises has increased from 30,000 in 1999 to over 70,000 in 2004 and are projected to exceed 90,000 in 2005. The first tourism lodge that will be wholly owned by a rural community will be launched this year. More will certainly follow in the near future.

On the legislative front, our Parliament passed fourteen important pieces of legislation, such as the Labour Bill, the Pharmacy Bill, the National Disability Council Bill, the Stock Theft Amendment Bill, the Research, Science and Technology Bill, the Criminal Procedure Bill and the Prevention of Organised Crime Bill. Parliament has also ratified several conventions, including the African Union Convention Against Corruption, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, to name but a few.

The Legislature has continued to fulfil its oversight functions by discussing and scrutinising Annual Reports from Government institutions, Local Authorities and State-Owned Enterprises. In the same vein, Parliament committees summoned accounting officers from various Offices, Ministries and Agencies to public hearings in order to answer questions relating to overall financial management of those institutions. That is, indeed, accountable democracy at work.

I am pleased to report that the plans to construct an access ramp and install a lift to make Parliament more accessible to people living with disability are progressing well and should be completed this year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, today Namibia is at peace with herself and her neighbours. Domestically, our policy of national reconciliation has served our people well over the years. It is because of this atmosphere of peace and stability where we have managed to forge a united nation, striving for the common good of all its members.

Our Judiciary: Law enforcement agencies and our Defence Forces play a critical role in maintaining peace and enforcing the rule of law and democracy in our country. We will continue to ensure that our community plays an important role in the administration of justice in our country. To this end, this august House has already passed the Community Courts Bill. We will also continue to undertake law reform and development in our country with a view to addressing the concerns of our Nation. Bills such as Small Claims, Inheritance and Succession, Divorce and Juvenile Justice are receiving attention by the Ministry of Justice.

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In addition, a number of Magistrate's Courts houses have been built and upgraded, while the construction of the High Court Building in Oshakati is receiving attention.

The Government is fully committed to fighting crime. NAMPOL carried out several successful operations, resulting in the confiscation of illicit drugs, stolen goods and the arrest of criminals. The Police are under strict orders to bring to book all elements that disturb peace and threaten public order. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that all forms of crime are dealt with and the criminals who steal murder and rape our defenceless women and children face the full force of the law.

The Namibian Defence Force has taken visible steps to increase its operational capabilities in recent years. In October last year, the National Defence Force Maritime Wing was commissioned to a fully-fledged Namibian Navy and six months later, the Air Wing became the Namibian Air Force. I wish to use this opportunity to commend our men and women in uniform for their dedication to duty and their courage as they work to preserve peace and defend the territorial integrity of our country.

Within the ambit of our regional and international commitments, Namibia has pledged to deploy a motorised company as well as other personnel and equipment to the SADC Standby Brigade and subsequently, to the African Standby Force. Namibia has also pledged or deployed forces to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force operations and observer missions in different countries, including 800 troops to Liberia, 30 to Sudan as well as several other officers currently serving in Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ivory Coast and Kosovo.

Namibia is not an island. We are part of an increasingly globalising world. Thus, the imperative of regional economic integration, continental unity, south-south cooperation and the multilateralism should continue to inform our policies. Through the SADC family of nations and the African Union we are assert our African-ness and our commitment to the pursuit of a common destiny, the destiny of the African continent. As a product of international solidarity, we have a duty, in fact an obligation to work for the maintenance of fair and just world order. Thus our support for the reform of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Security Council.

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Honourable Members of Parliament, several policies and initiatives will be implemented soon. These include the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission in line with the relevant legislation and the intensification of reforms to improve the administration and management of our Parastatals through the Central Governance Agency. Steps will also be taken

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towards the establishment of the National Institute of Public Management and Administration, which will provide skills and training to our Civil Servants.

The implementation of the policies and programmes by our SWAPO Party Government has reached all corners of Namibia. It has touched, and changed the lives of our citizens for the better. It is for this reason that the people of Namibia have repeatedly renewed the mandate of the SWAPO Party to govern. We are determined to implement that mandate with renewed vigour and determination in line with the overwhelming mandate given to us by the voters. The 2004 SWAPO Election Manifesto, which contains concrete plans and programmes aimed at improving the living standards of all our people, will remain our guiding compass in this process. This is to be done through the implementation of our medium and long-term development programmes, such as NDP2 and Vision 2030.

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, I do also believe that strong and unshakeable values are necessary so that we do not veer off our course and lose direction. In this regard, we must hold dear and live by the values of transparency, openness and fairness in all that we do and say. Our Civil Servants and political leaders alike must set a good example for our citizens. Allow me, therefore, to state that we will serve our country well when we are honest, committed and work as a united team.

On this solemn and historic occasion, we are filled with joy because our Nation has enjoyed peace, security and freedom for the past fifteen years. The super glue that holds us together is unity. We rose on our own feet on the 21st of March 1990 as a free and Independent Nation. Unity sustained us to fight for national independence until we finally achieved our freedom. We should not forget that today we are the masters of this vast land, the Land of the Brave, the land of our ancestors because of unity. The destiny of this country is now fully in our own hands. We should, therefore look forward to the future as a united people with confidence and hope. Taking the destiny of this country in our own hands means making a collective effort, all of us regardless of ethnic origin, gender, creed or colour, to forge a greater national identity and unity. Our collective security and prosperity depends on our precondition of peace and development. Without peace, it is not possible for our citizens to realise their full potential.

I cannot help but to repeat the standard phrase of my predecessor and I quote: *“A united people, striving for the common good of all the members of the society shall always remain victorious.”* I do believe that the state of our Nation is strong, the state of our Nation is promising and our future is bright. Through hard work and unity, we can bring about a brighter tomorrow for our future generation. Long live the Republic of Namibia. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency, on behalf of the Honourable Chairman of the National Council, all Parliamentarians here present and on my own behalf, let me express our deepest appreciation and utmost satisfaction with the comprehensive, illuminating, constructive and focused State of the Nation Address that you have delivered. We congratulate you and thank you, Excellency, for your leadership, vision and dedication.

Honourable Members, His Excellency, the President is now available for questions as per Article 32(2) of our Constitution and during his interaction with the Honourable Members of Parliament, Rule 110 of our Standing Rules and Orders will be in force.

That said, in this august Chamber, as in other domains of life in the society, prudence and decency must be scrupulously upheld. Honourable Members, it is now your opportunity and the first request on my list is that of Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think I could speak on behalf of the other presidential candidates that lost. I believe, like me, they do not regret having lost that election to a true son of the soil, His Excellency, President Pohamba.

Honourable Speaker, I had four questions to His Excellency, but fortunately one of them was already answered in his State of the Nation Address and that is his advocacy of zero tolerance for corruption and I was going to ask when a commission would be put up to deal with corruption and he has already answered that in his speech and I will go back to the other three.

Honourable Speaker, we have enshrined in the Namibian Constitution the separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary and given the fact that the Namibian National Assembly is loaded top-heavy with Members of the Executive; does His Excellency envisage reducing Cabinet so that we can live the true separation of powers as enshrined in the Namibian Constitution?

Secondly, we have been made aware of closures of fishing factories, Hansa Breweries, the gemstone cutting and polishing plant in Keetmanshoop which was opened two years ago. What can His Excellency do to address the issue of job losses due to the closure of these factories?

Lastly, we have also been made aware of the devastation of crops in our communities in the Kavango by elephants and hippos. What can His

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Excellency or the Government do to provide sustenance to the affected villagers to prevent starvation? Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I would also like to pose a few questions to His Excellency, the President, through you. Before I pose the questions, allow me, Mr President, once again to reiterate my felicitations on your inauguration on the 21st of March 2005 as the second President of the Republic of Namibia and to pledge once more for us to play our designated roles of serving the Nation loyally and diligently and your overall leadership as the country's President.

Mr President, since you came into office, you have demonstrated zero tolerance of corruption and have reiterated on numerous occasions your determination to root it from the body of Government and that of society as a whole. You also reiterated that today in your beautifully delivered, strong and substantive speech.

As it is right now, several Presidential and other Commissions of Inquiry on corruption and the abuse of public resources for personal or private gain have been commissioned over the years, but there is, of course, no formal obligation on the part of Government to make their findings public. Mr President, will you in the interest of transparency that you so much emphasise and in the interest of good governance, consider the formal publication of the findings and of recommendations of these investigations in the future? That is the first question that I have.

I must say, as the Honourable Member who spoke just before I stood up, the second question is now cancelled as your speech has already provided answers to some of the questions before they could be posed and thank you very much for that.

However, the second question is about the situation of our economy and the whole question of Black Economic Empowerment. In view of what Your Excellency has said about the disappointing performance of the economy and the high levels of poverty experienced by a high percentage of the population, does Your Excellency plan to introduce Black Economic Empowerment legislation in order to stimulate the economy and redistribute resources? If that is the plan, when can we expect the Government to come up with a comprehensive Black Economic Empowerment policy and legislation?

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**QUESTIONS POSED TO THE PRESIDENT
HON VILJOEN**

The last question that I have will touch on an issue that you have no less emphasised and that is the issue of nation-building, good governance and the Rule of Law. This August 2005 it will be seven years since the regrettable events of August 1998 in the Caprivi Region when attacks by people with hostile agendas and evil intents led to the loss of many lives and the disruption of peace and order in our country. May such events never repeat themselves on our soil? However, Mr President, today almost seven years later, Namibians detained as a result are still awaiting trial, a situation that has threatened to tarnish our good image as a society that abides by the rule of law. There is indeed a growing feeling amongst part of the population that long delays have led to what is tantamount to the abortion of justice. In this regard, Your Excellency, what does your Government envisage doing in order to ensure that justice is not only done but that it is seen to be done swiftly? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We will take one more question from one of the new Members of the Chamber. Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Your Excellency President Pohamba, in the first place, I wish to congratulate you with the excellent and prolific maiden address. In the second place, please allow me a brief remark before I ask my humble one simple question.

Politicians can answer a question with a tongue of anger or with a tongue of tolerance and wisdom. I hope, Excellency, with all respect, you will use the latter. We all agree that the land issue in Namibia is a very sensitive matter. We also agree that where people have more land than he/she can manage or where farms are not fully utilised, such land should be sold to the Government for resettlement purposes. Your Excellency, we are also aware that the land issue is the cause of uncertainty amongst commercial farmers, because every farmer feels threatened and consequently does not go full out with agricultural production. This uncertainty is not conducive for reconciliation and for the Namibian economy.

My question is whether it is not desirable and in national interest that the Government should embark on a simple transparent policy and my emphasis is on "*simple transparent*" to remove this Sword of Damocles hanging over every farmer's head? I thank you, Excellency.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Your Excellency, you may reply to the set of

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

questions.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA: I wish to thank the leaders of the Opposition who posed the questions, I believe, on behalf of their Parties.

Honourable Kaura, I did not catch your last question very well. In the first one, you spoke about separation of power and then you asked whether I am going to reduce the Cabinet or whether I am thinking about reducing the Cabinet. The answer is that there is no thinking of reducing the Cabinet. It took me about three months in thinking of the appointment of the Cabinet. There was a time when I was thinking whether I could have fifty Cabinet Members and the other time I was thinking, can I have two Cabinet Members. The fifty-member Cabinet could not work, I thought it was too big and the two Cabinet Members I said, no it was too small and then I decided to remain with the present number of Cabinet Members.

You were right when you spoke about the separation of powers, but I just want to remind you that all the Members of Cabinet are appointed in terms of a constitutional provision of our country and no one, especially a Member of Parliament, would stand up and challenge that unless he does not adhere to the constitutional provisions.

The closure of factories, which affected the workers, is a serious concern to us as a Government and I think it is a concern to all Namibians. The Government is trying the best it can to create jobs, but you still have thousands of people in the street who are not employed. This is a national concern that needs a solution and for us as national leaders to come together and to discuss. I emphasised unity, coming together in unity and then to try to find a solution. Let us find a solution together, it is really a problem, I agree with you, but it is a national problem which may not be solved by those of us who are in the Government alone, but we need to come together and to discuss the problem facing our Nation.

In your last question you referred to the villagers and I did not catch your question very well. (Interjection) This is a difficult situation. Elephants from where? (Laughter) Are they from the island called Elephant Island? Where are they coming from, Honourable Kaura? Very soon, you are going to ask me about the destruction of the grass by cattle. We do not want the crops of the people to be destroyed, but at the same time the animals being referred to are our animals. Again this is a national problem.

There are Opposition Members who came and I thank them very much for congratulating me. Of course, DTA did not come. We should meet at the State

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House or elsewhere to discuss some of these problems. These are national problems. The animals belong to us, the crops that are being destroyed belong to our people, so let us come together. Perhaps you have some good ideas as to how we can prevent the elephants from destroying the crops or perhaps you are going to say we should shoot them.

Honourable Ulenga, you mentioned corruption and commissions, which had to investigate. You said their findings are not publicised. I just got to the State House a few months ago and I am telling you, I found heaps of books that I am going through and you should give me time to read. Maybe there is something that prevented the publication of these and it is very premature for me to say something on that. Please ask me the question the next time I come here. I think by that time I would have read all the findings.

You spoke about Black Economic Empowerment. We should have the backing of a policy and legislation for everything we do and we will soon have it.

With regard to the Caprivians, you are putting me in a difficult situation. I do not like people to be detained, but we are talking about an independent Judiciary. Are you suggesting that the Government should interfere in the Judiciary? If we do that, are we not going to be accused that we are interfering with the Judiciary? I think Honourable Ulenga should try again to read the constitutional responsibilities of the three branches. I fear to interfere in the Judiciary, because I have to abide by the provisions of the Constitution. Therefore, I cannot speak about issues pending before the Courts of Law. What I could maybe advise you, as a citizen is to speak to the Chief Justice, the Head of the Judiciary in this country. I think he will be able to provide a suitable answer to your question in this respect.

Then my friend from MAG, congratulations. When I came in, I was looking for Honourable Pretorius and realised that somebody else is sitting where he used to sit. You talked about land reform in general and the uncertainty among the farmers and we have spoken about transparency. Why do the farmers put themselves in a situation of uncertainty? I want to know why and once you tell me why, I will be able to answer this question because I cannot understand why people have to put themselves in the situation that you have referred to. Until you answer my question, I find myself in a very difficult situation to answer that. You may come to the State House and perhaps elaborate more and I will answer the questions accordingly. Please come to your State House. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: The next on my list is Honourable //Garoëb.

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**QUESTIONS POSED TO THE PRESIDENT
HON //GAROËB / HON RIRUAKO**

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity. Your Excellency, through you, Mr Speaker, may I first congratulate you for your high position as the second Head of State of the Republic of Namibia. We are very proud of you for briefly taking the bull by its horns.

Your statements on national and international issues so far were very clear and straightforward and you, therefore, have the support of the UDF. I have only one question, Your Excellency.

We have a growing number of small miners in Namibia, minimising unemployment to a certain extent, which is very good thing. Would Your Excellency seriously consider providing a number of stone-cutting and polishing industries, helping these people not to sell raw material for which they are not properly paid? Secondly, would you also consider negotiating for better markets for these small miners? Last but not the least, when will Your Excellency consider fair access for Namibian people into the diamond trade? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Your Excellency, it was this afternoon when my Colleague and my best friend delivered his best speech one cannot find any fault with. Congratulations. His Excellency was talking about the Judiciary and had a polemic about the Judiciary in the august House of ours. Some people have taken the Government to Court but they are still sitting here. We cannot talk about Court cases, which are *sub judice* in this august House, but at the same time, we are sitting here together. Who is who now?

I thank you for the unification of this Nation despite the different Political Parties. As I listened to you, you mentioned “*SWAPO Government*” fourteen times. It is our Government and the head of the Nation is the President. (Interjection) I am not here to ask questions, I am here to deliver a short speech as a guideline. You are capable to lead this Nation and you have the guts to stand for your point, but for that matter, I appeal to you, it is our Government. The other people can say “*SWAPO Government*”, you are the Head of the Nation. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency, the Floor is yours.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA: With your permission, Honourable Speaker, please allow me to start with the last Honourable Member.

Honourable Riruako spoke about people who have taken the Directorate of Elections to Court. If that is before the Court, then I am not going to interfere with the Court. As President, I would not like to talk about issues before the Court.

You wanted to know why I kept on saying “*SWAPO Government.*” Let us face the reality of things as they are. When you are here, you talk about the Ruling Party. The Ruling Party is the Party which is heading the Government. That is the SWAPO Party. If your Party won the elections, we would have referred to it as the NUDO Government. This is the reality of the situation. We are talking about the SWAPO Party Government and I do not know why you question this unquestionable issue.

Honourable //Garoëb spoke about the small miners doing mining legally. I think we should think of assistance to these people and I think the Ministry concerned is seized with the matter. I agree that our miners should be assisted. I do also agree that assistance to these people should be considered when it comes to the polishing of the products. I have mentioned manufacturing in my speech, the polishing workshops are part of manufacturing, and this should be looked into.

Then there is the last question, which I did not catch very well, because you were talking about fair access to diamond mining by Namibians.

I was told some time back that the Namibians and other people have asked for concessions in the field of diamonds, but then I was informed that some of the people were not able to start working on this. I was, however, not informed of the reasons, but I want to believe that perhaps it is a financial situation. At that time, we did not have institutions in place, such as the Development Bank, which has been put up to assist our people. I do not think there is a restriction that only certain people should have access to diamond mining. If there is, please come to the State House and inform me about any law that prevents Namibians to access diamond mining. If there is a law, which says that, we can amend it and Amendments of laws are done here, you will also participate in such Amendment. I thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mudge.

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**QUESTIONS POSED TO THE PRESIDENT
HON MUDGE**

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, Your Excellency, President Pohamba, also allow me to congratulate you on your expressed vision to improve the quality of life of our people. I am just asking a question honestly to give the President the opportunity, since this is the State of the Nation Address and he is speaking to the Nation.

What in your view, Your Excellency, is the best contribution that the previously advantaged people can do to assist you as the President to move forward with all the people behind you? Thank you.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA: The previously advantaged members of the Namibian society have a role to play in assisting their brothers and sisters and most of those formerly advantaged Namibians own land. The best they can do is to share this very important resource called land. Your question is really a good one. I always say we want to see evolution, but not revolution.

If you read the books, revolutions are waged by the have-nots and always based on the land.

In order for us to avoid a revolution in this country, which would be ugly, let us talk to them to share the land with the brothers and sisters who have no land. Not only the land issue, they can do other things. They can create jobs by investing what they have in some of the industries or potential industries, so that they help their brothers and sisters who are from a disadvantaged background to get employment. Frankly, those people have a role to play. They must consider Namibia as the only homeland they have, I spoke about unity in this homeland, and I spoke about reconciliation. Some people misunderstand reconciliation. They think that when you sit around a table, eating together, it is reconciliation. Yes, it is part of reconciliation, but let us have a reconciliation exercise in a two-way traffic. Let us also look at the properties, and land is one of the properties. Let us try to share. The Government says it has money available to buy a portion of your land and this is what we have been calling for, but we are not receiving a positive response to our call. You may assist us in talking to them, the people need land and let us try to share the land with other citizens and solve the problem on the long run. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Namibia, allow me once again, on behalf of the Chairman of the National Council, Members of Parliament and, indeed, on behalf of the Namibian people to thank you for your excellent State of the Nation Address and for the time that you

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have spent to interact with the Members of Parliament.

When we started the business of the day, we started with His Excellency in attendance. I, therefore, call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow, 09:00.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to Move that the House now adjourns until tomorrow, 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:25 UNTIL 2005.06.10 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
10 JUNE 2005**

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? Honourable Viljoen.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 16 June 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement the following questions:

1. How many commercial farmers have applied for exemption of land tax?
 2. Is it true that several farms in Namibia, bought by the Government for resettlement purposes, some bought as early as 1998, are still in the care of caretakers and not yet allocated to farmers?
 3. Can any disabled Namibian, notwithstanding race, colour or gender, qualify for resettlement?
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL

SECRETARY: Committee Stage: *Appropriation Bill*.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA**

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

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

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call upon the Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill.

I put **Vote 01 – “PRESIDENT”, N\$18,627,800** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to motivate Vote 01, Office of the President.

Barely less than three months ago the Namibian Nation celebrated and remembered the historic events of 21 March 1990 when we proclaimed our nationhood and sovereignty by hoisting our flag of freedom and liberation. We are all proud because that momentous day was followed by fifteen years of tranquillity, peace and progress. There is no doubt that the Namibian Nation has reached political maturity. Three months ago, we witnessed the smooth transition of power, an event that earned us immense admiration from the international community.

As we gather in this august House, the memories and pictures of the celebrations of our fifteenth Independence Anniversary are still fresh in our minds. Events such as this vividly remind us about the importance of unity and a great promise for a better future for our country. The headway that we have made so far with regard to the implementation and realisation of our national goals and objectives has by no means been a mean feat.

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Over the past few weeks, we as Members of this august House have been exercising our democratic rights as representatives of the Namibian people to debate and discuss the Appropriation Bill. Through these Debates, we seek to establish how the scarce resources at our disposal should be suitably and prudently allocated with a view to meeting the basic needs of all of our people. Today I am standing here to present to this august House motivation for funds allocated to Vote 01 – Office of the President for the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

The funds requested will enable the Office of the President and, indeed, the President himself to carry out the onerous duties and activities of that high office. The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia places heavy responsibilities on our Head of State. Such immense responsibilities require a well-funded and well-equipped support infrastructure that would make that institution to function in an optimal manner. The allocation of adequate funds will greatly assist the Head of State in carrying out the national duties entrusted to him.

The President has taken it upon himself to promote the education of our people by streamlining the education sector, to ensure that health services are within reach of all of our citizens, to promote the welfare of the elderly citizens, children and those living with disabilities and to promote social stability, peace and security. Equally important, he has preached the crucial message of National reconciliation to all corners of our country. His actions have inspired many Namibians, both young and old, to become active participants in the socio-economic development of our country. We all applaud his exemplary leadership to ensure Namibians value the virtues of honesty and shun the vices of dishonesty. Our youth are now able to contribute meaningfully to the development of the country and gain self-esteem, skills and self-confidence through the Ministry of Youth, Culture and National Service. This is yet another initiative from our Head of State that seeks to energise our people so that they can use their strength and creative potential for the betterment of the land of our ancestors.

As the number one political leader of our Republic, the President has promoted the positive image and international esteem of our country on the world stage. Today Namibia enjoys respectable status as many sons and daughters of our soil are frequently being called upon to assist in the resolution of conflicts or to render their skills to the enhancement of human advancement in many parts of the world.

Honourable Chairperson, I now wish to make reference to and outline some specific activities that the President will be involved in as part of his day-to-day functions and duties during the 2005/2006 Financial Year. From that short synopsis, those Members who may have lingering questions about the allocation requested will be able to appreciate the functions of the Head of State from a

different angle.

As all Members of this august House are aware, the welfare of our people and the socio-economic development of our country is the foremost preoccupation and motivation in all that our President does and says. His words and actions in this regard speak loud and clear. The current Financial Year will indeed be a busy year for the President. This can specifically be seen through his constant engagement with communities from all backgrounds, particularly his schedule to tour all the 13 Regions of our country. Added to this is his schedule to introduce himself within the SADC Region as well as to some other African States. In addition, His Excellency has been invited to a number of countries around the world. These visits will enable Namibia to cement good diplomatic relations with such countries and provide an opportunity to promote trade relations between our business community and these countries.

Our President made time available to interact with captains of industries. The President invited to State House important economic actors and policy-makers from the Government and private sector as well as organised labour in order to engage them and solicit their views regarding the strength of our economy. Through these actions, the President is demonstrating his commitment to investment promotion and the revitalisation of our economy. It has also shown investors that they have the support of our Government at the highest level possible. In my humble understanding, this can only be a recipe for success. I am confident that the Honourable Members of this august House do share this humble view.

As a show of support to our education sector, the President attended graduation of ceremonies of institutions of higher learning, such as the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia.

With regard to Namibia's place on the international stage, the President advanced and will continue to advance the interest of our country vigorously. This was done in the area of bilateral relations and very soon in the multilateral sphere as well. In this connection, the President visited friendly countries, such as Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania and attended the Silver Jubilee Independence Anniversary of Zimbabwe. In addition, our President has been invited to a number of countries, such as the United States of America. I am sure Honourable Members here present are aware that our President is leaving for the United States of America today. Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany have also extended invitations. On these missions, the President's main objective is to promote the economic interest of our country and use such opportunities to attract investments. This programme includes meeting with industry and business leaders in those countries so that they can be informed about investment and business opportunities that our country has to offer. Where possible, the President includes local business leaders and entrepreneurs

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in his delegations so that they could interact with their counterparts and initiate business-to-business contacts. I am hopeful that we will be able to witness more fruits of these initiatives sooner rather than later. Indeed, I must add here that some of our business leaders have already concluded business deals, especially in Angola and Botswana.

The President is also scheduled to attend the AU Heads of State and Government Summit, the SADC Summit, the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Summit and the UN General Assembly sometime in September. The President has extended an invitation to his counterparts to strengthen the excellent relations that exist between Namibia and those States and also to promote trade and economic ties. They include the President of the Republic of Botswana, the President of the Republic of Angola and the President of the Republic of Tanzania.

Honourable Chairperson, it is understood that the chronicle of activities I have just outlined places a heavy burden on the Budget allocation of the Office of the President. What I have just sketched is by means an exhaustive inventory of the President's activities in 2005/2006 Financial Year. I have merely attempted to highlight a few of the President's work as a way of providing grounds for informed Debate on the Vote allocation of the Office of the President.

This august House has an obligation to ensure that the Office of the President is provided with adequate financial resources in order to function efficiently. In particular, this august House is called upon to avail financial resources so that our President can efficiently discharge his constitutional duties and functions.

Honourable Chairperson, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework or the rolling Budget, as it is popularly known in some quarters, provides for measurable output to be achieved by all institutions, so that expenditure of our resources can result in the realisation of our national objectives. With regard to the Office of the President, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework can be outlined and measured in terms of the requirements of our very Constitution, namely the extent to which the Office of the President supports the Head of State to uphold, protect and defend our Constitution, ensure that the organs of State deliver on Government's overall objectives and ensure that threats to Namibia's national security, political stability, military threats and economic sabotage are kept at bay. These are critical requirements for the Office of the President. In fact, they stand at the heart of our very nationhood. It is with this in view that I present the broad outline of financial requirements of the Office of the President for the 2005/2006 Financial Year for consideration by this august House.

The total financial requirements for the 2005/2006 Financial Year amount to N\$186,278,000. The funds are divided as follows:

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HON DR KAWANA**

Operational Expenditure	-	N\$ 86,278,000
Development Expenditure	-	N\$100,000,000
Total		N\$186,278,000.

In terms of actual allocations, N\$46,220,000 of the appropriation is budgeted for the Namibia Central Intelligence Service. As the Honourable Members will appreciate, I will not dwell deeper into that allocation apart from giving that round figure. This is for obvious national security considerations. The allocation to the Namibia Central Intelligence Service leaves the Office of the President with a balance of N\$40,058,000 which is for the requirements of operational expenditure.

The Development Budget, as I have already stated, on the other hand, amounts to N\$100 million. Of this amount, N\$10 million is budgeted for the Central Intelligence Service. The balance of N\$90 million will be utilised for the ongoing construction of the new State House.

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to clarify one aspect of this Budget. Some of our Honourable Colleagues from the Opposition were questioning the alleged discrepancy in the Development Budget of the Office of the President. They wanted to know during the Second Reading Debate whether the Budget of the new State House is N\$100 million or N\$90 million. The Development Budget of the new State House for this Financial Year is N\$90 million. The additional N\$10 million, as I have already stated, shown in the Budget documents is for the Namibia Central Intelligence Service development projects in our Regions. I hope that I have adequately clarified this misunderstanding.

In view of the previously mentioned, I now proceed to explain the expenditure requirements as set out in the five main divisions.

The amount required for Main Division 01 – Office of the President is N\$18,033,000. This amount will cover expenses, such as personnel, subsistence and travel, transport, materials and supply, office furniture and equipment.

The total amount needed for Main Division 02 – Administration is N\$57,526,000. Like Main Division 01, the requested amount will cover expenses, such as personnel expenditure, subsistence and travel, transport, utilities, office furniture and equipment and an amount of N\$46,220,000 is to be transferred to the Central Intelligence Service.

Honourable Chairperson, previously the Office of the President consisted of only two Main Divisions. This year the Office has five Main Divisions. The Office of the Founding President is one of such additional Main Divisions.

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HON DR KAWANA**

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to say a few words regarding the Founding President.

It is generally accepted that we may differ on many aspects regarding the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma. At least there is sufficient consensus that our Founding President has hopes, dreams and great vision for Namibia and her people.

There is no doubt that on these issues, such as the struggle for Independence, the welfare of the Namibian Nation, infrastructure development, education, health, the policy of national reconciliation and many endeavours, our Founding President played a central role when he was President of the Republic of Namibia and even before Independence. For more than three decades, our Founding President radiated an unfailing commitment and devotion for the struggle for independence of our country, the Land of the Brave, Namibia. This record has earned him the stature of a true Namibian patriot, an embodiment of the Namibian people's struggle for freedom and National Independence. For this he will forever be remembered as a great man who harbours the noble qualities of selfless dedication to the good of humankind, a man who always shown immense empathy for human suffering and compassion for the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our society, especially women and children. Because of these remarkable qualities, Dr Sam Nujoma personifies humility and dignity. We salute him in retirement, knowing that throughout the years of our struggle for freedom and Independence, he inspired us to commit our total devotion to the cause of freedom and Independence. Let us, therefore, Honourable Members of this august House, properly bid a retirement farewell to the celebrated son of Namibia. Let us salute a Comrade, a leader and a friend to many Namibians and, indeed, a member of the unique generation of Namibians who gave so much in the liberation of the Land of the Brave and thereby helped to shape our beloved country's future. He set high standards of dedication to the noble cause of our Nation. It is because of these achievements to which our Founding President made an enormous contribution that today we can walk tall among the community of free nations.

Honourable Chairperson, an amount of N\$5,742,000 is requested for Main Division 03. The requested amount will cover such common items as personnel, subsistence and travel, transport expenses, utilities, materials and supply, office furniture and equipment.

The Office of the Cabinet plays an essential role in that it performs a role of Cabinet secretariat. His Excellency, the President has repeatedly stated that there are three guides that serve as Namibia's global positioning system of the SWAPO Party Government. These are, Vision 2030, NDP1 and the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto as adopted by Cabinet. Therefore, in order to meet the goals espoused in the aforementioned policy documents, our

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RT HON N ANGULA**

Government must be in a position to constantly re-evaluate what it is doing so as to produce policies that deal with problems, that are forward-looking and shaped by the evidence, rather than a response to short-term pressures, that tackle causes, not symptoms, that are measured by results rather than activities, that are flexible and innovative, rather than closed and bureaucratic and that promote compliance, rather than avoidance. This can only be achieved if the Office of the Cabinet is adequately resourced. An amount of N\$4,122,000 is requested for this Main Division. The amount will cover standard items, such as personnel, transport, utilities, equipment, subsistence and travel.

Main Division 05 – President’s Economic Advisory Council, requires an amount of N\$855,000 to cover standard items, such as personnel, subsistence and travel, utilities, office furniture and equipment.

Honourable Chairperson, with these few remarks, I respectfully urge all the Honourable Members of this august House to support and approve the allocation of N\$186,278,000 to Vote 01 – Office of the President and I thank you for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put **Vote 02** – **“PRIME MINISTER”**, **N\$71,035,000** for Introduction.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. Thank you for granting me this opportunity to introduce the Budget of the Office of the Prime Minister for the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

At the outset I will place the Budget allocation of N\$71,035,000 for the Office of the Prime Minister in its appropriate context. However, let me first express appreciation to the Minister of Finance and her able team of staff members for a finely crafted national Budget, which we are at present considering.

Honourable Members, I have recently made two major policy statements at various public forums and to this august House. These policy pronouncements, which my Cabinet Colleagues have supported, will guide my Office over the course of the current term. The first concerns the role of our Nation as developmental or entrepreneurial. The second statement concerns the mission statement of the Office of the Prime Minister. The mission statement in fact is derived from the premises that Namibia is a developmental state. It is in this context that I will proceed to introduce the Budget requirements of the Office of the Prime Minister. Thus, this statement is about the implementation of the

components of the third policy direction.

Our President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, has emboldened us to adopt a new realism in our approach to serving our people. This House, Honourable Chairperson, is overwhelmingly made up of SWAPO Members because the people elected us on the basis of our SWAPO Manifesto. In short, the SWAPO Manifesto requires of the Government to serve the people in the best manner possible in line with our Constitution and within the available resources. I have said to this august House on May 26 that for this to be achieved, we must be development-oriented in everything we decide upon. This developmental approach requires of us to be focused without fail on the socio-economic development and economic growth. In addition, I have stated that our people expect democracy to translate into employment, better wages, and good health, improved housing and enhance quality of life. Thus, the mission statement of the Office of the Prime Minister points in this direction.

Based on this policy framework we will begin to retool our State as an agent of development. This retooling, Honourable Members will require the lubrication of the engine that should drive economic development. Funds allocated to this Office will be used to set us on this course.

Honourable Members, the Public Service in its broadest context, and here I am referring to all its layers, must be directed to work on modalities to fulfil its role of support to the State. This it should do by providing efficient and effective services in an accountable manner. As a start, it should concretise ideas to ensure the full cooperation of all sectors of society in our quest for socio-economic development. This should be in the spirit of the developmental coalition, which should serve as an alliance for progress and economic growth. Again, for this developmental coalition to become a reality, I have already suggested the establishment of the National Inclusive Economic Empowerment Framework. I will return to this suggestion later.

Honourable Members, the Office of the Prime Minister has a specific role to play in relation to what I have just outlined. Let me first enumerate its main functions.

The functions of the Office of the Prime Minister are as follows:

- Supervision of Offices, Ministries and Agencies;
- Leading Government business in Parliament;
- Advice and assistance to the President in the execution of the functions of Government;

- Overall responsibility for civil service;
- Administration and management of the information and communication technologies of the Public Service, including the development of e-government services;
- Liaison with the Public Service Commission;
- Emergency and disaster management and any other function, which may from time to time, be assigned to the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister by the President.

In carrying out these functions, the Office of the Prime Minister will have as overriding purpose the enhancement of Namibia's status as a developmental state. The operations of the Public Service, in particular, must be aligned to complement the Private Sector. This will be done to ensure a national capacity for economic development and growth. Honourable Members, the imperative here is that we mould our public service into a professional and skilled cadre. As an efficient, effective and accountable entity, the Public Service should then be able to ensure improvement in service delivery. Without such capacity, we cannot hope to fulfil the State's proper role as a player in the enhancement of economic development. I will also return to this aspect when I deal with the Budget programme for the Public Service.

In the meantime, the Office has revised its medium-term plan to bring it in line with its functional outline. However, I have taken note that the Medium Term Expenditure Framework states that this year marks the turning point to establish programme budgeting. I, therefore, believe that there is still scope for improvement of the Office of the Prime Minister's Budget presentation based on its functions. This demand will be dealt with by the Office and be completed in this year, 2005.

Another matter that requires to be mentioned is that the Medium-Term Plan Programme requires of Offices, Ministries and Agencies to link expenditure to outcomes. I wish to ensure the Honourable Minister of Finance that we will heed her call and exercise strict Budget discipline. As the political executive responsible for the Public Service, I express the hope that this same call must apply to all Offices, Ministries and Agencies over the course of the 2005/2006 Financial Year. We simply must ensure prudence and responsibility in managing public finances.

Over the course of 2005/2006, the Prime Minister's Budget will be executed based on the following three programmes, which encompass all the functional areas outlined in its mission statement. These three programmes are listed in the Medium-Term Programme as follows:

- To ensure that the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister can execute their constitutional functions;
- To ensure that Namibia has efficient, effective and accountable Public Service; and
- To reduce the impact of disaster on Namibia and its people.

Honourable Members, over the previous Financial Year, four programmes were executed within an allocated amount of N\$78,8 million. Because of the restatement of our functions, we request that over the course of the next Financial Year three programmes be executed. This will require an amount of just over N\$71 million. This reduction in programmes has also caused us to reduce our Main Divisions from ten to six. In this manner, we will be able to streamline and support our programme framework even better, reduce paperwork and ensure short turnaround times on accounting.

Of the N\$71 million, about 57,6% will be spent on personnel expenditure. A further 32,7% will go towards goods and other services, whereas subsidies, transfers and acquisition of capital assets are expected to consume 61, 6% and 3,1% respectively.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee let me now highlight the outcomes, which are to be achieved with these funds under the aforementioned programmes.

An amount of just more than N\$15 million will be required to support the service needs of both the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister's Office in this connection. This will enable us in particular to provide effective and efficient leadership with respect to Parliamentary business and to provide proper advice, assistance and support to His Excellency, the President. In addition, the Prime Minister will ensure that Cabinet services are coordinated effectively and efficiently. This will further ensure optimal compliance with, among others, the constitutional requirements of executive accountability. We already have in place the necessary parameters according to which the aforementioned should take place. Thus, activities will be executed based on policies enunciated by Vision 2030, the SWAPO Manifesto, the National Development Plan and the HIV/AIDS Medium Term Plan for the Public Sector.

We will also have to create the conducive environment at the policy level to ensure that Namibia's targets, as set forth in the Millennium Development Goals, are reached by year 2015.

The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister will accordingly utilise the funds allocated to ensure heightened outcomes for the improvement of

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Namibia's investment climate. This will entail building on the ideas of development coalition to establish public-private partnerships, to develop economic growth, alleviate poverty, and enable job creation. We will also achieve a noticeable improvement in the accountability of Offices, Ministries and Agencies to Parliament. Furthermore, we will make our contribution to secure sustainable human resource development through increasing, among others, Namibia's pool of knowledge workers.

The terms "Securing effective, efficient and accountable Public Service", are clearly defined in our Mission Statement document. Efficiency means delivering on time. Effectiveness means making an impact and empowerment of our people in relation to service delivery. Accountability means that the Public Service should be answerable for its actions.

Funds required for this programme are meant for both Public Service management and the Public Service improvement areas. In this connection, we have a commitment to making an impact on Namibia's socio-economic development under this programme. We request that the biggest portion of the programme Budget be allocated to this area, namely N\$32,8 million, which is nearly 54% of the total programme Budget.

I wish to emphasise that the Office of the Prime Minister has undertaken the task of improvement of governance and accountability in line with the developmental agenda. Thus, we will ensure that funds will be utilised to set up the Anti-Corruption Commission and the executive arm of the State-Owned Enterprises Council, namely the Central Governance Agency. I have already gazetted the implementation date of the Anti-Corruption Commission on 15 April 2005. Parliament will be approached very soon to set up the Commission in due course. It should be noted that the amount needed for the Anti-Corruption Commission, namely N\$2,5 million is meant to cover the initial setting up costs. This amount bears no relation to actual financial requirements that are needed for its activities.

Let me also use this opportunity to clarify the role of the Office of the Prime Minister in this regard. Our role, Honourable Members, is to assist the Anti-Corruption Commission to get going as an operational entity as soon as possible. The funds are not meant to dictate the programme of the Commission.

The statutory mechanism to set up the Central Governing Agency has already been given further momentum by the review of the draft Bill recently. This Bill will in all likelihood be tabled before this august House during the next Session. Honourable Members should by now be aware that the Central Governing Agency would play a critical role to ensure that our state-owned enterprises come into their own. These entities must now play the role envisaged for them, namely to provide that additional layer of the State to enhance Namibia's socio-

economic development. I wish to emphasise the point that it is also in this connection that the State-Owned Enterprises must be viewed as strategic partners in the development coalition.

It is especially important that they help to give reality to the idea of the National Inclusive Economic Empowerment Framework. This Framework will help to catapult us to the mode of the entrepreneurial state where there will be development that is more infrastructural, innovation, investment and empowerment. Thus, we seek that an amount of N\$8,8 million be made available by Parliament towards the activities of the Central Governance Agency during the current Budget year. Funds under this programme will also be utilised to set up a framework for the former structured transformation of the Namibian economy. This framework, presently going under the euphemism of Black Economic Empowerment, must be set up in a way to help us achieve a more balanced society and to rectify the imbalances of the past in our economy. We all know how the legacy of our historical past has devastated the majority of our people. 15 Years after Independence we still experience the vestiges of this infamy, thus our Constitution places an obligation on the State to ensure also the economic advancement of the historically disadvantaged citizens.

The setting up of the National Inclusive Economic Empowerment Framework will also be utilised to put this new formal economic empowerment structure in place.

Honourable Members, the time has arrived for the Public Service to live up to its expressed desire to be efficient, effective and accountable in many ways. Accordingly, funds for this purpose will be allocated under this programme to support the multi-pronged approach that has already been set in motion during previous years. Thus, the project to establish a performance oriented Public Service will be giving further impetus by establishing more pilot projects for performance management in the Public Service.

Also on our capital Budget the first such allocation to the Office of the Prime Minister for many years will be an amount of N\$1,4 million to establish the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM). As indicated earlier to this august House, the Institute will be crucial in taking our Public Servants through homegrown training programmes and other capacity-building exercises. With NIPAM, we want to improve levels of competence of public servants and to heighten expertise levels in public administration.

We have learned much from experiences of many other countries, both developed and developing, with respect to similar institutions. With the right partnerships, we will establish a high-performance model of the Institute. The Institute will also serve to curb expenditure by Offices, Ministries and Agencies on expensive training programmes mainly abroad, which are not often helpful

to the needs and requirements of our civil servants. The overarching goal is to mould a Public Service into a professional and bureaucratic body.

The Public Service is slowly but surely gearing itself to apply information and communication technologies more vigorously. I applaud the various ICT projects underway at some Offices, Ministries and Agencies. In addition, much has been written and stated about the need to provide services to our people via e-Government services. In fact, the policy directives to provide for such e-services have already been put in place. However, up to now the development of a national e-Government has been constrained through lack of funds due to other high priority areas. Among these is the implementation of the Integrated Financial Management System of the Ministry of Finance, which will be deployed across the Public Service over the course of the new Financial Year. Nevertheless, we will continue to create the proper environment to enable the e-project to take off properly, hopefully over the next Budget period. Thus, we will conduct more awareness workshops and with the help of specialists, we will set up the viability and specifications for targeted areas of e-governance. This will include the need to set in place the necessary regulatory framework to legitimise transactions and communications, which the underlying automated environment will demand.

On a broader basis, however, this legal framework will also ensure that ICT activities of the Private Sector will also be covered. Further, the Office of the Prime Minister will utilise resources to facilitate and put initiatives in motion to ensure that Namibia can report substantial progress at the next Summit of the World Information Society in Tunisia in November this year. All these activities testify to the realisation of our Mission Statement, which is that the Office of the Prime Minister will also collaborate with all sectors with respect to ICT.

For Programme 3 – Mitigation of the Effects of Disasters, an amount of N\$1,965,000 has been put aside for this purpose. The national effort to curb the negative impact of disasters has been reasonably well managed over the course of the previous Financial Year. The Emergency Management Unit is increasing its effectiveness in this connection. Emergencies, once designated as such by Cabinet, are funded by the National Emergency and Disaster Fund, which is operated off Budget. Thus, for the new Financial Year we have made provision for a small supplement to the Fund to keep the bank account operational. This will also enable us to undertake more actions for preparedness in some of the Regions and to be ready for any emergency.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I am sure that the Office of the Prime Minister will make a meaningful impact with the funds allocated to it for this Financial Year.

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HON DR KAWANA**

We will indeed achieve this in line with the development coalition agenda, which I have proposed.

Honourable Members, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$71,035,000 as set out in the Schedule of the 2005/2006 Appropriation Bill for the Office of the Prime Minister. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put **Vote 04** – “**AUDITOR-GENERAL**”, **N\$20,545,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise once again to motivate Vote 04 – Office of the Auditor-General.

The Auditor-General performs important constitutional functions as per Article 127(2) of the Namibian Constitution. The Office of the Auditor-General contributes to the national objectives of our Government by helping the Nation to make the best use of public resources, to achieve proper accountability and transparency through compliance with regularity, propriety and accounting requirements.

In order to achieve the abovementioned objectives, the Office of the Auditor-General has set itself a number of targets during the 2005 to 2008 Financial Years. It intends to table 148 Reports in 2005/2006 Financial Year, 166 Reports in 2006/2007 and 104 Reports in 2007/2008 Financial Year. In order to achieve this objective, the Office is forced to make use of private consultants to assist with the auditing of Municipalities, Boards, Corporations and Parastatal bodies. Private audit firms will, consistent with the principle of transparency, be appointed by way of tenders to keep the cost as low as possible. In addition to the above, the Office has set itself three main programmes during the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

The Financial Audit Component will strive to achieve the following goals:

- Improve the controls implemented through audit recommendations in order to decrease unauthorised expenditure, wrong allocations and clearance of suspense accounts;
- Ensure full acceptance of recommendations made in audit reports by the Public Accounts Committee of this august House;

- Arrange continuous and regular training events to improve audit quality;
- Strive to decrease the current backlog of two reports on the Government to zero and to decrease the backlog on the other reports by 45%;
- Ensure acceptance of audit recommendations and implementation by Offices, Ministries and Agencies by monitoring the implementation of audit recommendations and conducting more follow-up audits;
- Install time recording system with a view to enabling the Office of the Auditor-General to improve audit plans, determine audit costs and calculate resource needs effectively; and
- To provide training and implement the Audit Manual and Working Papers.

The second programme will involve performance audit. To this end, the Office of the Auditor-General will continue in-house training for newly recruited performance audit staff as well as with quarterly workshops, improve quality of reports, conduct a number of asset inspections and assist the Public Accounts Committee of this august House to enforce the recommendations made in performance audit reports.

The third programme will involve the administration of the Office as follows:

- Increase the qualified staff in audit posts to 98% by arranging financial assistance to unqualified staff to enable them to obtain the necessary qualifications;
- To reduce the staff turnover to 1% by improving the working environment through modern office outlooks, by encouraging staff members to stay informed of the latest developments and technology, by attending workshops and courses and as such maintain interest in the profession and to reduce the absence of staff due to illness and other causes by 40 days.

In order to enable the Office of the Auditor-General to achieve its goals, financial resources will be required. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework consists of a predetermined ceiling amount, amounting to N\$20,545,000 for the Office of the Auditor-General as set out in the Appropriation Bill. The amount comprises of N\$20,320,000 for operational expenditure and N\$225,000 for acquisition of capital assets. The amount requested is earmarked for the following categories of expenditure:

Personnel Expenditure	-	N\$13,772,000;
Goods and Other Services	-	N\$ 6,442,000;
Subsidies and other Current Transfers	-	N\$ 96,000;

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Acquisition of Capital Assets - N\$ 225,000

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to turn to the details of Vote 04.

Regarding personnel expenditure, the Office has an improved establishment of 81 auditing and 20 administrative posts, of which 85 are filled at present. The Budget requirements for this category amount to N\$13,772,000 against N\$12,180,000 the previous year. The increase of 12,08% is due to the 5% salary increase and the translation of seven Assistant Auditors to the rank of full Auditor.

The Goods and Other Services category comprises of subsistence and travelling expenses, materials and supply, transport, utilities, maintenance and other services and expenses. The Budget requirements for this category for the 2005/2006 Financial Year will be N\$6,452,000 against N\$4,329,000 the previous year. The increase of N\$2,123,000 or 49,04 percent is due to the fact that the Ministry of Finance increased this Office's ceiling amounts for the next two Financial Years to enable the Office to catch up with the backlog of audit reports, an issue that has been raised time and again by this august House. I hope this will really improve the Office.

Funds of N\$96,000 are being sought in order to pay the annual membership fees regarding INTOSAI, AFROSAI-E and PAAB against N\$90,000 the previous year. The increase of 6,25% or N\$6,000 is caused by the fact that the AFROSAI-E membership fees increased with 10%. This Office also contributes an amount of N\$50,000 annually to the Public Accounts & Auditors Board which is there to safeguard audit ethics and standards in Namibia.

Acquisition of Capital Assets: The Budget requirements for this category of expenditure for the 2005/2006 Financial Year Budget are N\$225,000 against N\$120,000 the previous year. The increase of 87% is because the Office must replace the current server, which is a computer, as well as outdated computer equipment.

Honourable Chairperson, I wish to conclude by stating that the Office remains grateful for having received further technical assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in various administrative and audit related fields. With these few remarks, I humbly request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$20,545,000 in respect of the Office of the Auditor- General. I thank you for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put **Vote 10**
– **“EDUCATION”, N\$2,783,905,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, let me first express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency, the President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for the confidence bestowed upon me by entrusting me with the very demanding, but critical sector of education. The mandate of the now reintegrated education sector covers issues ranging from science and technology, primary, secondary and tertiary education, vocational education and training and adult and distance and information education, a huge challenge by any standard.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, before asking anybody for some money, one must first tell a story that justifies the need for that money. Thus, the Budget allocation to Education will enable the Education Sector to implement the 17 operational programmes ranging from primary education, secondary education, vocational education and training, the Namibia Qualifications Authority, support services to higher education and research, science and technology, as reflected on Pages 116 to 125 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document.

Equally, the Budget Allocation for the Ministry's development projects will enable the Ministry to expand and maintain all programmes and extend existing physical facilities to cater for the ever-increasing demand for places at all levels of the education system, especially at Grade 1 and Grade 11 levels. Equally, look in rolling development Budget on Pages 73 to 121.

Although the percentage allocated to education, particularly primary and secondary education, has in real terms decreased over the years, total allocation to education and other social sectors continue to increase, a clear testimony of the SWAPO Party Government's resolve to sustain and maintain the current levels of investment in the Social Sectors.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, this year's budgetary allocation to education should be examined against the backdrop of the sector's heightened efforts to rise to the challenge of improving the quality of educational outcomes at all levels of the education system. Improved capacity of the education system to deliver will ultimately ensure that educational outcomes are commensurate with the substantial investment Government makes in education. Realising this through the implementation of the various programmes, as envisaged in the new programme the Ministry of Education intends to introduce, will ultimately place Namibia on par with other nations in the Sub-Region that spend more or less an equal amount of money on education.

Honourable Chairperson, over the last two years the Education Sector embarked on the arduous task of addressing the deficiency in our education and training

sector, as reflected in the 1999 Presidential Commission Report on Education, Culture and Training, the First and the Second National and Regional Assessment conducted by the Southern African Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality and more recently, the study that the Ministry of Education did with the assistance of the World Bank, namely by producing the document called, "*Namibia: Human Capital Development for Economic Growth with Equity.*" That sounds like Nahas Angula. It is Nahas Angula's phrase.

Interventions made by some of the Honourable Members during the just concluded general Debate on the Budget reflect on some of such deficiencies, which the Ministry has and continues to address.

Honourable Chairperson, the process of addressing the existing inequalities and inadequacies in our education and training sector has finally culminated in the development of the programme we are now calling, "*Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme*" (ETSIP). In the words of Comrade Nahas Angula as the then Minister of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation, at the Round Table Meeting of the Government of Namibia and development partners early this year: "*The ETSIP is the future of Namibia, Namibia's future will depend on the development of a cadre of knowledge workers. This is the best way to fight poverty, skewed income distribution and unemployment.*" I applaud my two predecessors, the Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister, and Honourable John Mutorwa for having successfully re-chartered the way forward for the Education and Training Sector.

The ETSIP clearly articulates, the use of the phrase currently being used all over the world, the roadmap for an education and Training Sector over the next fifteen years and once implemented as envisaged, will enable the education and training sector to meet the skilled labour and knowledge needs of the Namibian society and its economy. Equally, the ETSIP is expected to make a significant contribution towards the redress of Namibia's lingering and intolerable social inequities. The ETSIP is a comprehensive and fully integrated plan that addresses all obligations as a Nation to maintain the six Education-for-All goals, which are international:

- Expand and improve early childhood education;
- Ensure access to education for all children by 2015;
- Ensure equitable access to appropriate learning and lifelong skills programme for all youth and adults;
- Achieve a fifty percent improvement in adult literacy by 2015;
- Eliminate gender disparities and achieve gender equality by this year by

2015;

- Improve all aspects of quality education and ensure excellence so that measurable and recognisable outcomes are achieved.

The ETSIP further also addresses two of the Millennium Development Goals relevant to education, namely:

- Achieve universal primary education; and
- Promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

ETSIP offers us a comprehensive and integrated plan that obviates the inherent challenges of implementing multiple plans in the same sector. The development of the ETSIP is now in its final stages in terms of programming and costing. This exercise was a broad-based process, led by officials from the Ministries of Education, Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Finance, Information and Broadcasting as well as the National Planning Commission, backstopped by technical assistance provided by the experts from the World Bank. In the spirit of true partnership, all relevant stakeholders, including local and international development partners, participated and continue to participate in this process.

Honourable Chairperson, it should, however, be noted that for ETSIP, once finalised, to deliver on these expectations, the then Prime Minister, Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab, while officiating at the same Round Table Meeting, correctly observed that: *“Government should need to sustain and even improve on its already high investment in the Education Sector.”* While costing of the ETSIP is currently underway, emerging information shows that a substantial financial gap exists between Government and existing development partners’ current investment and the financial resources required to implement this programme effectively. As a Nation, we should do everything possible in our power by knocking at every door of our old and new friends and partners to generate the financial, technical and material resources needed to implement this programme.

It is for this reason that those of us in the education and training sector once again recall the words of the same Theo-Ben Gurirab at the same Round Table when he remarked: *“On our side the Government will ensure to sustain its investment in the sector and provide an enabling environment for the implementation of the ETSIP through appropriate policies, legal and institutional frameworks.”* We also recall the words of the then Minister of Higher Education when he appealed to our development partners, *“to continue and heighten their support to human development”*.

Honourable Chairperson, as I pointed out earlier, I took note of the observations made by some of the Honourable Members during the general Debate on the Budget. One such observation is the ineffectiveness of the existing inspectorate and advisory services in monitoring and ensuring the quality of education offered in our schools. I am, however, pleased to inform this august House that efforts embarked on two years ago to reposition the existing inspectorate and advisory services will soon come to fruition. Now, national standards on education, developed and piloted in a number of selected schools countrywide are being refined and are due for full implementation in all schools next year. Once implemented, these standards will enable schools, Regional Education Offices and the relevant units at national level to establish empirically whether the performance of schools meet the national performance benchmarks. We are convinced that the introduction of national standards will contribute to the elimination of inter- and intra-regional inequities in the performance of schools. Equally, the introduction of national standards will make it possible for the Minister responsible for the Minister responsible for Education to give an objective account on the state of education in Namibia whenever required.

Honourable Chairperson, during the course of this year the Ministry will accelerate ongoing efforts to decentralise the provision of education services fully, as reflected in the Decentralisation Action Plan. In this regard, the Ministry will draw on the conclusions of the just concluded Decentralisation Consultative Workshop organised by the Ministry and funded by USAID to move towards those issues that are central to the full realisation of the process of decentralising education services.

As part of decentralisation, the clustering of schools and the establishment of Circuit Offices has been finalised. Primarily, evidence gathered so far indicates that the cluster system has potential to contribute to ongoing efforts to improve the management of schools and subsequently, the performance of learners in all our schools.

Governance and management of regional offices, circuit offices, cluster offices and schools have long been an area of great concern to the Ministry. To address the problem, the inspectorate and advisory services have been reorganised. A manual has been designed, outlining the National Standard and Performance Indicators for schools in Namibia. The first core group of inspectors, regional officers and advisory teachers have been completed. This training process will continue until managers at all levels of the education system have attained the necessary skills and knowledge to provide appropriate leadership.

The Ministry of Education is aware of the fact that access to secondary education, especially transition rates from Grade 10 to 11, is limited. Currently the transition rate from Grade 10 to 11 is determined by the number of points a learner acquires as well as the places available at senior secondary level. The

Ministry is now in the process of expansion of senior secondary education to accommodate more learners.

There is still a need to improve the conditions for teaching and learning, especially in the far remote rural areas in order to improve the quality of education outcome, particularly in critical areas such as Mathematics, Science and English language. This may partly be achieved by more in-service training and support to teachers to acquire relevant competencies for effective teaching.

Implementation of the Education Policy on Access in Namibia has enabled the country to reap the benefits in the form of 95 percent enrolment rate of 6 to 16 years old in the last few years. The net enrolment ratio for the 7 to 16 age group in 2003 was more than 93%. However, there is a serious concern about the access of marginalised children, the San and Ovahimba children, children and commercial and communal farms and street children, as well as orphans, mainly due to HIV/AIDS pandemic and inaccessibility and unavailability of services and infrastructure in those communities. There is a need to continue to support the National School Feeding Programme for those poor communities where parents cannot afford three meals a day, as a way of improving access and equal opportunities in education.

Over the past years, the Ministry has been experiencing influxes of learners from rural to urban areas and this has posed challenges of space, especially for Grade 1 as well as Grade 11. Therefore, there is a need to expand physical infrastructure in the urban areas in order to respond to this challenge.

The Ministry has recognised that access of children with special needs to educational facilities needs to be expanded. The challenge is also to train teachers and personnel to provide teaching and learning that can cater for the needs of children with special needs in the mainstream schools, teachers that are well trained and teachers in enough numbers.

There are still children in the formerly disadvantaged areas of the country who are learning in open spaces, housed in temporary structures, ranging from acceptable thatch structures to corrugated iron shacks with little illumination, cold in winter or early mornings and unbearably hot by mid-morning. In this regard, the Ministry needs sufficient funds to address all these multiple challenges.

There is a need to strengthen access to and use of modern ICT and relevant services in our schools in order for our young people to find employment opportunities in the global and technological world.

The Ministry is forging ahead with plans to re-invigorate the existing system of vocational education and training, as the re-engineered vocational education and

training system has the potential to equip the youth and other school-leavers with skills and expertise needed to either become entrepreneurs or seek employment in many other sectors of our economy.

In the area of research, science and technology, the Ministry will this year develop a concept for the creation of a National Science Foundation Programme. Such a programme will enhance the number and quality of students pursuing science and engineering disciplines. Additionally, the Ministry will also forge ahead with plans to establish an apex institution for innovation and technological development, namely the Centre of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology.

Honourable Chairperson, at the beginning of this week the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula, having been the architect of the policy during its early formative stage, rightly launched the ICT Policy for Education. Through this policy, the Ministry intends to fulfil its mandate of providing all Namibian learners, students, teachers and community members with ICT skills and the expertise needed to fuel the future knowledge-based economy for the Nation. The Prime Minister, when launching the policy, challenged the education and Training Sector to, *“intensify the efforts in order to ensure that policy is translated into implementable programmes and resources are mobilised for its realisation”*. For this to happen, the Ministry will continue to rely on both local and international partners to increase their current investment in education.

Honourable Chairperson, all the plans and good intentions outlined above will come to naught if those of us in the Education and Training Sector do not consolidate current interventions to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on our sector. In this regard, the Ministry will soon embark on an assessment study to examine the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS mitigation interventions undertaken so far. The outcome of this study will be of great benefit to the Sector in determining appropriate strategies for future interventions. Funds advanced to the education sector through the Global Fund will indeed be put to good use.

Honourable Chairperson, now you have heard my story, my many programmes and my many activities. You thus fully understand my needs for money and more money. The total allocation to the education sector in the current Financial Year amounts to N\$2,783,905,000. This represents 21,7% of the total Government expenditure.

Of this amount N\$2,577,318,000 are allocated to the Operational Budget, that means to the salaries of the teachers of our children and all the other supporting sectors, while N\$130,187,000 are allocated to the development Budget and the amount from our development partners is N\$76 million, which make up 2,7%

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 10
HON MBUMBA**

of the total Budget allocated to Education. At least about 3% of this Budget comes from our friends and partners.

With this intervention, Honourable Chairperson, I in advance thank all Honourable Members for their support of Vote 10, the Vote that cuts across the political divide in this House, because it is a Vote for our children and grandchildren who are the future torchbearers of everything we cherish – our land, our independence, and our culture. Indeed, they are the bearers of our genes.

Finally, I am happy to see that the Honourable Minister of Finance, who happens to be my former student and has become the most prominent of all the students I ever taught, has presented such a wonderful Budget. Equally, the Honourable Deputy Speaker started her teaching career under my principalship. Teaching is truly the mother of all professions. I wish you both more blessings and more promotions. I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister of Education. I shall now report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: I call on the Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that this House adjourns until Tuesday, the 14th of June 2005 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS UNTIL 2005.06.14 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
14 JUNE 2005**

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?

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. The National Assembly for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2003;
2. Regional Council for the Erongo Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 1999; and
3. Office of the Prime Minister for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2003.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any
other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 16th of
June 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and
Forestry:

Whether the Government has any policy in place for training farm workers that
stayed on commercial farms for a period longer than 30 years, for example six
households that were not employed and stayed with their families on the farms?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

1. If yes, can the Honourable Minister distribute it among the Members?
2. If not, why not put a Commission of Inquiry on the matter in order to amicably resolve a national concern?
3. Why are those families not the first on the priority list for the Government resettlement scheme when farms are purchased?
4. Are you aware that the Affirmative Action farmers cannot afford to maintain the big former families of their original owners?

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 16th of June 2005 I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing:

Leaders spend much while ordinary men spend less and that what belongs to the king must be given to the king. When will the Minister propose to the Ministry of Finance to adjust and increase the allowance of kings and senior headmen from N\$1,600 to N\$5,000 and from N\$1,400 to N\$3,000 and junior and sub-headmen to N\$1,500 monthly? When will the Ministry propose to the Ministry of Finance a special fund to provide transportation and to construct Traditional Courts?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Booy's.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Mr Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 10, 11, 28 and 29 be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, the 15th of June, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the Agreement on the Encouragement and Protection of Investment between the Government of Namibia and the OPEC Fund for International Development as well as the Framework Agreement between the Government of Namibia and the Nordic Investment Fund.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Message from the State House? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Members, I intend to reverse the order of items 1 and 2 on the Order Paper, that we first consider item 2, Resumption of the Debate on the Second Reading – Animal Diseases and Parasites Amendment Bill. Will the Secretary read the First Order of the Day?

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
ANIMAL DISEASES AND PARASITES AMENDMENT BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Second Reading: *Animal Diseases and Parasite Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The Honourable Minister adjourned the Debate for his reply and he now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Amendment... (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Order. I did not intend to disrupt the Minister's reply, but I just have one technical question. You have a principal Act of 1956 that is under Amendment, and yet there is another Act... (Intervention)

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**REPLY-ANIMAL DISEASES AND PARASITES BILL
HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani, would you please take your seat? I shall request support from the House when I need it. The Minister is now ready to reply, the discussion has been exhausted and I give you the Floor to reply.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. The Amendment that we have before us is really a technical one.

As the Honourable Members will recall, those Honourable Members who took the Floor did not really address themselves to the Amendment *per se*, but they chose to make general remarks on animal health and the rest. For example, ***Honourable Nahas Angula*** asked at which time one would get a search warrant from a Magistrate if a dog in the communal area runs into somebody's house and it is a dangerous dog and he wants to get rid of it and yet there is no search warrant at that point.

The law is clear that in those circumstances where there is a public threat or a threat that could not be avoided, you can indeed pursue that dog and there should be no ambiguity on that one.

Honourable Ilonga asked, if one needs a warrant to search a house, where do the Police get the power to search cars at various entry points of the country, for example at Oshivelo. There is a general law that gives the Police that power to search.

Honourable Viljoen asked, what could be done in those cases where animals from other countries entered our country without necessarily anybody knowing about it. The example he gave was of a cow in the Kavango River that crossed onto the Namibian side and the likelihood could exist that such a cow may be the carrier of a disease that could infect Namibian animals. There is indeed a problem. The Police are somehow under instruction to impound those cattle that come from other countries into Namibia unauthorised. At various points in the country, such as Oshikango, there are kraals where those animals are supposed to be kept once they cross from a country that is suspected to have animal diseases, but one must admit that, indeed, it will not prevent animals from other countries coming into Namibia. However, once those animals are found, they are supposed to be cordoned off and quarantined and be released only after 21 days and should they be found to be carriers of diseases, then they need to be eliminated and the country of origin is supposed to be informed accordingly.

Honourable Mutorwa asked what could be done in Namibia where we actually have a few veterinarians in service and those we have are concentrated in towns. I can only agree with you, Honourable Member, that it is true that there

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**REPLY-ANIMAL DISEASES AND PARASITES BILL
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is a shortage of veterinary services available in the country, although since last year we are better off in the sense that we have veterinarians from Zimbabwe who are now in the country. Perhaps one could say one person's problem is another one's gain. We have many Zimbabweans here and they are the ones who are particularly in the service of the State.

Cabinet decided that candidates are supposed to come forward willingly to take Veterinary Medicine to get bursaries from the Ministry of Education and we continue to pursue students in secondary school to see whether they could not be interested in Veterinary Services. However, it is indeed a problem.

Somebody also mentioned medicines, which are found in ordinary supermarkets and whether these medicines are safe. There are medicines that are sold in ordinary shops and there seems to be no refrigerators where they are kept. What I can say in that respect is that not all medicines are supposed to be in refrigerators, but if it is a vaccine, it needs to be refrigerated and I think what people buy in the supermarkets is most probably antibiotics. In that respect, they may not necessarily be required to be in refrigerators.

Honourable Mutorwa also mentioned that the current Act that we are now amending is actually one year older than he is. I agree with you that the Act is very old, but what is good is that that Act has been amended several times to comply with the current operations in Namibia. However, there is obviously a need to come up with a new Act, but for now, this Act is still serving us very well.

Honourable Kazenambo was perhaps the only one who addressed the question that was raised by Honourable Moongo about the Cordon Fence and why it has to be there, why it could not be on the Angolan side and why we need one. I can only amplify on what Honourable Kazenambo has said. This is the requirement of the consumers, that we need to have those Cordon Fences if we want to export meat to their markets and these Cordon Fences are not only in Namibia, they are practically in all those countries that send beef to the European market. You have them in Zimbabwe, because of the problems they experience right now, do not send beef any longer, but you have more than three fences in Botswana of different types and you have them in Swaziland, but you do not have them in South Africa, for example, because you may recall that in South Africa there are now and then foot-and-mouth disease breaking out, particularly in KwaZulu Natal and as a result, South Africa is not allowed to send its meat to the European Union.

Therefore, the decision is for the Namibian people and the Namibian Government. If we want to trade with the European Union, those are the conditions that they have put and we can decide for ourselves whether we want to export our meat or not and if we decide that we do not want to, it will just be

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**REPLY-ANIMAL DISEASES AND PARASITES BILL
HON DR N IYAMBO**

too bad because our own internal market is just too small, it cannot absorb the meat that is produced in this country.

Honourable Kazenambo also asked why it is so that when a healthy animal crosses from another country to Namibia and then the surrounding area is normally put under quarantine or a ban is put on exports to take place. That is rightly so and the reason is that nobody can tell when an animal came in legally or stolen. If it is legal it will be controlled, but if it is stolen or wandered off and crossed the border, then nobody can tell whether that animal is perhaps a carrier of disease. The reason, therefore, for putting the whole area under quarantine is for the animal to be tested that it did not carry any disease before that area could be allowed to sell its cattle. If we fail to do so and it is found that the animal is infected, then we may as well live with the long-term effects of not having taken steps.

Honourable Katali asked why this N\$1 million is advocated here and whether it is not too much. Yes, it may sound too much, but the intention here is that somebody who intentionally brings a germ to infect the animals in Namibia, in other words trying to sabotage the trade of the Namibian commodity which is so important, that action will be equated to sabotage and it is for that reason that it has been agreed that the deterrent in itself must be as high as possible. It is not for somebody who unknowingly introduced a germ into Namibia, but the one who does it knowingly needs to be punished severely.

You may recall that in 2002, there was a Mad Cow Disease breakout in Britain and Britain had to spend N\$12 billion to correct that situation. Just imagine if somebody introduces such a germ in Namibia, we will not have N\$12 billion and a big segment of our people who are making a living from their animals will be out in the cold and for that reason, therefore, we need to impose this heavy penalty.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said, nothing was really said which directly impacted on the Amendment itself, but Honourable Members posed general questions and I think I have answered them as such. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Opportunities continue to exist for Honourable Members during Committee Stage and Third Reading to make contributions. The Secretary will now read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

SECRETARY: Resumption of Second Stage: *Appropriation Bill*.

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

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

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Speaker who at the same time is the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported last Friday, 10 June 2005, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 10 has been introduced.

I put **Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY” – N\$54,560,000** for Introduction.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of Parliament, fellow Namibians, it is with pleasure that I stand before you to present the Budget request for the 2005/2006 Financial Year for the Assembly's consideration. Congratulations and appreciation to the Minister of Finance and her able staff in the Ministry as well as the National Planning Commission for a well-prepared and pragmatic Budget for this year.

Honourable Members, during his address to Parliament in 2002/2003 and in the subsequent years, the Founding President of the Republic, Comrade Sam Nujoma, repeatedly appealed to Honourable Members to find a speedy and appropriate solution to ensure that this august House is made accessible to Namibians of all lifestyles. He appealed to lawmakers to support this project in all its facets. It was always one of his heartfelt wishes that we cater for the needs of all our people, especially the poor, the weak and the needy, including those with disabilities.

The people with disabilities, in particular, know their own disabilities very well

and do not really need a reminder or pity. They have been real survivors and helped themselves all along, before public policy became aware of their existence. Instead, what they expect and deserve is the most special resolve and sustained support from political office-bearers and the society. In that way, they will be able to do more for themselves and their loved ones. Actually, I have heard some of them resorting to displaced public remarks about them by pointing out that many of us are shamelessly covering up all kinds of disabilities we have and pretending otherwise.

Then again, there is a serious shortage of office space for both Members and staff and the whole issue of accessibility by the public to the premises has become a serious problem for my office and my staff members. I have already received numerous enquiries and complaints from Political Parties and others about this concern.

Efforts have been put in place by the National Assembly as far back as the early 1990's to commission the enlargement of this Chamber. Regrettably, up to now the Assembly has not been successful to secure the required funding for this purpose. It is important to stress that the construction costs in the country are continuing to escalate and it would not let up in the future. Therefore, Honourable Members, we can no longer look the other way, let us seriously think about the situation and respond to the challenge immediately by providing a concrete and workable solution. We must walk the talk, as they say.

Honourable Chairperson, during the 2004/2005 Financial Year there were many backbench Members who were not provided with computers in order to equip them with the necessary ICT knowledge, tools and skills and competence to exploit fully the opportunities available in this field of self-development.

We continue with the Speaker's innovation – it is my predecessor – of taking Parliament to the people as well as to encourage greater public awareness and participation in democratisation, legislative and policy-making activities countrywide. Parliament has participated and will continue to participate in the Windhoek Show and the Ongwediva Trade Fair annually to showcase Parliament.

ICT is moving mountains and empowering countries and peoples in so many ways, from saving lives to generating wealth and spreading knowledge and skills. Our Parliament has joined the information super highway. We must consider and introduce a model Parliament programme. Through it, our young people and children will be exposed to the workings of Parliament and to the essence of what Members of Parliament do. The programme will include sensitising them to the ways and means by which the three branches of State interact, including on the doctrine of checks and balances and separation of powers. The concept is being developed into a proposal and will see the light of

the day in the fullness of time.

The Parliamentary Library needs modern and flexible ICT architecture, systematising HANSARD, compiling and retrieving information and for effective use of vital documentation on, and coordination on the workload that we are dealing with. Production and storage of official documents and papers require a workable system and efficient organisation to be user-friendly. That is what we need to be productive as Members of Parliamentarians.

The Parliament is continuing its role as a catalyst in the field of e-commerce. I am, therefore pleased to report to the House that the Government's Microsoft partners, a learning Pathfinder in Africa, projects initiated by my predecessor, Dr Mosé Tjitendero, has proved itself a success story. This pilot project has been successfully implemented in the 13 Regions of Namibia. I inherited it and officially handed it over on 7 June 2005 to the wise and strong hands of Nangolo Mbumba, the Minister of Education. I believe that the Namibian-based African Pathfinder Programme has great potential to empower the people of Namibia to improve their technical, social and economic capabilities.

This education-oriented and problem-solving initiative has been developed by Microsoft specifically for Namibia and has become a wider African initiative. Consequently, this wonderful achievement as well experience is being duplicated in fifteen African countries, including Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa in the SADC Region.

It is my sincere wish that we will all continue to work tirelessly to sustain this worthwhile project in order to ensure that every school-going child in Namibia has access to a computer and discovers the wonders of the Internet. I also wish to ensure the Minister of Education that we are partners in this and you can count on the support of Parliament and of me at all times.

Last Friday, I heard the Honourable Nangolo Mbumba speaking so eloquently on Vote 10, pledging his determination to drive Namibia's ICT policy on the education front. We are all together in this venture.

Honourable Chairperson, for quite some time now this and costly efforts have been made to give iron hands, human hearts, performance idealism, daring managerial style and exceeding competence to members of Namibia's Civil Service. These good intention efforts are ongoing. The whole idea is to inculcate in the minds and hearts of our Civil Servants that only the very best is good enough for Namibia. It follows from this that the senior managers themselves must set the solitary example of utmost diligence, fairness and uphold value-for-money principles as a culture of excellence which ensures productivity and best possible service delivery.

Members of Parliament also have other duties to perform and honour commitments. Through the International Parliamentary Union, our Parliament is linked to the United Nations and other inter-governmental organisation. The role of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is self-evident because Namibia is a member of the Commonwealth.

We, in addition, also enjoy fruitful and constructive interaction with various national Parliaments from different parts of the world and we have the Pan-African Parliament, the African Union Commission and the SADC Parliamentary Forum, which is expected to be transformed into a SADC Parliament.

The Presiding Officers of the world's Parliaments similarly operate through ad hoc mechanisms to supplement various undertakings of Government in search of world peace, conflict resolution, human security and socio-economic development. Where States consist of three branches of decision-making, Legislature, Executive and Judiciary, it is Parliaments that more often than not secure a common dominator between parties in conflict situations and facilitate dialogue in the face of unbreakable deadlock. Parliamentarians can soften situations of belligerency by utilising the ambit of people-to-people connections and exchanges as facilitators. This is the real world. Government's hands have proven too short at the time of globalisation, gender mainstreaming and HIV/AIDS pandemic to hold the baton of leadership alone. The world has become that of a multi-layered dialogue, decision-making governance.

We now speak of inter-connectivity or inter-connectedness and mutual inter-penetration through dialogue and cooperation between world leaders at various levels and between human societies. I have heard it said that individuals and groups have become recognised as subjects of international law as new innovations flourish. So much for that.

Allow me to review some of the progress made with resources that were allocated to the National Assembly during the previous Financial Year. The following Bills were passed during 2004:

- Labour Bill;
- National Heritage Bill;
- Pharmacy Bill;
- Social Work and Psychology Bill;
- Nursing Bill;
- Allied Health Professions Bill;
- National Disability Council Bill;
- Companies Bill;
- Stock Theft Amendment Bill;
- Water Resources Management Bill;

- Research, Science and Technology Bill;
- National Arts Fund of Namibia Bill;
- Criminal Procedure Bill;
- Prevention of Organised Crime Bill.

The following Motions were discussed during 2004:

- Appointment of Members to serve as representatives to the Pan-African Parliament;
- Ratification of the SADC Protocol Against Crime;
- Ratification of the African Union Convention against Corruption;
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- Ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa as part of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights in Africa;
- Ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- Ratification of the Cartagena Protocol of Bio-safety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Against that background of a summary of legislative actions taken, I now proceed to present a request for funding expenditures for the National Assembly for the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson, the National Assembly is requesting an amount of N\$53,925,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$635,000 for the Development Budget, in other words, a total amount of N\$54,560,000. The following is the breakdown by programme:

An amount of N\$4,750,000 is required for the Enhancement of the Parliamentary Process. The objective of this programme is to ensure that the functions and powers of the National Assembly are carried out effectively and in accordance with the provisions of Article 63 of the Constitution.

The expenditure required under the Consolidation of Democracy programme is N\$47,719,000. The activities to be carried out will, *inter alia*, include, holding of Public Hearings in all the Regions on Bills referred to Committees, payment of secretarial services and funding for Political Parties, membership fees to international organisations, provision of travelling costs to meetings of the IPU, the CPA, the ACP and the Pan-African Parliament meetings and for other

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 11
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

related operational necessities. It is now possible to commence with the construction of an access ramp and the installation of a lift to ensure the accessibility of the Parliament Building and the Chamber by people living with disabilities. For years, it was the wish of the Speaker that this programme would have been completed within the past Financial Years, but due to circumstances beyond our control, the Assembly is only starting stopgap improvements now. Plans are ready to start forthwith. All and sundry are talking about the plight of our people of all possible descriptions living with disabilities, yet when there is a demand for putting money where our mouths are, we take cover and make excuses. Shame! While Honourable Ncube is a living testimony to shame policy-makers and lawmakers alike, perhaps that is what will make us to exercise political will. I would have liked to say this in her presence, but she would understand why I cite her for the reasons that I have mentioned.

The Information Management programme requires N\$2,126,000 for its operations. The programme provides library and computer services to the National Assembly and the National Council. More is envisaged in terms of utilisation of ICT for enhancing performance capacity and delivery requirements. The detailed activities for Vote 03 appear on Pages 53 to 54 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and I shall refrain from repeating them here.

I therefore present the Budget for Vote 03 to this august House for its kind consideration and approval. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

I put **Vote 11 –“NATIONAL COUNCIL”, N\$25,794,000** for Introduction.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, as a tradition, the Speaker of the National Assembly presents the Budget of the National Council. I will accordingly proceed to table the Budget requirements of the National Council for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. The statement motivating Vote 11 is prepared by the National Council itself for presentation by the Speaker to the National Assembly.

The National Council, being an integral part of Parliament, has set itself the following short-term and long-term objectives:

- To enhance the capacity of Members of the National Council;
- To effectively review Bills referred to it by the National Assembly for its appreciation and for review;
- To increase the level of interest of the broader public to participate in parliamentary activities;
- To improve utilisation of information and communication technology as a tool to facilitate interaction within and between the National Council and the public;
- To improve interaction between the National Council and Regional Councils; and
- To improve the accessibility of the National Council Chamber Building by people living with disabilities.

Achievements of the last 2004/2005 Financial Year:

Let me begin by highlighting some of the achievements, activities and difficulties faced by the National Council during the past Financial Year.

During last year, we all witnessed the holding of multiple elections. The year started with the Local Authorities election in May, followed by Presidential and Parliamentary Elections as well as, lastly, the Regional Councils elections all held in November 2004. Because of the Regional Council elections, the Third National Council was inaugurated on 16 December 2004. Honourable Asser Kuveri Kapere was elected Chairman of the Third National Council. Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams was re-elected as Deputy Chairperson.

In the current National Council, eight Members that were part of the Second National Council made it to the current and Third National Council. We have seen an increase in woman representation in the National Council that is an increase from 4% to 27% women representation in the National Council.

The House reviewed 29 Bills. Two were passed with Amendments, namely the Labour Bill and Bank of Namibia Amendment Bill, and the rest without Amendments. These Bills are known, Honourable Members.

Public Hearings were conducted to afford opportunity to the public and other stakeholders to express their views, for example, on the Labour Bill.

During the 2004/2005 Financial Year, the Standing Committees visited the 13 Regions of the country to check on the physical state of public health and

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education facilities in order to inform themselves about the problems experienced as well as any progress attained. During these visits, the Standing Committees listened to and questioned officials from Government and Parastatals on diverse matters affecting the administration and management of these institutions and on how they impact on the services rendered to the public. In carrying out this task, the Members were attempting to ascertain whether services are rendered to the expected standards and whether there are monitoring and evaluation mechanisms available to detect lapses in the delivery of services and implementation of projects.

The core business of Parliamentary Committees as complementary units to the Chamber is to exercise oversight on the work of Government Ministries and other public institutions. Committees are required to scrutinise Bills constantly and objectively and to submit balanced reports to the House on their findings. However, more often than not, the Committees are unable to perform their oversight responsibility because of insufficient funds availed to them. Presently the House has established five Standing Committees: Public Accounts and Economy; Constitution and Legal Affairs; Regional Development and Reports; Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security; and Habitat.

Eighteen Members of the National Council are new in the House. The intention of the Council is to invest in their training to ensure that they are familiar with the Rules and Procedures of Debates, Standing Rules and Orders of the House and also, importantly, with procedures relating to the conduct of Committees' business.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much.

The National Council administration will also train Members in the use of computers to enable them to perform their day-to-day essential tasks. Members and staff will also be exposed to other Parliaments' working environments through conducting training, which entails bringing in experienced Members of Parliament from established Legislatures to share their knowledge, experience and skills with Members.

Visits to the Parliaments of Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Spain were undertaken to broaden the legislative perspective of our Members and staff. These visits have immense benefits because Members and staff learn different

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approaches of performing their responsibilities. Such visits also offer comparative experiences and lessons with respect to the work of Parliament and Committees.

Challenges facing the House include the absence of a Parliamentary-sitting calendar. On this, I want to share information with the House that this morning I had extensive consultations with the Chairman of the National Council, I have myself a better understanding of what this concern is, and I see great room for improvement on the cooperation between the two Chambers. As a practice in other bicameral parliamentary systems, Upper and Lower Houses come together to plan and come up with a parliamentary calendar that sets out session periods over a year. Therefore, the Namibian Parliament cannot be an exception to this rule. The purpose is to enhance and ensure better coordination of Parliamentary sessions. This will also help Members of Parliament to plan activities, which are not related to Parliamentary sessions and I fully agree with this.

Moreover, such a calendar will facilitate better planning on the part of Regional Councils in respect of their meetings. Currently, Regional Councils are restricted by Section 11(c) of the Regional Councils Act (Act 22 of 1992) as amended. The Act stipulates that: "*Regional Councils shall not convene meetings of the Regional Councils during any period the National Council is in session.*" That is the concern underscored by my Colleague.

Due to lack of financial resources, the National Council could not achieve some of its intended targets. Those include structural adjustments to the Chamber Building in order to provide for accessibility to people living with disabilities as well as to implement workplace programmes geared towards the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS among staff members.

Projection of the 2005/2006 Financial Year:

I now move to the details of the Budget request for the coming year. The National Council is requesting a total of N\$25,794,000 for its operational activities.

Personnel Expenditure, Sub-Division 001: Office of the Chairman – N\$2,697,000.

Administration and Legislation – N\$16,340,000, which adds up to N\$19,039,000. The requirements under this heading are expected to meet all costs arising from the remuneration, employer's contribution to pension fund for both parliamentarians and staff and includes the amount for other conditions of service.

Goods and Other Services: Travel and Subsistence Allowance, Subdivision

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021: Office of the Chairman – N\$790,000; Administration and Legislation – N\$1,170,000. Total – N\$1,960,000.

The appropriation under this subdivision will allow Members of the Council to undertake both domestic and international trips. The majority of the National Council Members are new, they therefore require to attend international and regional conferences, seminars and workshops as well as attachment visits to other countries to share and gain experiences on parliamentary practices to equip them with knowledge and skills necessary in order to review Bills referred to the National Council by the National Assembly.

Materials and Supplies – Subdivision 022: Office of the Chairman – N\$54,000. Administration and Legislation – N\$188,000.

Total – N\$242,000. The amount requested under this subdivision will be used to meet office demand for materials and supplies necessary to run the administration.

Transport – Subdivision 023: Office of the Chairman – N\$401,000. Administration and Legislation – N\$337,000. Total – N\$738,000. The amount set out under this Sub-division is intended to meet the increased utilisation and tariffs of Government Garage owned vehicles as approved by the Treasury. The National Council cannot operate without adequate transport services. It must provide efficient transport to the Honourable Chairman and Vice-Chairperson, cater for official trips of Members of the National Council serving on Standing Committees as well as staff members when performing official functions or rendering technical support to the Council.

Utilities – Subdivision 024 – Office of the Chairman – N\$323,000. Administration and Legislation – N\$1,465,000. Total – N\$1,888,000. Given the unstable nature of prices and services, such as provision of telephones, cell phones, faxes, water and electricity, the National Council will require the abovementioned amount to cater for utilities needed for both the National Council Chamber as well as administrative building.

Maintenance – Subdivision 025: Office of the Chairman – N\$97,000. Administration and Legislation – N\$268,000. Total – N\$365,000. The amount requested under this Vote will cover costs arising from maintenance of buildings as well as furniture and equipment.

Other services and expenses – Subdivision 027: Office of the Chairman – N\$165,000. Administration and Legislation – N\$763,000. Total – N\$928,000. The Budget amount under this subdivision is to cover costs of services, such as official entertainment, hosting of foreign delegations, training and workshops and the printing of Parliamentary publications as well as printing of the

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National Council HANSARD. The expenses of secretarial services for Political Parties represented in the Chamber are to be borne by this subdivision.

Membership fees and subscription – Subdivision 041 to 042: Administration and Legislation – N\$361,000. The National Council maintains membership to various international organisations, such as Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Pan-African Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Association of Senates and Upper Chambers in Africa and the Arab world. The National Council is also a member of Global Parliamentarians for Habitat and there are financial implications for affiliations to such organisation, hence the estimated amount requested under this subdivision as indicated.

Furniture and Office Equipment – Subdivision 101: Office of the Chairman – N\$183,000. Administration and Legislation – N\$192,000. Total – N\$375,000. The amount indicated under this subdivision will be utilised to purchase office furniture and equipment. It should also be stated that staff members have not been allocated computer equipment even though their functions require the use of computers, therefore part of these funds will be used to cover expenses resulting from purchasing of computers.

In conclusion, based on the motivation provided above, I hereby request this august House to approve the Budget of N\$25,794,000 requested by the National Council for its operations during the Financial Year 2005/2006. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

I put **Vote 28 – “ELECTORAL COMMISSION” – N\$8,684,000** for Introduction.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I am pleased to introduce Vote 28 relating to the Budget of the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the year 2005/2006.

As the Honourable Members know, the Electoral Commission has conducted 4 major elections during the 2004/2005 Financial Year, namely the Local Authorities, Presidential, National Assembly and Regional Councils elections.

Activities of this magnitude place a heavy burden on financial and human resources, but democracy was the victor in the end. Namibia saw the inauguration of its second President, His Excellency, President Hifikepunye

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Pohamba, and this in itself is a significant landmark for this young democracy. The Electoral Commission of Namibia takes pride in its involvement in this process of transition.

As the activities of the previous year ended, the Electoral Commission can now do introspection, look critically at pitfalls, and put mechanisms in place to rectify any such shortcomings and in the process further concretise the constitutional democracy in Namibia. The Electoral Commission can now go back to the drawing board and rework processes that have proven to make electoral management vulnerable. The institution also needs to strengthen its human capacity by concentrating on training and capacity building of its staff members. Namibians now have ample time at our disposal to re-engineer and fast track the entire electoral process and backup mechanisms in the country. Nothing must be left unturned with a view to ensuring cost effectiveness, training of staff members with greater emphasis on competence, professionalism and transparency.

In the same vein, as national leaders we must be of one mind in finding a permanent and suitable home for the Electoral Commission of Namibia and the Directorate of Elections. It is about time.

With due regard to the official constraints that face the country, the Electoral Commission has submitted a rather conservative Budget to take it through its planned activities for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. The total amount of N\$8,684,000 is requested for consideration and approval by Parliament. Unlike the Budget presented to this august House in 2004/2005, the bulk of the Budget, N\$6,684,000, goes to the day-to-day administration of the office, while an amount of N\$2 million goes to electoral activities.

The breakdown of the two Main Divisions of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, Administration – Main Division 01 and Electoral Operations – Main Division 02, respectively, is as follows:

The Main Division: Administration renders administrative support services to the Commission and the amount of N\$6,884,000 is divided in the following manner:

An amount of N\$3,752,000 is earmarked Personnel Expenditure. This is for the payment of salaries, GIPF contributions for all staff members, while provision is all made for bus tickets and uniforms for cleaners. This amount represents an increase of N\$336,000 compared to the previous year's allocation. A provision is also made for the 5% salary increase for Government officials effective from 1 April 2005. I should, however, point out that the Electoral Commission of Namibia is still experiencing problems in attracting and retaining suitably qualified personnel specifically for its voter education and planning and

research department. This is so because salaries offered by Government are not attractive enough to attract qualified people in this very specialised field.

An amount of N\$592,000 is budgeted for Travel and Subsistence Expenses. This amount is N\$110,000 less than the previous year. This reduction in envisaged expenditure on subsistence and travelling is because the staff members of the Electoral Commission would not need to travel as extensively as they did during the previous year because of the activities that had scaled down. It, however, remains necessary for staff members as well as the members of the Electoral Commission to undertake trips locally as well as abroad due to various commitments. In spite of that, due regard is paid to the financial constraints that the Government faces and the office would be prudent in the approval of any trip for this Financial Year.

An amount of N\$242,000 has been allocated for the Materials and Supplies Sub-division. This amount is the same as the previous Financial Year. The main consideration here is financial prudence and cost-saving on the part of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, while inflation and cost escalators cannot be avoided.

An amount of N\$208,081 is earmarked to cater for the transport needs of the institution. As is the case with subsistence and travel, the Electoral Commission is cognisant of the financial constraints of the Government and would endeavour to live within the limited financial resources that the Government makes available to it.

An amount of N\$460,000 have been earmarked for Utilities this Sub-division. There is no increase from last year for the same reason already given above.

An amount of N\$145,000 is allocated to cater for the maintenance of information infrastructure at the Electoral Commission of Namibia. The smooth running of the ICT equipment at the Electoral Commission is of pivotal importance in order to enable the production of the voters register and other related data timeously.

An amount of N\$1,052,000 is provided for Other Services and Expenses, which would include the payment of sitting and kilometre fees for the Members of the Electoral Commission. This amount also takes into account the rental of labour-saving devices, such as the photocopiers and other essential office equipment. It also caters for training courses, seminars and workshops for staff members whom the Electoral Commission of Namibia regards as crucial to capacity building and skills development for staff members under the taxing circumstances of an election year. Official entertainment would be also catered for under this subdivision.

An amount of N\$85,000 is budgeted for payment of membership fees to international organisations. The Electoral Commission of Namibia is a member of two international electoral organisations, namely the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries and the Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance. The increase of N\$31,000 is due to the fluctuation of the exchange rate which affects the amounts that are payable in foreign currency.

Honourable Chairperson, N\$75,000 are earmarked for furniture and equipment for this Financial Year. This amount is N\$100,000 less than the allocation for the previous Financial Year. This is because the Electoral Commission of Namibia does not envisage making major procurements for furniture and office equipment other than upgrading existing computer equipment in order to keep it up to date with current requirements.

The Electoral Operations Main Division caters for electoral operations, which include, *inter alia*, the conducting of voter education, conducting of supplementary registration of voters, by-elections and other electoral activities that the Electoral Act prescribes. An amount of N\$2 million is budgeted for this Main Division and is made up as follows:

An amount of N\$82,000 is allocated for the payment of remunerative allowances to electoral officials that may be engaged in electoral activities, such as supplementary registration and conducting of polls in the event of a by-election.

The Electoral Commission has budgeted an amount of N\$100,000 for the procurement of various types of materials needed for registration and elections. Items like films for the Polaroid cameras, registration forms and accessories, etcetera, are needed in the event of a by-election.

An amount of N\$68,000 are allocated for transport in the event of a by-election.

– Subdivision 027: An amount of N\$1,750,000 is earmarked for Other Services and Expenses for the conducting of voter education, printing of ballot papers, rental of buildings and other professional services. This amount represents only a fraction of the allocation of the previous Financial Year, namely an amount of N\$10,629,000 that was provided for the electoral events by Local Authorities, Presidential and National Assembly and Regional Councils elections. However, in the event of by-elections, an ever-present possibility, all services are exactly the same as during the major elections. The only difference is the scale on which they take place.

Reforms of the Electoral Act are underway, which would make voter education part of the mandate of the Electoral Commission. This notwithstanding, it is still the duty of the Electoral Commission of Namibia to ensure that all eligible

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voters are aware of their constitutional right to take part in any electoral activity. As such, the Electoral Commission has to make provision for voter education although on a limited scale.

Furthermore, the Electoral Commission envisages putting in place a computerised system in its logistic stores to be able to monitor and control movement of all electoral material on a daily basis. It is envisaged that this system will not only cater for the movement of electoral material, but would also be able to provide crucial information on all documentation pertaining to all electoral activities that the Operations Department engages in.

The update of the voters register is a crucial part of the activities of this institution. This national document should be continuously updated in order to reflect the real situation of the Namibian electorate at any given time and provision has made to carry out this activity on a continuous basis.

Honourable Members, as you by now have noticed, this Budget is a conservative one in comparison with the Budget of 2004/2005. This is not because the Electoral Commission has closed shop, no, but merely that the Major events have come and gone and the Electoral Commission is, as already said, doing post mortem and introspection in order to improve on processes and procedures for the betterment of the election system in the country.

Honourable Chairperson, against this background of activities and programmes that the Electoral Commission wishes to embark upon this year, I now wish to entreat this august House to approve the Budget for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

I put **Vote 29 – “INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING”**, **N\$184,832,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. As I stand here today to introduce Vote 29 to this august House, I first would like to pay tribute to the founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for his unwavering commitment throughout our struggle for freedom and Independence, led by SWAPO, thus leading Namibia to a free, independent and sovereign State on

the 21st of March 1990. Among other things at Independence, the founding President has acknowledged the unequal relationship between men and women in our society, thus establishing the Department of Women Affairs in the Office of the President, which he later in 2000 transformed into the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare and honoured me to be its pioneer. I am, indeed, indebted to this great man, the founding President of the Republic, for having accorded me the opportunity to serve in his Cabinet throughout his presidency. The experience I have gained over the years will be lifelong-lasting and has made it possible for me to contribute and continue to contribute to nation-building, economic and social development both at home and abroad.

Comrade Chairperson, my Colleague, Raphael Dinyando, and myself, as we congratulate His Excellency the President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, we feel very honoured for the confidence he has placed in us and appointed us to serve this Ministry. To us this is another challenging responsibility and we are ready to face it. We just want to assure him and the Namibian public that we will commit ourselves to render the services to the best of our ability in line with Government policies and programmes, guided by the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto 2004.

Coming to the Vote, Comrade Chairperson, this is the fifteenth year when the Vote of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is being introduced in this House. This means we are not re-inventing the wheel. We, therefore, acknowledge the four Ministers who served before us and laid a very strong foundation. I refer here to Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya, Ben Amathila, Theo-Ben Gurirab, and Nangolo Mbumba, who is now our immediate consultant on this issue. May I also remind the House that at one point in the history of our country, this Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was headed by His Excellency the President, thus underlining the strategic importance of this office.

Comrade Chairperson, the year under review has been a challenging one for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Four national elections have taken place during that time and the Ministry with others participated in the preparation for the fifteenth independence celebration, inauguration of the new President and Government on the 21st of March 2005. As you know very well, Honourable Members, information is power. A well-informed Nation will be in a better position to contribute to nation building and to socio-economic development. Our democratisation process will be enhanced and consolidated through dissemination of information at a greater height. Information could be the most powerful tool necessary for individuals to make an informed decision related to their political, economic and social well-being in any given situation. In addition, the free flow of information is important in promoting international cooperation networking, cross-border trade and human resources development.

The Ministry of Information and broadcasting will continue directing policy guidelines on information and media in the country in the best interest of our country and its people. We commit ourselves to quality production and dissemination of information. This includes the news and the free flow of information between Government to Government and Government to the public.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I now turn to the specifics of the Budget. The establishment of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has two Directorates and two Divisions. These are, the Directorate of the Printed Media and Regional Offices and the Directorate of Audio-Visual Media, the Media Liaison Subdivision and the Division of General Services.

The Ministry is also in charge of monitoring operations of three Parastatals, namely the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, New Era, Namibia Press Agency. The Ministry is also monitoring two commissions. These are the Namibia Communication Commission and the Namibia Film Commission.

The Directorate of Printed Media and its Regional Offices serve as a communication link between the public and the Government through printed media, its library, regional offices, exhibitions and campaigns to promote policies, programmes and development priorities. Among the printed material during the period under review are the leather-bound Namibia Constitution, different posters, pamphlets and 15th Independence commemoration materials. The Directorate has also developed campaign materials on HIV/AIDS, population and development, information, education and communication and under this Directorate. The Ministry will ensure the regular production of Namibia Review. Some of the materials were shown on the national television.

The Directorate of Audio-Visual Media produces processes and disseminates audio-visual materials on Government policies and national campaign. It also renders copyright services. During the period under review, thirteen audio-visual materials were produced. Among the latest audio-visual material produced by this Ministry under this Directorate are seven videos and CDs, each with the following titles:

- Democracy and the Media;
- Gender - Near yet so Far;
- Voice on Education and Namibia's Natural Resources;
- Namibia's Natural Resources – The National Cake;
- Decentralisation and Capital Projects Part 1 and Part 2; and
- Some specific events, which have taken place between 1990 and 2005.

The above-cited audio-visual materials are a synopsis of Namibia's fifteen years

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of Independence and sovereignty. The achievements of the Government of the Republic of Namibia since Independence are also captured in summary in narrated style. They will also show the life of the Namibian people in different spectrums.

We are busy reproducing the copies and they will be available for Government offices and more especially, our Embassies and High Commissions abroad. At the same time, we ask you to pay your television licences because they will be shown on NBC-TV.

The Media Liaison Division promotes mutual understanding between the Government and local and foreign media through the timely gathering of dissemination of news and information emanating from Government institutions.

The Namibia Broadcasting Corporation (NBC):

In accordance to the Act, the NBC *“is to inform, educate and entertain the people of Namibia and thereby promote peace and unity in a manner which is relevant to the developmental needs of the country.”* Therefore, the subsidy allocated to the NBC by Government is aimed at facilitating the Corporation to meet its public responsibilities in according with the law. The allocation is also aimed for the Corporation to meet its operational and capital development needs.

Honourable Chairperson, there several completed and ongoing projects under the auspices of the NBC. Despite limited financial resources at its disposal, NBC undoubtedly achieved quite a lot in terms of programming and expansion of broadcasting infrastructure. The Corporation today has an all-hours television channel, much to the appreciation of the viewers and the public. Equally, important, more locally produced programmes are on NBC airwaves television. Some of these are produced in-house and other commissioned to local private producers. I want to inform this august House that the production of a television programme is very costly, be it in-house or through commissioning.

The NBC had amply demonstrated professional, effective and responsible coverage of election events last year, as well as the independence celebration and the inauguration of His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba on the 21st of March 2005. There are, and there were many other events of national significance, which the public broadcaster proudly and excellently has covered.

Radio, through its phone-in and other programmes, continue to provide essential services to the public who at times do not have access to newspapers and telecommunication facilities. The expansion of the broadcast transmitter

network has reached such an advanced stage that today radio covers closely to 97% of the territorial space of Namibia and television, 48%. Soon the nationwide broadcast project will have all the languages on NBC Radio being received in most of the rural areas in Namibia should the resources become available.

The Tsumkwe Radio Broadcasting Centre, broadcasting in the San language, is up and running. The NBC Radio in Tsumkwe, called !AH Radio and staffed by locals deserve a loud applaud. Our aim is to ensure that all Namibians, including the most formally disadvantaged, are part of nation building and development.

The challenges faced by the NBC at this stage are enormous, thus calling for appropriate support to this public broadcaster by all of us. One is the financial resources, equipment, training and skills development. Therefore, all stakeholders are expected to assist. Another challenge is that the expectation and the demands on NBC are never-ending. The NBC's own revenue generation prospect is a dream that will not be realised. The Corporation cannot operate commercially or commercialise some of its operations given its public service mandate. Thus, we cannot expect NBC to generate more money by itself. With its 72% Budget coming from the Government, the success of the NBC very much depends on the support from the public, including the Parliament. You can even buy a camera and donate it to NBC. We will appreciate it.

For the 2006 Financial Year, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has made an allocation to NBC as follows:

Subsidy for operations receives an amount of N\$59,355,000. This is a sharp drop or reduction of 34% compared to the last year, which was N\$89,232,531.

Capital Development for NBC for this Financial Year is N\$25,199,000. This is an increase of 34% compared to last year's of N\$18,866,000.

I now move to New Era. During the 2005 Financial Year and in line with the New Era Publication Corporation Act, No. 1 of 1992, the Corporation made significant achievements and experienced a number of challenges. In April 2004, Cabinet approved that New Era becomes a corporation with the status of a State-Owned Enterprise, which means a Parastatal. The process normally could have required financial support from Government, as has been the case with other state-owned institutions that were transformed into Parastatals, but the transformation of New Era was a hundred percent covered by the Corporation's own savings. The process was finalised in October 2004 when all the required transformation processes, such as the signing of the

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the New Era Board of Directors, were completed. The employment of former Civil Servants, seconded to New Era, the formulation and adoption of policies, procedures and systems were all successfully completed.

The year under review also witnessed major improvements in the content and quality of the New Era newspaper. Overall, corporate and business performance of the Corporation, *inter alia*, resulted in an increase of the newspaper readership sales to over 50% and advertising income to over 100%. The paper also recorded a major increment of income from special project initiatives that produced a colourful magazine supplement and inset on diverse subject matters. The Corporation also transformed the then by-weekly New Era newspaper into a daily publication in August 2004. Major improvements were also done to the distribution and circulation of the newspaper in all major centres across the country and the newspaper was able to cover 13 Regions of our country extensively.

The New Era Publication Corporation has also constructed its head office, known as Daniel Tjongarero House, on its own cost. It was completed in September 2004 at a cost of slightly over N\$6 million.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the Ministry of Information of Zimbabwe and Namibia in February 2004 in Windhoek, calling for closer cooperation between the two Governments in the field of information, New Era Publication Corporation and the Zimbabwe Newspaper Limited established a joint venture company with equal shareholding called the Namibian registered NamZim Newspaper. This company launched the Southern African regional Sunday newspaper known as the Southern Times and I hope you do read it. The Southern Times is currently being sold and distributed in most SADC Member States and beyond. In addition, New Era has become the only Namibian strategic newspaper partner for Team Namibia. This partnership would allow New Era to play a significant role in the Government and Private Sector's drive to promote local production and services, as well as to attract foreign direct investment into the country.

Despite achievements made, some difficult operational and external business environments became a challenge to the operations of New Era. During the time under review, the Corporation witnessed tremendous pressure being put on financial resources due to the savings spent on the abovementioned projects and programmes.

The Corporation however expects to make a profit surplus of about N\$200,000 during this Financial Year and with the subsidy of N\$4 million budgeted under Vote 29, it is expected that the Corporation will be able to meet its obligation.

Honourable Chairperson, for the past fourteen years, NAMPA has been carrying out its given mandate of covering events in the country and distributing news and information not only within the country, but also to the neighbouring countries and the rest of the world. NAMPA is playing a crucial role in the socio-economic development of the country through information dissemination and by extensively reporting on business and investment opportunities in the country. Through its news exchange with international agencies, it is upholding and protecting the interest and image of the country through a balanced and positive reporting of events in the country. However, since its inception it had to cope with limited resources. A Cabinet decision was taken for NAMPA to be transformed into a Parastatal during the 2001-2003 periods. However, due to lack of funds, that transformation could not be realised.

It has to be realised that by nature of its work, news agencies all over the world do not make money out of the production and sale of news only. A range of diversification of information and media products must be embarked upon to make a news agency economically viable. Therefore, the transformation of NAMPA into a Parastatal is to be realised for the Agency to fund its own operations. The transformation of NAMPA will require an amount of N\$3,500,000 annually for four years. I however have to mention here that this programme is not budgeted for.

The Namibian Communication Commission is a regulatory body for broadcasting, telecommunication and other communication as well as postal services. It issues licences for broadcasting, telecommunication and any other form of technological communication in the country. The Namibian Communication Commission also allocates broadcasting and communication frequencies. At the same time, the Commission does monitor Namibian airwave and frequency system to ensure that there are no illegal broadcasters or communication operators in the country.

Currently, I am informed, that fifteen radio stations, including community radios, are operating in Namibia and six television stations can be viewed. There is only cellular operator in the country, but as per Cabinet decision, a second licence may be introduced soon. The second cellular operation is necessary to make communication more effective and affordable to the consumers.

The Government is fully aware that the Namibia Communication Commission needs to be strengthened in terms of personnel and equipment. Against this background, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is working hard to finalise the Namibia Communication Bill that will enable the Namibia Communication Commission to do its work effectively.

The Namibia Film Commission is mandated to build the film industry and

attract foreign film producers to use Namibia as a location for film production, thereby creating employment and bringing in much-needed resources, both financially and skills. It is important to note that through the medium of film, we can create and promote a vibrant screen culture for the future of our country. Screening culture is a very powerful tool towards preserving our cultural norms and values when it is told through the eyes of our own people and not by foreign film producers.

During the period under review, the Namibia Film Commission assisted with the production of the video for the Namibia Electoral Commission on the electoral process and the running and management of Local Authorities. The Commission has marketed Namibia as a film and tourist destination at the Cannes Film Festival held in France in May 2004. This was a joint venture between the Commission and the Namibia Tourism Board. Also in March 2005, Namibia was represented at the Film Festival in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and since then there have been numerous enquiries pouring in of people either wanting to come and do documentaries or films in Namibia. The Film Industry is a big business globally and Namibia, therefore, needs to sensitise financial institutions to see the Film Industry as a viable business opportunity and to invest money into the Industry.

Under this we have a subdivision, the film "*Where Others Wavered.*" As I already informed this Honourable House while answering questions from Parliament, the project that was a private initiative of PACON is of national interest. Once it is successfully completed, it would tell Namibia's history of national liberation in a manner that histories are being narrated through films. On the other hand, it will show Namibia's landscapes depicted in the movie. That would definitely attract potential tourists as well as filmmakers. The production of this film will also contribute to the development of the film industry in Namibia, as many participants are Namibians who are acquiring the necessary skills.

Against this background, an amount of N\$50 million is budgeted in this Vote for this Financial Year, which will be channelled through the Namibia Film Commission. Negotiations between PACON and the Film Commission are at an advanced state to ensure that money invested by Government will be paid back once the film has started making an income.

In the next Financial Year, most of the Commission's efforts would be geared towards the development of local talent through the Film and Video Development Fund. Support will be given to Namibian video and filmmakers for the purpose of training and company support, fellowship and attachment, the promotion of script writing through competition and the promotion of screening culture. The Namibia Film Commission has committed itself to assist local filmmakers to tell their own stories and this is in line with our Vision 2030.

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Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, now the real summaries of the Vote.

In total this Ministry is asking only N\$184,832,000. This is to cover both Operational and Capital Budgets. The Capital Budget will be allocated as follows:

An amount of N\$9,634,000 will be used for the educational, audio-visual network consolidation, which I have mentioned earlier.

An amount of N\$17,199,000 will be allocated to the NBC, specifically for expansion of the transmitter network. N\$8 million will also go to NBC to upgrade its studios. In total the capital Budget is N\$34,833,000.

The Operational Budget includes the following:

N\$14,304,000 is needed salaries for the staff of the Ministry, including Political Office-Bearers.

An amount of N\$1,890,000 is needed for employees' contribution to GIPF and Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund.

An amount of N\$477,000 is needed for other conditions of service as stipulated clearly in the book before us.

An amount of N\$1,388,000 is to be set aside to allow the Ministry to carry out its local, regional and international obligations.

An amount of N\$1,041,000 is needed for materials and supplies for the Ministry's headquarters and regional offices.

An amount of N\$1,507,000 is needed to cover the rental and mileage charge of hired Government Garage vehicles and maintenance.

An amount of N\$1,814,000 will be needed for the payment of telecommunication services and municipal rates as well as to cover Government Internet connection at the head office and Regional Offices.

An amount of N\$903,000 will be needed for maintenance and refurbishment of head quarters and regional offices, as well as the repair of furniture and equipment.

As part of the Property Rental and Related Expenses Sub-division, an amount of N\$24,000 is needed by the Namibian Communication Commission for the

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erection of a high-frequency direction station in Windhoek in order to complete the national frequency monitoring.

An amount of N\$2,068,000 is needed for other services and expenses, especially those related to multi-media campaign.

An amount of N\$1,064,000 is needed to cover the Ministry's contribution, subscription and membership fees to domestic and international organisations.

The Subsidy and Other Current Transfers cover the transfer to Government organisations, which I have already mentioned, such as the Namibia Broadcasting Corporations, NAMPA, New Era and the Film Commission and I have already mentioned the figures.

An amount of N\$957,000 is needed for the replacement of obsolete computer equipment for the Ministry's headquarters as well as at Regional Offices.

An amount of N\$500,000 is needed for the buying of cars at headquarters.

To conclude, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will do whatever humanly possible within the allocated amount to meet the Ministry's minimum requirements for 2005/2006 Financial Year. I, therefore, request this Honourable House to approve an amount of N\$184,832,000 as requested under Vote 29 – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and I thank you for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister. I now put **Vote 01 – “PRESIDENT”**, for Discussion.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, in my very brief intervention on Vote 01, the President's Office, I would like to preface my intervention by referring to what I recently saw in the news media, namely that there are moves to write off debts. It is definitely reason for optimism and I am sure it does not have to do with the Vote generally, but I will come to the question that is before us.

Chairperson, there is no doubt about the immensity of the responsibility that goes with the high office of the President and, therefore, from our side we agree that it should be adequately funded and resources to be able to meet its functions in an optimal manner.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the responsibility to ensure that all public resources are properly scrutinised and scrupulously utilised for identified priorities falls on our shoulders as Members of Parliament. Hence, it is our duty as Parliament to interrogate the detail of the Votes. I must say, President Pohamba has been commended widely for his pronouncements on the need to make sure that national resources are used only for the selected and identified priorities of the country and the President has already started – and it seems Government generally is moving in that direction – to cut his convoy and the Prime Minister has followed suit and we understand the President is now flying commercially to far-off destinations such as the United States. That is really commendable.

I say, Honourable Chairperson, that it is sad that the President's action and will of steel, as he has announced, does not seem to go into the direction of, for example, the postponement of the construction of State House. Honestly speaking, listening to the President, especially in his earlier statements, I expected him to announce that there will be an indefinite postponement of the completion of State House until the country has funds. (Interjections) There is no need to get excited, it has not happened. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition is saying that he expected the President to postpone the construction of State House until funds are available. Funds have been made available by the Minister of Finance in this Budget. For him to say there are no funds available is like saying we have maybe borrowed somewhere or we are fixing figures in the Budget. There are funds available for that and I think it is out of order for an honourable man like him to make such a statement.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, our view is well-known, namely that ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on a serious Point of Order. Is it really fair for a Party, which does not recognise the outcome of the election to participate in the Debate? I do not think it is fair, because during the struggle South Africa came up with various puppet Governments that we never recognised and never participated in. I would have said they should not be allowed to participate in the Debate until the outcome of the Court case. Can they not wait until the Court case and then participate? I Move that the CoD

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and the Republican Party be barred from participating in this Debate.

HON ULENGA: As I was saying, it is a well-known fact that there is a disagreement on the question of the building of State House being a priority, but we agree to disagree with the Government on this point. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: Will the Honourable Member accept a question?

HON ULENGA: No. Having agreed to disagree... (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: On a Point of Order. I would like the Honourable Member to tell me whether he has seen a country in this world without a State House. I do not think he has seen a country in the whole world without a State House. In Namibia, we do not have a State House. That is why the Government decided to construct the State House and that State House belongs to the whole nation. Even when he becomes the President after two hundred years, he will go into that State House. That is national building. If we wait, it will become more expensive and the right time is now.

HON ULENGA: That is a good show. There is an aspect of the whole issue of the State House project that I would like to have clarity on and I wish the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs was here. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order. I am worried about what I term organised hypocrisy, because the Colleagues are still challenging us and their Members, especially Mr Kalla Gertze, is again a Shixwameni syndrome. Since he came here, we do not see him. Is it allowed to have an organised syndrome of hypocrisy here?

HON ULENGA: The issue that I would like to have clarity on is, of course, the announcement from the ... (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. Is the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ben Ulenga, aware that the current residence occupied by Comrade President Hifikepunye Pohamba was the house of a colonial Governor, which cannot even be classified as a State House? I know it because my father was living there and that one is not suitable for a Head of State and there is an urgent need to construct a proper State House for our President. Namibia is not a Banana Republic.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, a lot of time is being wasted. I am really tempted to get into some of the comments by the Honourable Members, but let me complete the sentence that I started so long ago and that is really that there should be more information on the issue raised also through the media by the Government a year or two ago regarding the several houses in the vicinity of the State House being constructed. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. The Minister of Lands and Resettlement Moved a Motion that those Members are not allowed to speak in this House. When are you going to recognise the Motion by the Minister of Lands?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Speaker has been saying that there is a platform in Parliament to solve that problem and where this issue can be channelled to and there was no Motion.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, an amount of N\$19 million is put aside for development projects for the Office of the President. I would like to know whether in this amount is also included the money which is designated to pay off the fifty or so houses in the vicinity of the new State House which are supposed to be bought from the owners. I doubt whether that money is included here, but of course, I will wait from the Minister who is now absent. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a serious Point of Order. Under Rule 29, a Member is only allowed to speak 10 minutes and Honourable Ulenga's ten minutes are over and he must sit down.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, you have used the Honourable Member's time with your interventions and we have to take that into account.

HON ULENGA: If you look at Page 40 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework under the Section that deals with Intelligence... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a serious Point of Order, Comrade Chairperson. If a boxer has been knocked down in a boxing ring for two minutes, they do not add those two minutes to the round of three minutes. I think the interventions should apply in the same manner as in a boxing ring.

HON ULENGA: Amongst the duties described on Page 40 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework under Vote 01 and the sub-heading, Intelligence, there is a description of their duty as "*swotting threats to the country*". Unfortunately, the Minister is not here, but perhaps the Right Honourable Prime Minister is taking notes and will be able to convey my question.

According to Act No. 10 of 1997, the duties of the National Intelligence Service are basically, in summary, to gather intelligence and to make sure that the politicians take the necessary action. The term, "*swotting threats*" will need to be explained to me within the framework of the duties as described in the law. I am raising this matter because I know that it is very usual and there is a tendency with people who are not properly put under account that they give themselves all kinds of powers and duties, which are not prescribed by law. I do not understand how "*swotting threats*" can be part of the duties of the National Intelligence Services. It is to gather intelligence.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Round up, Honourable Member.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, I want to speak briefly on the question of the founding President and I must say that there has been ... (Intervention)

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Order. In view of the fact that the Honourable Chairperson is asking the Leader of the Official Opposition to round up, could I just refer the Honourable Chairperson to Rule 29, which clearly states that the Leader of the Official Opposition has unlimited time? Second Reading, Leader of the Official Opposition unlimited time. (Interjections) Even the Committee Stage, if you are literate, you will see the Leader of the Official Opposition has unlimited time.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, go to Page 27 where it deals with the Votes. We are discussing the Votes. Let me explain the Rule, we should not be misled here. Discussing of Votes, the last Paragraph of Page 27: "Mover of the business, unlimited. Other Members ten minutes." There is no mention of Leader of the Official Opposition here. Continue, Honourable Member. You are Out of Order, Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON ULENGA: On the issue of the National Intelligence Services, we have been reading from the newspapers about offices... (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Question declined. Proceed Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, officials ... (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: On a Point of Information. Comrade Chair, the Honourable Member is asking a question to a person who is not here. Why?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Maybe somebody has been designated to answer the questions. Proceed, Honourable

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Ulenka.

HON ULENGA: On accounting for money put aside for the National Intelligence Services, I cannot remember when last did we see in this House audited books of account from the Office of the Auditor-General regarding that particular office and Service that I am talking about. Meanwhile we read from the newspapers, amongst other places... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, it seems what you are talking about is out of context. You are not questioning what I have about Intelligence here, but you are questioning something, which you have read outside. I would like the Honourable Member to question what is in this Paper.

HON ULENGA: No, we are questioning the Budget, we are not questioning the Service. Chairperson, do not confuse people now. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Where will I get the report now?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. The Leader of the Official Opposition may not argue with the Chair. Comrade Chair, use your power.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, I can only repeat that I cannot remember when the books were here that came from the Auditor General that deals for accounting for money, which is allocated to the section National Intelligence and I think that is right within the ambit of the discussion that we are having right now. I must also say that I have doubts where there is proper accountability in this regard, because meanwhile we are reading that officials of the Government travel with bags full of money and this was an issue that was discussed publicly and it is just right and legitimate for me to raise it here and I hope that the Minister involved or Government generally will provide answers to this issue, answers which will settle the doubts and the worries of not only

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Members of the House, but also the public out there.

There has been a specific Section called Main Division Founding President added to the Vote 01. I do not want to talk too much about the Founding President, seeing that he is now out of office and I think, generally speaking, we should leave him in peace. However, I think the emphasis, especially according to the laws passed in this House last year, should be more on retired President, because it is not necessarily that we are dealing with the Founding President in a special way. I thought that the money allocated to this is going to continue to be allocated all the time as long as there are living former Presidents in the country. It looks like we as a country want to continue to give special treatment to the Founding President as the Founding President. I thought he was just going to be treated as any retired President.

Honourable Chairperson, there is also reference to the Presidential Economic Advisory Council. I do not remember any members of the public being appointed to this council. Will the Minister perhaps give us further information on the appointment of the Presidential Economic Council? I will rest my case for now, I will stand up again later.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you. Honourable Members, I am still warning you not to address irrelevant issues from outside. Question the amounts in the Budget, question where you are not clear with the information, which the Minister has given. Do not bring newspaper stories here, I am not going to allow it next time. Honourable Geingob.

HON DR GEINGOB: I am rising to support this very important Vote and what is asked therein. I have just a tiny confusion I would like to be cleared. Having introduced this Vote for many years, I maybe got used to the practice that the Vote is always being introduced by the Prime Minister, but since the situation has changed and that there is a Minister of Presidential Affairs, he introduced the Vote. However, I am a bit worried about my former office. I hope we are not going to denude it and take everything away from that office, because it is always good to decentralise the decision-making powers to have collective leadership.

I see here, firstly, about the Secretary to the Cabinet. I heard a rumour that the office will be moved to that of the President, but.... (Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, it seems it is a rumour, it is not in the Vote.

HON DR GEINGOB: It is something I know. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Which Page of the Vote?

HON DR GEINGOB: I am talking about the details of the Budget, Page 40 of the Budget. I am an experienced person in this area. Article 43 of the Constitution says, "*The Secretary to the Cabinet will perform such functions as are from time to time assigned to the Secretary by the President or the Prime Minister.*" In the Budget document, Page 40, it states in the second Paragraph, "*To coordinate the work of the Cabinet, to perform the functions assigned to it by the President and/or Cabinet*". That is not what the Constitution says. The Constitution says by the President or by the Prime Minister. That is why I am saying that maybe the office is being denuded since it has been moved to the President and it is against the Constitution.

Furthermore, I see that the President and the Prime Minister have instituted cost-saving measures when it comes to security and we hope there will be a lot of savings realised. However, what I want to ask, since the Prime Minister is maybe the one who will answer these questions, is whether they remember that we used to have demonstrations every month by the former ex-fighters and we used to struggle with that issue until we decided to register them, give them identity cards and to recruit them. We had to recruit ten thousand of them, because they said they did not have any other skills but carrying the gun. If you are going to reduce the services, what will happen to the security officers? Reduction will mean they must be made redundant and if they are going to become redundant, are we not going to have a similar situation as we had of demonstrations? I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, allow me to start with what is in the newspapers, which is a story, which the *Republikein* newspapers has been carrying on Friday, yesterday and today. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Chairperson, I am now more confused because we do not have the *Republikein* here. What I have is the Budget, Vote 01.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Gurirab, if you hear the hammer you must sit down and wait for the other person who is on the Floor. Two people may not stand at the same time.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Chairperson, I said I am now more confused, because the Honourable Member is referring to a newspaper article. The Honourable Member is confusing us by referring to a *Republikein*, which we do not have here and I do not think the Minister of Presidential Affairs referred to the *Republikein* in his speech. Therefore, I think the Honourable Member is Out of Order.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, I have said we should not bring information, which other people do not have. Let us question the information, which the Minister brought here, the details of the Budget. If you refer to newspapers, I will rule you out of order. Continue.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, that deals with a despicable case of fraud by a group of persons who tried to exploit the unfortunate death of persons who were travelling to Rundu.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, will you continue with what is in the Budget?

HON T GURIRAB: We would like to use this platform to denounce and condemn those actions.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, having said that, let me start by observing that the request for the Office of the President, in terms of the amount requested, is less both in absolute and relative terms. The request for the 2005/2006 Fiscal Year is N\$186 million as opposed to N\$190 million for the previous year. The explanation, of course, lies in some costs of the new State House.

Honourable Chairperson, we can only hope that the Government does not intend to spring a nasty surprise on us later in the year with a further request for funds on this Vote. Already about 50% of this Vote goes to the construction of what is referred to in the Budget document as a new State House.

Honourable Chairperson, the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs attempted to make off the confusion about N\$100 million provided for capital projects under this Vote as something created by those on this side of the House. On the contrary, if one looks at the Budget document.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Honourable Ulenga was speaking on that document and since his time was up, he passed it to his Colleague. Is it allowed to do that?

HON T GURIRAB: I like your jacket. Did you buy it here? (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Chairperson, I am rising on a point where there is a question of an irregularity that occurs in the customary proceedings. I refer the Honourable Chairperson and the House to Rule 114 under Points of Order.

“A Point of Order may be raised when any of these Rules and orders is alleged to have been infringed. (b) As soon as an irregularity occurs in the customary proceedings. To give an explanation in terms of Rule 116 which has to be do with a clerical or versional error and to seek clarification on a procedural matter.” These jack-in-box Points of Order do not comply to this.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The staff will look into that. Continue, Honourable Member.

HON T GURIRAB: This amount appears under the Sub-heading referred to as “*Acquisition of Capital Assets*” and it reflects N\$100 million for what is referred to again as construction, renovation and improvement. The Development Budget on Page 8 reflects N\$90 million “*for the construction of the main building of the State House*” and on Page of the same Development Budget, N\$10 million is provided, “*will improve accommodation in the Office of the President in the following towns: Katima Mulilo, Swakopmund, Keetmanshoop, Windhoek and Gobabis. The remaining Regions will be covered during the subsequent Financial Year.*”

The Minister said in his motivation from his side that N\$10 million is for the National Security Development Projects in the Region. So much for the N\$100 million.

If one looks at the Budget presented and the total appropriation under Vote 01, the National Security absorbs a sizeable chunk of this Vote, in total more than N\$56 million to carry out three projects, we are told on Page 40 of the Budget document, namely to acquire accommodation for officials, for the swatting of the country. It is also involved in law enforcement and acquiring office accommodation. Honourable Chairperson, we are mindful of what the Honourable Minister had to say in motivating this part of the Vote and it is not our intention to do those things we should not be doing in the greater interest of our country. However, it is still the oversight function of this very Parliament, which we must carry out. In this regard, I have two observations to make:

Firstly, the National Intelligence Service Budget has been characterised by voracious consumption and ballooned over the last 15 years. We can only hope that this increase in Budget does not reflect a corresponding rise in threats to our Republic and security. Some former staff members have suggested, testifying under oath in the High Court that large sums of money are carried in suitcases to buy goats, cattle and pay-off individuals.

The second observation naturally flows from the first and that is, that the last Report of the Auditor-General tabled in this House on this agency goes back to May 2000 and that Report was for the Financial Years ending 31 March 1994, 1995 and 1996, respectively. Thus, soon it will be a whole decade of no reports from our Service and no desire from Government in general to uphold... (Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, do other Members have those Reports?

HON T GURIRAB: Yes, it was tabled here.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: We do not have it. The Reports can be tabled after a week or two weeks. We cannot say that is what the Minister has tabled.

HON T GURIRAB: I think you are Out of Order.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Which Report is that one? Is that the Budget Report? Sit down, Honourable Member, I will no longer argue with you. Any further discussions? Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I will be very brief, I have only two questions and I will refer to the document, which you have in front of you. In his introduction, the Minister said with regard with Namibia's place on the international stage, the President advanced and will continue to advance the interest of our country vigorously. He also said that in the meantime Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany have also extended an invitation for the President to visit those two countries.

Honourable Chairperson, we of course, support this initiative by our President and we will do everything possible to assist as far as possible. However, I am a little bit concerned that our reaction is maybe a bit slow. Currently there is a big Debate between the Prime Minister of Britain and the President of France and it concerns the kickback that Britain is getting from their funding of the European Union, on the one hand, and on the other hand, the money that is spent on the Common Agricultural Policy in Europe whereby agricultural products are being subsidised by European funds. I would like to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister if it is not possible for us to immediately react to that, because it is in the utmost interest of Namibia that we support Mr. Tony Blair in his efforts to get rid of the Common Agricultural Policy, because we

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should not forget that the new members of the European Union are licking their lips to share in this subsidisation of agricultural products and the Common Agricultural Policy of Europe is one of the main reasons why Africa is so poor, because we simply cannot compete with the subsidised agricultural products of Europe. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question to Honourable De Waal? You are propagating that we support Tony Blair. What is it you really want? That we subsidise our farmers or not subsidise? If we are to subsidise our farmers, I will support it. What do you really want us to do?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, to answer the question, Tony Blair is currently doing two things. The one is that he is propagating the writing off, of the debt of the poorest African countries. The second thing he is doing is that he is saying, "*I will not take away my kickback that I am getting from the European Union unless the Common Agricultural Policy is renegotiated*" and the renegotiation of the Common Agricultural Policy is in the utmost interest of all African countries. That is why I am saying, when it comes to these two issues, we must support Mr. Tony Blair. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Chairperson, Prime Minister's Blair's efforts are contained in newspapers. Which newspapers do we allow and which do we not allow of the Auditor-General's papers are not allowed?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order. Continue, Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Secondly, I want to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister, if he is handling the Vote, where we currently are with NEPAD. I am a little bit concerned that if they succeed in writing off the debt of the poorer countries in Africa, that this write-off will come with strings attached and if we do not do anything as far as NEPAD is concerned, then the G8 countries or the Western countries will pull their own

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strings when they write off the debt.

If we come with a NEPAD initiative, at least we can pull the strings and we can have control over those strings. Therefore, where are we with NEPAD, are we still actively participating in NEPAD and are we going to promote a NEPAD initiative to coincide with the writing off of debt of poor African countries? I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I now recognise Honourable Mudge.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, as I have said in my main speech that I view this Debate to be a futile exercise simply because it is evident that nothing that we have to say about the Appropriation Bill will make any difference. In fact, the Honourable Minister confirmed this herself when she said in her reply that she views the Budget Debates merely as ... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, are you questioning the Honourable Minister of Finance? I hear him saying "*she*" and it seems he is addressing the Minister of Finance. This Vote we are dealing with is for the President's Office. We have already dealt with Finance. (Interjections) Yes, but he cannot question the Minister. Do not mislead people. Continue, Honourable Member.

HON MUDGE: She said she sees the Budget Debates "*merely as an opportunity to discuss the process, the progress and the next steps in the development of our country towards Vision 2030*". In other words, any comments and suggestions regarding this Budget at best will only have an influence on the Budget next year. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Question declined. Continue, Honourable Mudge.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Chairperson, as I have said before, the two small Parties do not allow questions because they do not recognise the outcome of the elections. Why do we allow them to take part? They have decided not to allow any questions because they do not recognise the outcome of the elections and they are waiting for the ruling by the Court. I am coming with an official Motion to ban them from this august House.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I will repeat what the Speaker has said, that there is a platform to address this issue, which is not here. There are Committees, which are responsible for that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member says that this is a futile exercise. (Interjection)

HON T GURIRAB: It is true!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Could I propose that if it is a futile exercise to him and in order for him not to waste our time, could he please sit down?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson, regarding the State House project... (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: On a Point of Order. Honourable Mudge keeps on saying that this is a futile exercise. If we look at Rule 74(d), Page 53, it states the following: "*A proposal for the increase or Amendment to an appropriation*

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which would increase expenditure or taxation or alter the destination of expenditure may only be moved by agreement with the Minister of Finance.” In other words, there is provision that we can change the figures in the Budget and these Rules have been accepted by all Political Parties, including the CoD. (Interjections) All that I want to say Honourable Mudge is that I do not think we are wasting our time, we are not children, and there is provision. If you have a good proposal, go to the Minister of Finance, tell her what you want to do, get her agreement, get the support of the majority of the House and you can change the Budget. Therefore, what we are doing is not a waste of time.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mudge, be careful with the words you are using here. We are elected Members, we cannot come here and waste time. Proceed.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order. Can we be guided in the House? Is it true that the Honourable Member is an appendix of CoD?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order, Honourable Chairperson. I would like to demand the withdrawal of the statement that debating the Budget is a futile exercise.

I deem it that the Budget is a Bill like the others and our being here, as Parliamentarians cannot be termed as being futile. I demand that he withdraws that statement.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mudge, withdraw the word “*futile.*”

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson, may I quote the Minister of Finance?

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Just withdraw.

HON MUDGE: I am not going to withdraw. It is my opinion.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, it is your opinion and others have an opinion too. Withdraw.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson, the Minister said that she sees this as an opportunity to discuss the progress ... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Sit down Honourable Members. Please, for progress sake, withdraw.

HON MUDGE: This is a Debate and this is my opinion. (Interjections)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I may rule you Out of Order if you persist, because the Chair is requesting you to withdraw the word. Honourable Mudge, please, for the sake of progress withdraw the word "futile".

HON BOOYS: On a Point of Order. Rule 101 is very clear. "*Whenever the Presiding Officer speaks, the Members must resume their seats.*" This is now becoming a bad habit in the House and the new Members are supposed to learn. You cannot stand and argue with the Presiding Officer. The Speaker should now impose these Rules and educate the Members.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Withdraw, Honourable Member.

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HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson, I can honestly not see why I have to withdraw that.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are Ruled Out of Order. Honourable Kerina.

HON DR GEINGOB: I have a question on procedure. If the Chairperson of the House calls on Honourable Members to withdraw and a person refuses, are there no punitive actions to be taken, because if all of us are going to defy you, where are we going to end up?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, Rules 102 and 103 deal with that, but I have been so tolerant. (Interjections) At some stage, the Rules will be applied. Proceed Honourable Kerina.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Chairperson. For the sake of respect towards you, this House and the country as a whole, I want the Honourable Member to withdraw.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I ruled the Honourable Member Out of Order and I do not think that the Prime Minister is going to respond to his question. Proceed Honourable Kerina.

HON PROF KERINA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we have not fully recognised the difficulties facing a politician conscientiously desiring, in Webster's words, "*to push his skiff from the shore alone into a hostile and turbulent sea*".

Dr Kissinger once said, following the presidential nomination of President J F Kennedy: "*We need someone who will take a big jump, not just improve on existing trends, to produce a new frame of mind and a new national chemistry.*"

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I hope that we will all remember that what has been achieved in the past fifteen years by some of our illustrious and memorable politicians, such as the late Ombudsman, Kozonguizi, Nathaniel Maxuilili, Moses Garoëb and others, in this august House.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, be careful, you are on Second Reading.

HON KERINA: On the achievements side of the past fifteen years under the ex-President... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Second Reading!

HON KERINA: Oh, Second Reading? I am sorry.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, we are mindful of what the Honourable Minister had to say in motivating this part of the Vote and it is not our intention to do those things... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. I remember very well that it was said that each Member would have one chance on a Vote. The Honourable Member is now rising for the second time on Vote 01. Can we have a direction?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Rule 29(e):
“A Member may not speak more than three times on one topic.” Proceed, but

stick to the Vote and do not mention newspapers.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, on Main Division 01, under Remuneration, which also includes travel and S&T, we note that this has increased in this current Budget with more than N\$4 million compared to the previous year. In total, there is a growth of more than N\$6 million in the personnel expenditure provision. However, Honourable Chairperson, I shall raise this point substantively later when we discuss the Vote of the Ministry of Finance. The point is is, that the manner in which this year's Budget is presented does not allow us to see how many staff persons the Government is budgeting for and what their duties are. In other words, there is no breakdown as we used to see until last Financial Year. On Page 40 of the Budget document on this Vote, for example, simply says, "*staffing consists of the President, the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Minister without Portfolio and their support staff, which are in total 96 positions.*" This we believe, Honourable Chairperson, detracts from transparency. We do not know whether it is twenty cooks, forty drivers or how many special assistants, for example, because last year we had that breakdown.

Honourable Chairperson, one of the political office-bearers provided for under this Main Division is the Minister without Portfolio. It is our view that, considering that there is a Minister of Presidential Affairs, the new position in the presidency and listening to what the Right Honourable Prime Minister had to say, enumerating his function, this Minister without Portfolio or "without job", at least in Government, amounts to redundancy. In fact, we submit that every cent expended on the Office of the Minister without Portfolio amounts to fraud and in plain language, theft. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Order, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. We as Members of Parliament do not create Cabinet. Therefore, I do not see the need of us discussing Cabinet Members or any position in Cabinet in Parliament. Can we talk about the money, the Budget, without going to the power of the President to appoint his Cabinet or other departments or agencies. Here we are dealing with the Appropriation Bill, which appropriates a certain amount of money in the interest of the country, including Tsudao, which has a case before the Court.

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HON T GURIRAB: That would be “Honourable Gurirab”. Honourable Chairperson that is what we are here for, to talk about the Budget. You say what you are appropriating money for and what we are here for is to express our views whether we think the taxpayers’ money is being correctly appropriated in our view. That is what our constituency would expect us to do.

Every time we ask civil servants to spend money on this office, we are asking them to commit theft and every time the Minister without Portfolio receives taxpayers’ money, he receives stolen goods. We do not believe these amounts to good governance. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to inform the House that indeed the Secretary General of the CoD is committing theft every day. He is paid for doing CoD work. He is a Member but he absents himself to do CoD work outside Parliament. Therefore, he is committing theft.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. The former Secretary General of CoD, Shixwameni, used to do the same, because according to the rules, if one absents himself for more than ten days, he is no more a Member. Shixwameni used to come here only once or twice in ten days and I think the current Secretary-General of CoD is also doing the same. I think they should be called to order, that is corruption of the highest degree.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I remember that a Motion on leave of absence was Moved in respect of Mr Gertze. Proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. The seriousness of the work of this House cannot be diluted. The functions, powers and duties of the Head of State are stipulated in Article 32(3)(i)(bb) of the Constitution, the Supreme Law. Through you, Honourable Chairperson, I want Honourable Tsudao to withdraw the words, “*theft and fraud of money which is paid to a Minister under this Constitution*”. He must withdraw or he can follow his appendix, Mr Mudge.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I did not get it, I would like to request Honourable Tsudao to repeat what he said.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I do not know which part. I am at a loss because I have said many things.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The HANSARD will reflect what you have said, but if you argue with me, I will send you out of the House.

HON T GURIRAB: Chairperson, I am asking, I do not know what you want me to repeat. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the part that you would want him to repeat is where he was referring to the money being received by the Minister without Portfolio. That part he should repeat.

HON T GURIRAB: I can repeat that, Honourable Chairperson. What I was saying is that under Main Division we see that there is provision for a Minister without Portfolio and what I am saying is that, in considering how we are spending the taxpayers' money and where we are allocating money, it is our view... (Interjections) That is why I am here. I speak for other people. There is a provision for a Minister of Presidential Affairs, which is a new position in the Presidency, and we are saying further, Honourable Chairperson, that listening to what the Right Honourable Prime Minister had to say about his duties, we believe that this is a redundant job and we should not be spending our money.... (Interjections) In fact, we submit that every cent expended on the Office of the Minister without Portfolio amounts to fraud and plain theft from the people of this country. Every time we ask civil servants to spend money on this office, we are asking them to commit theft and every time the Minister without Portfolio receives taxpayers' money, he receives.... (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. If that is what he said, the Minister without Portfolio was appointed under Article 32 of the Constitution, the functions, powers and duties of the Head of State. If Honourable Tsudao Gurirab of the CoD is saying it is fraud and theft, he must withdraw.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, will you withdraw those words? The person has not even touched a single cent yet.

HON T GURIRAB: I comply with your request. (Interjections)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order! We will not hear if he is withdrawing. Withdraw, Honourable Member.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I comply with that request.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: To do what? Comply means what?

HON T GURIRAB: What you have asked me to do.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: What did I ask you?

HON T GURIRAB: To withdraw. I comply with that request. Honourable Chairperson, under Main Division 05, given the new manner of the presentation of the Budget, I am left to enquire as to how many persons at what levels perform this function under Main Division 05 and taking into account what they

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are supposed to be all about, as set out on Page 41 of the Budget document, allow me two brief questions. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to make sure whether the words were really withdrawn, because to comply with something is not the same as withdrawal. We are saying he should withdraw.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Maybe my English is not very good, but from what I have heard, he asked what he should withdraw and then said, "I withdraw." (Interjections) He is talking about complying, complying and later on he did withdraw.

HON T GURIRAB: I have two brief questions. Firstly, how does this function provided under Main Division 05 relate to the work of the National Planning Commission which is another agency under the presidency and for that matter, how does what they do relate to the broader functions of the Bank of Namibia?

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, similar agencies, the President's Economic Advisory Councils, elsewhere produce annual reports or statements, which are important inputs in economic debate and analysis in the country. Should we expect this to happen sometime in the future and if not, why not?

Honourable Chairperson, let me conclude by restating that His Excellency, the President has our unquestionable support in his drive for national unity and economic welfare of all our people. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: I thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I fully support Vote 01. On Page 8 of the motivation speech it is mentioned that the balance of the N\$19 million will be utilised for the

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ongoing construction of the new State House and I would like to say that these funds are not enough, because this is a very huge project, a national project, a special building, constructed with specially selected building materials which are tested to meet national standards. Therefore, when we are talking about this building, it is a national building and it includes roads and equipment. That is why I say we have to support this project, the country does not have a State House and it is only Namibia, which does not have a State House. Therefore, I fully support this and I want all of us to support the construction of the new State House. This State House can be there for the next three hundred years to come. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I revert the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister to respond to the questions.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me thank all the Honourable Members who contributed to the discussion of this Vote. I however regret that this Vote does not seem to be receiving the respect it deserves. This is the Vote of the Head of State and in deference to him, we were supposed to listen to each other very carefully and give this Vote due respect.

As I was trying to listen to those who were contributing here, I am not quite sure whether I was able to capture their views, because the House was actually, in my humble opinion, out of control. Therefore, I hope that when I answer these questions, you will bear with me if I do not satisfy your queries.

Honourable Ulenga, you said something about writing-off African debts. You should hold onto that one until the Vote of the Finance Minister, as she might know more about African debt.

I agree with you that this is the highest office in the land and it has very demanding responsibilities. Therefore, the request is to this House to approve the amount of money, which is provided for in the Budget. The President surely stands for value for money and he wants to make sure that money, which we can save, is invested in poverty reduction, in fighting HIV/AIDS, creating employment and Rural Development. That is the President's wish if we can save money.

As we all know, the State House is a symbol of Namibian Nationhood. That is what it stands for. It is a capital investment, which will add to our capital formation as a country. It is an investment, which will be there for the test of

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time, and we want to make sure that coming generations will be proud that this investment was made for the last time. It will be painful for now, but when it has been completed, it is completed.

Therefore, please bear with us on that one, within two or three years the State House construction would have been completed. We cannot leave it where it is now, because that will be a betrayal of the taxpayers who have initially invested their money in the construction of that House. Do not associate it with a particular person. When you win, as you are the President-in-waiting, you will be there and you will represent this Nation as the State President of the country.

On the question of the plots near State House, you should wait for the Vote of the Ministry of Works, as they are the ones dealing with that issue and they should be able to provide you with an answer on how far they are in buying out those plots.

With regard to Intelligence - this is an Agency of the Government whose duty is to anticipate threat. That is their overarching responsibility, to anticipate threats against the State and that threat can come from anywhere. It can be an internal threat or it can be a foreign threat. They are there to make sure that peace and stability in Namibia is preserved by being proactive in terms of being able to swot probable threat.

You said something about the Founding President and it is true. He is the Founding President of the Nation. Not any other future President will be a Founding President and I think that is a correct description. As to the terms and conditions of his retirement, prosperity will tell. What you should know is that the President of the country does not belong to the Political Office-Bearers Pension Fund. Do you know that? When you and I retire the pension fund will take care of us, but since the retiring President does not belong to a pension fund, we have to Budget every year to meet his or her retirement obligations. That is what you should keep in mind and it is provided for in the law, which you have approved in this House. There is nothing mysterious, we are an open society.

Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) is an advisory body to the President and my understanding is that it is being restructured to be more effective. We should therefore wait and when it is restructured, you could maybe pose a question to the Minister of Presidential Affairs who would be able to give you details on that one.

Former Prime Minister, thank you for supporting the Vote. Let me explain a few things here. The President, in appointing his Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, gave them letters of appointment, stating clearly what their functions are and I can tell you those functions are quite wondrous. Imagine

that you are going to supervise something called the Anti-Corruption Commission. Somebody is investigated and you saw what happened in South Africa today. The head of the person in charge of the Scorpions rolled the other day. Therefore, to supervise the Anti-Corruption Commission is a wondrous task. If you find out things, your head will roll if you are not careful.

As far as the Cabinet Secretariat is concerned, the President needs to supervise the Cabinet Secretariat very closely because he is the Chairperson of the Cabinet. If he wants Cabinet to make decisions he can live with, it is important for the President to supervise the Cabinet Secretariat and the President has certain ideas how Cabinet should operate. In fact, the Cabinet operations are being rationalised to make it more efficient, more task-oriented in the sense that decisions can be taken as soon as possible and implemented and the Cabinet will operate more in terms of Cabinet Committees so that certain Cabinet Members are given certain tasks to perform and to report to the Cabinet from time to time. In that respect, Cabinet Members will not only be supervising their Ministries, but closely participate in the Cabinet network not only on Cabinet day. I am quite happy that the Cabinet Secretariat should fall more under the Chairman of the Cabinet so that as the Prime Minister I can concentrate on matters beyond organisation and administration. We have problems of poverty and unemployment. We have to coordinate the activities of the Ministries to see that the activities are synchronised. We are quite comfortable with the arrangement.

With regard to the people assigned to provide security to Political Office-Bearers, there is no attempt or suggestion that they are going to be laid off. The idea is only to rationalise their work, that you reduce expenditure on them. Security is very important, but unfortunately security is not productive and you need a balance between the two. Instead of having five people following you, two are perhaps enough for the time being and the other two can do the job the next day, but there will not be any retrenchment of the Peace Project members. Many of them are not even Peace Project members. They are just people who got jobs in this structure. Many of the Peace Project members belong to the Special Field Force, but many of these are not part of that, because these are very young, agile people, very tough. I can assure you that nobody will be laid off.

Honourable Gurirab, the Rundu case is with the Police now.

You mentioned that the President's Budget has been reduced as compared to last year. I am not quite sure of that, but perhaps that is the case. It means that certain things have been taken care of. Perhaps they invested more in the State House than this year. We hope that there will not be an Additional Budget, but we cannot anticipate catastrophes, such as the catastrophe between Rundu and Grootfontein. Anything can happen. Therefore, we hope that there will not be

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an additional Budget, but in the event that a catastrophe happens, then maybe we will need an additional Budget.

You mentioned the State House and the offices in the Regions. You know that the President has presidential residences in certain Regions and they have to be kept in good order. They have to be maintained, renovated and that is what the N\$10 million are all about.

The National Intelligence Service officers equally need a place to work from, in order to safeguard the security of the country.

Honourable De Waal, the quarrel between Britain and France is their own quarrel, but our President will ensure that wherever he goes, whether Washington, Tokyo, Bonn, Brussels, Paris and other places, he will speak for the interest of Namibia. If we feel our beef is being threatened by subsidies of the European Union to their beef industry, we will stand up tall and say that this is not fair competition and we have to protect our economy and our producers. Therefore, let the Europeans quarrel among themselves, but let us stand up as Namibia to protect Namibian interests and not to link it to the quarrel between other States.

We are committed to NEPAD, which is an African programme. It was initiated in Lusaka at the time when Honourable Ben Gurirab wanted to be the Secretary General of the OAU. I think you are referring to the peer review mechanism. We have been peer reviewed by President Bush, what else do you want?

I am sorry Honourable Mudge could not make his statement and Honourable Kerina thought it was Second Reading while this is Committee Stage and we have to speak on details.

Honourable Gurirab mentioned the Minister without Portfolio and this is a serious one. Honourable Gurirab, if there is somebody in this House who is truly stealing from the public, it is the members of the CoD and the Republican Party, because you do not recognise the existence of this House, you want it to be dismantled, you want people to go back to the polling booth, but still you have the courage and audacity to come and sit here and receive your salary. Shame on you!

The Minister without Portfolio is the Minister for political affairs, and politics rule the country. We said our starting point is the SWAPO Party Manifesto and the person who can translate that Manifesto into what it really means is the Minister for political affairs, called Minister without Portfolio. He gives guidance and he is the torchbearer of the Government programmes. He is working to making sure that there is peace and stability in Namibia and he is being paid for what he is doing. To call him a thief is the highest form of

cynicism, to say the least. If there are thieves in this House – and I hope there are none it is those people who are being paid by an institution they do not recognise and they should question their conscience whether they are doing the right thing. Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, question your conscience whether you are doing the right thing. Either you withdraw that case and we carry on or you carry on with the case and sit there until the case is resolved and then you can come back. Then we can respect you.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this Budget of the President is the most important Budget and I ask this House to approve it. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I would like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for some of the answers provided to questions, which were posed from my side, amongst other speakers. I do not think I should get into the matter that he spoke on last, as that matter has been ruled more or less *sub judice* by the Speaker. Yet, of course, suffice to say that we will be guided by the Rules of the House. If the Rules say we should withdraw from Parliament, then definitely there is no problem from our side.

Honourable Chairperson, I want to refer to one specific issue that has been worrying and troubling me in Mr Kawana's speech here. In his speech, the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs referred to the recently held commemorations and celebrations of the fifteenth Independence anniversary, where he said: *“Three months ago we witnessed a smooth transition of power, an event which earned us immense admiration from the international community. As we gather in this august House, the memories and pictures of the celebrations of our 15th Independence anniversary are still fresh in our minds.”*

There is one specific memory that is fresh in my mind that I would like to bring to the attention of the House, especially the Office of the President and that of the Prime Minister. As we were celebrating the fifteen anniversaries, we received invitations to some of the events, which were held. I specifically received an invitation to go to the President's inauguration function. It said *“official invitation”*, I received a card and I was surprised to find that when I went to the event, there in front of everybody junior officers from State House actually came and turned me away together with my wife. I was somewhat

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taken aback to see this kind of thing happening at that level and I would like to request the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the President that whenever there are events of State where certain members should not be, please do not let it appear as if certain people are invited.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Chairperson, the Honourable Member cannot come and cry here. If he does not recognise the State, why should he come and cry here?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, of course, there are certain things that the Honourable Jerry cannot change in this country. One of them is that I am part of this country and I am also part of the State and this side of the House is part of the State. We shall participate in those aspects of the State that those who are running the country now would want us to participate in, and we would not want to participate in any event or party, which we are not, expected to take part in.

Honourable Chairperson, I made brief reference to the Founding President. There is no doubt about it that there will only be one Founding President and it is Sam Nujoma. The Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs referred briefly to possible differences, which may be there among Namibians with regard to the person and even the history of Sam Nujoma, but those are aside, he is still the Founding President. He is now retired. He is outside active politics as far as I am concerned. We have a new President of the country. It was perhaps a question of semantics, because I see that in the Budget it now officially says, "*Office of the Founding President*" and seeing that we are now having a second President and there is always perhaps going to be a retired President within the Office of the President and within this Vote, I do not see why we should talk about the Founding President because we are actually talking about a retired President. He is the Founding President, he will have all kinds of titles but they do not all have to come into the Budget if they are irrelevant. That is all I wanted to say, I do not want to say I am against the term "*Founding President*", because who can be against a fact. For now, I would like to rest my case.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I rise for the last time. I too would wish to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for the issues, which he has raised. Honourable Chairperson, Namibians had Parliamentary elections in November last year, the Electoral Commission announced the official results on the 16th of March this year, and this House is composed based on those results. We are a lawful organisation and we shall always respect the laws of this land.

Honourable Chairperson, with regard to our views on the Minister without Portfolio, those views we retain, those are our views. At the same time, we also respect the Right Honourable Prime Minister's views about us as being thieves. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Geingob.

HON DR GEINGOB: Since I somewhere had experience of a misunderstanding, I used the word. Somebody said the appointment of the Minister without Portfolio and the Minister of Presidential Affairs is unconstitutional and I said that my Committee is not going to waste time. I do not want to make a fool of myself to go and address something, which is within the Constitution. Because of that, I do not want to read the Constitution because there was a serious argument somewhere.

Article 32(i)(ee): "*Any other person or persons who are required by any other provision of this Constitution*". If a person is called "*Minister*", he or she will fall under (bb). I said this is a constitutional matter, it is covered in the Constitution and we had a war there. Therefore, the Constitution is very clear about the President having the power to appoint the Minister without Portfolio.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First to *Honourable Ulenga*, if it is true that you

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were really invited and you had your card and somebody showed you away, I think that was unfortunate. As far as I am concerned, it was an oversight. For now, I can only apologise for that incident, next time we will do better than that. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: He was gate-crashing!

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: We can argue about the Founding President, but there is a law, which was passed by this House, which that Section of the Budget is referring to. I do know how the retired President was referred to, but I thought it might be in that law. However, perhaps that is just a semantics argument.

Honourable Gurirab is saying that you have now put an end to your Court claim because on 16 March 2005, the results were announced and you accepted them. Thank you for accepting those results, the case is closed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 01 agreed to.

I put **Vote 02 – “PRIME MINISTER”** for Discussion.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have only two issues I want to raise. One is to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister on establishing an office, which is easily accessible, and I think that was the tradition in the past, although it was broken during a certain period. However, I think your office has really established itself as being a networking office of the country and you really have to be complimented on the accessibility.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, the Right Honourable Prime Minister spoke of securing an effective, efficient and accountable Public Service. In the light of recommendations by some international institutions, such as the IMF and others, that our Public Service is too large, when does the Office of the Prime Minister envisage to prepare a position paper of how we can downsize our Public Service and creating safety nets for people not to lose jobs, perhaps downsizing and transfer some redundant staff to other institutions, such as

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mining or other job-creating institutions. I feel that is a challenge for the office to see how they can downsize the large Public Service, which everybody is speaking about. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, we support Vote 02. We have had the occasion to study the Right Honourable Prime Minister's refreshing views on the role of the State in national development. There is much to be commended in what the Right Honourable Prime Minister had to say and with which we do not differ.

Our observation in passing, however, is that what the Right Honourable Prime Minister demands, such as re-tooling of the State and the ideological premise for doing so appears not to be in concert with Government's major development policies, such as reflected in the NDPs and Vision 2030 – for what those are worth.

Honourable Chairperson, I have a few questions to raise:

In the Right Honourable Prime Minister's motivation of this Vote, he talks about what is referred to as the "*National Inclusive Economic Empowerment Framework*", NIEEF. What we want to know is whether what is being proposed is an agency or a programme.

Honourable Chairperson, we also welcome and support the provision of N\$1,4 million that is being provided for another NIPAM, the Namibian Institution of Public Management and Administration. On Page 11 of the Prime Minister's motivation statement the Prime Minister, among others, says, "*Our Emergency Management Unit is increasing its effectiveness in this connection.*" We think this should happen, but in light of what has recently been reported of what is happening in Caprivi, is the Right Honourable Prime Minister justified to make this statement? Is it the case that Civil Servants in the Caprivi suffer from collective amnesia, that nobody can remember, for example, that mountains of maize in other emergencies were hoarded? (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: On which Page is that one? I do not see Caprivi here. Why are you targeting Caprivi?

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HON T GURIRAB**

HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order, Honourable Chairperson. I think you are forcing this House to levels which are not ... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, if I could refer you to the Rules. That is why I said that I am so tolerant.

HON ULENGA: In simple terms, you are creating chaos.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are Out of Order, Honourable Member. You are Out of Order! Proceed Honourable Tsudao. You cannot accuse the Chair. I do not see Caprivi mentioned here. Do not accuse me. You are the President of your Party, you should lead by example and you are a senior Member of this House.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I said Caprivi because it did not happen in Usakos.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I want the page number. I want to be with you.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I was referring to the Right Honourable Prime Minister's statement and I was saying on Page 11 of his statement the Right Honourable Prime Minister had this to say: "*Our Emergency Management Unit is increasing its effectiveness in this connection*". (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am saying there is nothing about Caprivi, read the whole Paragraph.

HON T GURIRAB: If you want me to read, I can do so. It goes on to say, “*Emergencies, once designated as such by Cabinet, are funded via the National Emergency and Disaster Fund which is operated off-Budget*”. Do you want me to read further or would that suffice?

What I had to say, Honourable Chairperson, is in the context of these emergencies and what the Prime Minister had to say about effectiveness.

As you will recall, Honourable Chairperson, our Party has raised the large-scale corruption, which has accompanied this particular emergency programme in this very House without to this date a satisfactory answer from Government.

Honourable Chairperson, let me by way of concluding, ask two final questions on the amounts being provisioned. The first one, Honourable Chairperson, relates to the remuneration in 2004/2005 Fiscal Year. An amount of a little over N\$1 million was provided for. In this Budget, we have close to N\$18 million on Page 448 of the Budget document. The question is on this large increase from N\$1 million to N\$18 million. Surely, something is happening, whether there is a staff increase, whether I am getting a salary increase. It is a huge increase and I did not hear anything in the Minister’s motivation, anything about whether I should look forward to a salary increase or whether huge numbers of staff were recruited for the functions carried out under the Prime Minister’s Office. I should like some clarity on that one.

In addition, Honourable Chairperson, the provisioning for goods and other services last year was less than N\$1,800,000 and this year the request is in excess of N\$16 million, another huge sum if you compare the two. I should be grateful for some more information on that. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Ulenga, last time.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, just to remind you this is my first time to speak on this Vote. It is not the last time. I have only one brief question. I want to put this matter clearly and simply to the Prime Minister so that he can deal with it and it is, indeed, the issue of the recently discovered drought relief food, which is run from the Office of the Prime Minister and which is fully the responsibility of that Office as far as we are concerned. I was shocked to see this matter happening and I hope the Prime Minister will be able to inform the House as to what steps have been taken and what level of officials have been responsible for this shocking dereliction of duty. I am asking this especially in

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the light of the declared goals and the determination of the Government to ensure that there is prompt delivery of service from the Government's side, and that officials who fail to go along with these directives will be dealt with. I am sure it is not only me, the whole House and, indeed, the public out there will be entitled to get that kind of information. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Any further discussion on this Vote? I now reverse the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. *Honourable Venaani*, thank you for your good words and congratulations. My office will remain open for constructive interaction.

With regard to the Civil Service, it is true that Government is the largest business in this country. We have close to 80,000 people working for the Government and Government is quite large given the size of our country.

However, we have to face the reality. The Right Honourable first Prime Minister mentioned here his worry about the Peace Project, which absorbed a large number of ex-freedom fighters and others. We had to provide for them and you can realise that even as we provided for them, their salaries are not quite up to standard yet, not because we do not want improve them but because we cannot afford.

To suggest that at this stage in time we should downsize is not quite a tenable proposition in the wake of all sorts of people losing their jobs – in the Fishing Industry, in textiles, very soon in diamonds, breweries and we are very concerned about this situation. We can only talk about downsizing when we become organized, that we have put into place mechanisms for growing the economy and for job creation. For that, I want to invite you to a job creation summit next month. Bring your ideas to discuss what kind of things we can do to create jobs for people who are not employed and those who are losing their jobs. That is what we should talk about now, not to retrench people. That should be the approach. Let us talk about how to create jobs or how to grow the economy so that the economy could expand and create jobs. Let us talk about that, not retrenchment for now.

Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, in my view the State must provide the necessary support for the Private Sector to thrive, especially the native Private Sector.

You know that we have what is called a branch styled economy where companies, whether banks or car hire companies, are part of large companies from somewhere else and these companies are not interested in expanding the economy because they have their share and to make the situation worse, we also have an economy of middlemen and women, people who sell things produced by other people. The challenge we have is to create a productive economy, an economy that can produce goods and services and sell them. How do we get that kind of economy in a situation like ours?

We believe that the State must play a role, a transformational role, if you like. I know that Honourable Gurirab subscribes to what is called the Washington Consensus. He is a part of that. He is a neo-liberal or something. We are saying that the State must have a role to stimulate the economy, to support the Private Sector and not that the State should get into business, but to support the Private Sector so that we can create a local and indigenous bourgeoisie, if you like, local capitalists in their own right, not riding on the back of others. The local capitalists should emerge and we must support them and grow the economy. That is the point we are trying to make.

We want the National Inclusive Economic Empowerment Framework (NIEEF) – Mr Viljoen can tell you what “*neef*” means – to create a family. You have to look at what you can do for everybody, especially those who are excluded. Start with the unemployed, what can you do to empower them? Train them, give them some start-up capital to start their own business, support their small and medium enterprises, give land to those who do not have it, resettle them, give them production capital so that they can make the land productive. That is empowerment. Then you create markets for their products.

Then one can look at the Tsudao Gurirab type who wants to be given equity in Sanlam, what kind of vehicle do you have to help them so that they can buy those equities. We are saying that we want empowerment framework, which is inclusive.

America is a strong country because the majority of the people there are middle-income people. They have something to defend. We want to create a larger middle class, which would include 60% our people. They would then have a stake in the country and defend peace and stability. They would not just be a clique of a few empowered ones and they ride roughshod over us with their shiny Mercedes Benz, we want a NIEEF approach.

We want a professional Public Service and we want the Public Service to support the State in its mission to transform the economy, which means that the Public Service must be professional and meritocratic as happened in South-East Asia when those countries were transforming themselves.

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We want to make sure that there is no rank seeking in any of the operations, which borders on corruption.

Honourable Ulenga, everybody was shocked about the drought food and in fact, when the President heard about it, he ordered the Secretary to the Cabinet to take a plane with journalists and go to Katima Mulilo and find out what was going on there. That is why you were able to get that information. The investigation continues and that investigation is now under the Office of the President. He has a very clear interest in that matter and I hope that when the investigation is complete, the results will be made known to everybody. We are all concerned, we have people suffering from malnutrition, we have people who are poor, who are unemployed and some even want to do work for food, but if you have food rotting somewhere, that is very unfortunate and we hope that this situation will be called to order. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 02 agreed to.

I put **Vote 04** – “**AUDITOR-GENERAL**” for Discussion.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to express our support for this important Vote. I am aware that there are some Colleagues who want to do other things, but I am rising to make only two observations.

Firstly, I want to express our traditional support for the Office of the Auditor-General because this is an important constitutional office, which we have created in terms of our structure of checks and balances in the democratic country, which we are in the process of moulding.

Honourable Chairperson, the second observation that I wish to make and I do this every year, is that the Constitution does say that an Act of Parliament will be passed which will in more detail and clearly set out the functions of this important watchdog, office. I wanted to ask whether at some point the Government is considering to do this. I thank you and we support this Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? I revert the Floor to the Minister of Finance to respond.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson and thank you, Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, for your interest in this very important Vote, as you have rightly acknowledged.

Firstly, I would like to assure the Honourable Members of this House that, indeed, a Bill would be coming to the Honourable House that would outline the procedures for the operations of the Office of the Auditor General. Currently this is being provided for under the State Finance Act, which has a second component that covers the activities of the Auditor-General's Office. We were at an advanced stage with a State Finance Bill that still encompass the activities of the Office of the Auditor-General, but towards the end of this process, the Auditor-General requested that they would rather separate that Bill from the State Finance Act so that we will be in line with the regional targets that are set within the SADC Region that these offices have their own separate Acts and we complied to that. That is why this process has been delayed, but we are expediting the finalisation of both the State Finance Bill and the Auditor-General Bill and it will be coming to Parliament soon. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 04 agreed to.

I put **Vote 10 – "EDUCATION"** for Discussion.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, I would plead for your guidance on the way we proceed. I thought it is customary that after every reply by the Minister responsible, the Chair would ask for further discussions before we get into objections. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I have never come across that Rule, if you could assist me with the Rule. The Minister has responded. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, first please allow me to congratulate the Minister of Education for a job well done. My only concern is that funds were allocated to institutions of higher learning, such as the Polytechnic, which trains students as engineers, but now they do not even know how to apply for tenders. They probably need to be given training on the

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process. In the same vein, I want the Polytechnic to produce well-trained professionals who will not become workers but rather employ others.

The Grade 10 and 12 students who failed are still roaming the streets, there are not enough schools for them to repeat and I appeal to the Minister to assist these students to repeat.

My last concern is on hostels. The students in hostels at secondary schools, especially in the North, are starving while enough money was allocated to this Vote. Students are starved. They get only four slices of bread and a cup of soup at every dinner, which is inhuman. I want the Minister to see to it that the students receive enough food as we are trying to produce qualified professionals. With this, I support Vote 10 and I appreciate that the Minister received enough funds for this Vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I also have a few comments.

We for once have a person whom we trust to educate this Nation, in the person of the current Minister and we are going to give him time to improve the Education Sector in this country. One general, across-the-board analysis from our side is that education in this country is in a mess, if I have to use that word, and I believe that more attention should be given to priority learning, for us to be able to create the needed skills. For example, in Kunene, the students are taught Social Studies and you cannot find Mathematics and Science teachers. Therefore, the school is forced to offer a particular curriculum... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information, particularly on the Kunene Region. This year the former Minister of Higher Education took forty or fifty students from Kunene to go for further studies. Some of them were sent to Zimbabwe, Zambia and other countries.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, it does not really help to echo some of those sentiments. What we are saying is that we want the needed skills

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for particular Regions. For example, in an area such as the Caprivi or Kunene, you need trained agronomists to be able to develop the Green Scheme. The country is facing the reality that a certain school may be deprived, because they do not have a Science or Agriculture teacher and they will be forced to take History because there are more teachers available for History. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, who has once again created one Ministry of Education. It is important that the Budget allocation for Education remains as high as it does, although one needs to quantify and say, considering the amount of money that we have been putting in the Budget for Education, one needs to seriously ask whether what comes out on the other side is really a quantification of what has been put in.

I once again notice that there is a percentage decrease in the moneys allocated to primary and secondary education and sadly, once again, no allocation is made for pre-primary education. Any educationalist worldwide will admit that the greatest harm that can be caused in the education of a child is not to have the best education at primary and secondary level and that is why we will constantly request that Government reconsiders paying attention through the one Ministry of Education to pre-primary education, especially in a country where most of the children who do not enjoy pre-primary education come from the poor sections and the rural sections of our population.

The Honourable Minister has mentioned the increased demand for places at Grade 11 and as a result, that money would be allocated to build more classrooms. The questions I would like to ask of the Minister: Apart from lack of classrooms, how can he account for an increase in the number of pupils that need to go to Grade 11 when the dropout rate in Grade 10 is still as high as 10,000 annually? Is it indeed the case that it is because more places are needed in Grade 11? Can one then assume, as the Minister says, that the increased physical facilities that will be built will guarantee fewer dropouts? Is it not better for the Ministry to consider revising the system of automatic promotion which occurs until a child reaches Grade 10, so that a child that manages to fail from Grade 1 to Grade 9 is automatically promoted to the next year and then we have this high percentage of children in Grade 10 dropping out.

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Honourable Chairperson, as a child of Namibia during the time of the racist oppression by the South Africans, you could not go to Sub B without having passed Sub A and that is why you see many of the young people who enjoyed Bantu Education today being leaders in this country. Has the time not come for us to consider the quality of the education? (Interjections) We have reached it in spite of, not because of, but that is no excuse for having inferior education after Independence. On the contrary, it should be better after, rather than worse.

Honourable Chairperson, there are many programmes that the Minister is promising, programmes that are envisaged to bring improvement in the quality of our education. With regard to ETSIP, which the Honourable Minister states will make a significant contribution to, amongst others, expanding and improving early childhood education, how does the Minister intend doing this when pre-primary education remains the foster child of the SWAPO Government, despite the fact that the poor do not have access thereto, leading to great disadvantages for the poor and rural people. We hope that although there is a percentage decrease in the money allocated to the Ministry.... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Order, Chairperson. I am confused. Are we in the Second Reading or are we at Committee Stage? Can we come straight to the point, a specific question on the allocation on the division of programmes? Why do we have to have statements in the Committee Stage? I really have a serious problem.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, a new Member is advising us. He has come to know more than us, the seniors.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chairperson, on Page 5 of the Minister's motivation, the Minister is referring to the development of the ETSIP, which is now in its final stages. That is what I am talking about. The Honourable Deputy Minister obviously has not read the Minister's motivation.

I, therefore, would like to state in conclusion that a new Ministry with a new Minister with new hopes deserves the support and we support the Education Vote. We will come back, however, and constantly check whether these improvements materialise. I thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Minister Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. Mine is a very short intervention to support Vote 10. Looking at the second Paragraph on Page 8, I want to repeat my request that I am always putting to the Ministers. In order for Namibia to have mathematicians and scientists, we need to look at the day-to-day performance of our learners. There are those who excel in mathematics while weak in other subjects and we do not have the system of following those learners who have skills in certain subjects. I want my namesake to look into this aspect.

My second point is on Page 9. Here I want to give my full support to vocational education, which is very important. If we want to improve our vocational education and training to be a vital tool, we will only succeed if we start to introduce this subject at primary education. I support Vote 10 and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: I would from the onset like to support the Vote 110% and wish my senior Colleague, Honourable Mbumba and his Deputy all the good health and all the strength.

On Page 125 I see that the European Commission and SIDA funding has increased. This shows trust in the Namibian people. In the past, they used to direct these funds through their own agencies and now they are sending it directly to the Government, which is good in my view.

The other issue is on Page 8 of the Minister's speech and it deals with the feeding programme. I am very happy that the Minister decided to feed the disadvantaged children. Please continue with that programme.

Lastly, I always feel bad when people talk about education. Education is a collective effort and all of us should be part of this effort. I want the parents to be part of this effort, but they only drop the children at school and that is the end of it. They are pursuing careers and they do not take care of the children and help them with homework. We should take this Vote as part of our collective responsibility to educate our children, so that we can have a better

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future. I support the Vote and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I want to know whether the University of Technology is going to be established in Tsumeb, because we have a shortage of civil, mechanical, electrical and all types of engineers. In Tsumeb, we have existing materials and equipment, which only need to be upgraded. Thank you very much I fully support Vote 10.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I thank you, Chairperson. I would like to contribute to the Education Budget, Main Division Planning and Development, specifically the provision of furniture to schools.

This Main Division is the one where the Ministry can save a lot of money when providing furniture to schools. At many schools around the country, you realise that there are many old frames of which the tops become loose or broken and we can save costs if we only produce the tops to replace the old ones. That is a piece of advice that I would like to give and I support Vote 10.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, I want to support the Vote, but before I do that, I want to mention one or two things.

The first thing I want to mention is that as much as one would appreciate the efforts that have been put into practice to try to get our young people through the process of education, I have noted that most of the students graduating from

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the institutions of higher learning have more or less the same qualifications, with the result that they have to compete for the few job opportunities existing in the market and we need to diversify and encourage our young people to enter the science and technology field as opposed to commerce. I have learned that because of the effects of HIV/AIDS, there is a great need for Social Workers in this country and apparently – I need to be advised by the Honourable Minister – the social workers field does not qualify for bursaries or is not a top priority for bursaries. If that is the case, then the Honourable Minister should have another look at that because we need social workers as we have more orphans. With those few words, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Nicky Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. At the outset, I rise to support Vote 10 and just want to pose one question.

Much of the criticism of our higher education is partly because we have some unqualified teachers and I want to find out from the Honourable Minister, when will we complete the phasing out of the unqualified teachers? With that, I support Vote 10.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to congratulate the Minister of Education and to thank him for presenting this Budget. I have only one question or concern on Page 425 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

In Main Division 11 – Hostels, an amount of N\$260,685,000 is budgeted. I have seen that in some of the hostels, the beds of the learners are made by institutional workers and I really think it needs to be monitored, because I find it extremely unacceptable that these children are spoiled in hostels and literally do

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nothing. They have people cooking for them, washing the dishes and even making their beds. This should be monitored, because they should be able to do some work themselves. This is my only concern, Comrade Minister that we need to be serious about this. We cannot just have academics who cannot do anything with their hands.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. This is our Vote and in supporting this Vote and taking into consideration the death rate due to HIV/AIDS among Namibians, including the teaching staff, I am wondering whether the time has not come for the Ministry to make use of retired teachers with good qualifications, who are in good health and who, due to our Civil Service regulations, are on retirement. I know of schools where there are no teachers because the class teacher has died in the middle of the year and since provision has not been made for the recruitment of a new teacher, this class will remain without a class teacher for the rest of the year, yet there are retired teachers within the vicinity. Is it not time that we make use of these retired teachers due to the calamity that we are facing currently? With that concern, I support Vote 10.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like, first of all, to support Vote 10 and more particularly the issue of vocational education, as mentioned by Honourable Iilonga. This issue is very critical especially in rural development where we should try to encourage community-based vocational training centres where these people could apply their skills at the rural level and assist communities in building houses.

On the issue of scholarships, we have noticed that the Ministry of Education is

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accused of people being unproductive, producing people who are not ready for the market. There are students who get bursaries from the Government and we as parents see them using this money to buy cell phones, cars and all sorts of things while this money was allocated for their food and books and at the end of the day they are not well qualified for the job market.

We must definitely plan that the money allocated to the students are not diverted to other luxuries and that it be used for the purpose it was allocated, namely investment in education. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Chairperson, before supporting the Vote, I would like to make a remark. This is a field where people easily criticise and it is not clear when people criticise whether it is from Grade 1 to Grade 10, which is one system, or Grade 11 and 12, the Cambridge system.

After Independence we all decided to embark on the two curricula and I think it would assist the Minister and the Government if we could come up with alternatives. The problem is not the system. It is the human resources. I wish to support Vote 10 and wish the Minister all the best.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, in my support of this Vote I do not know whether I should actually congratulate the Minister or sympathise with him, because everybody knows this is a very challenging situation we are faced within the education sector. I am glad to see from the Minister's statement that there have been efforts to re-chart the way forward for the education and training sector successfully and I am sure everybody will agree that it is high time that this happens. I do not want to get into the criticism of the past, I just want to mention a few things perhaps as advice or as remarks that the Minister may find useful.

Firstly, there is so much talk, Honourable Chairperson, and through you to the Minister, of IT and education on the electronic information side, that so many

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people now seem to overlook ordinary traditional education ways, such as reading and writing. I just want to encourage the Minister please not to forget to emphasise and encourage kids to develop basic skills in those basic things, the issue of knowing how to read and actually to develop a reading culture at schools.

Recently I spoke to a cousin of mine who was doing Grade 12 who was so good in Mathematics that he got an A, but unfortunately he failed Grade 12 because he failed English and I asked him how many books he has ever read and his answer was that he has never read a book either on fiction or non-fiction written in the English language. I know that in other places it is now only being discovered when the kids come to secondary school that they lack the basic reading skills and that the skills of education through reading is dying out because so many people believe that the education that is really useful and relevant nowadays is to do computer and to watch television and watch the movies.

The second issue that I wanted to bring to the Minister's attention is an issue that has been worrying me for some time, people have talked about it also in this Honourable House, and it is the question of education of farm children.

Last year I had the opportunity to visit some farms when some of the by-elections were happening in the country and I found that at most farms, the kids of labourers were not provided with schooling, not because it is the fault of anybody in particular, but simply that there are no schools nearby. The farm workers believe that the responsibility to provide education for their children is with their employers. The employers, on the other hand, seem to believe that the responsibility to provide education to kids of farm labourers should be with the Government. I think it is high time that the Ministry and the Government in general look into this matter and make sure that kids belonging to farm labourers are provided with facilities near them to be able to have the right like any other child to partake in education.

Lastly, I hope the Ministry will next year be able to direct us in this House and direct the Government on how best to get more money for the education sector. Clearly, there is a lot going that way right now, but clearly the money being allocated, even though it is 21% of the whole Budget, does just not suffice to meet all the needs we are faced with in the education sector. I thank you and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Shihepo.

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HON SHIHEPO / HON PANDENI / HON TWEYA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. First of all, I want to commend the Minister for the new post. I know very well that he is able and capable to run this Ministry and Comrade Minister. We are all behind you.

I only wish to bring under the attention of the Ministry that our learners from the lower classes in rural areas and in towns from the upper classes are drinking heavily and smoking, which is really not a good and something needs to be done before it gets out of hand. With these few words, I support the Vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Pandeni.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to throw my support behind Vote 10 and I have only one question.

In view of the commitment of the Government to realise the production of engineers, scientists and all the learned people, to which extent are we already trying to identify the potential of kids at a very young age?

I would presume that the teachers are possibly in the best position to recognise these potential qualities, so that the Government could give special attention to this category of kids. I support Vote 10.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Tweya.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 10 and wish to congratulate and wish all strength to the Honourable Minister and to address myself to Page 8 or 9 of his motivation statement which addresses the new policy after the colonial Bantu Education, of which some of us are a product. Fortunately we were party to that particular policy where the formerly disadvantaged have really been given more access to

education, which is no more a privilege but a right. Congratulations for that.

I would want to give a very friendly if not unkindly message to the brothers on the other side who want the Nation to believe that education is in chaos. Education is not in chaos. Let us be true to ourselves. (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I did not want to disturb the new Member, but I have here a newspaper produced by Government with a picture of the Honourable Member, which says his name is Onesmus. Is that the case?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: There is a Rule, which says newspapers are not allowed.

HON T GURIRAB: But I want to establish whether it is true that he is Onesmus.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, you should refrain from reading newspapers in front of me. I am requesting everybody who has a newspaper to put it aside.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson, I was saying we must be true to ourselves, the education in Namibia is not in chaos. It is in a very good and sound state. Unfortunately, the Honourable Member who has left is a product of this so-called chaotic education. Does he want to tell us that he himself has been created by a chaotic education? Does he really want the Nation to believe that? It is not true. Education in Namibia is in a sound state. The initiative as outlined on Page 9 of the Minister's speech, his emphasis on Science and Mathematics, which were deprived and legalised by the colonial regimes, have been restored by this Government in this current education system.

Therefore, we should be true to ourselves, embrace all these initiatives, and support all these initiatives in the interest of our own people. (Intervention)

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 10
HON DIENDA / HON NAMBAHU

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I am at a loss whether the Member is allowed to attribute things to people who have not said anything. Everybody on this side of the House supports the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are Out of Order. Nobody gave you the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: In conclusion, I needed to make that statement that we must not deceive the Nation. We are dealing with serious business. The limited resources available to the Government have been shared equally and I therefore support the Vote wholeheartedly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, my question is on Page 457. Is the Minister aware of the fundraising done at schools to build halls and classrooms? The reason why I am asking this question is because these schools are more concentrating on fundraising than on the educational function and this is a real a problem which disturbs us. Our kids are not performing because they are concentrating on fundraising. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In the first instance, I would like to support Vote 10 wholeheartedly and I would like the Honourable Minister to give thought to the expansion of the concept of support services as mentioned on Page 125. We are all witnessing the increase of households that are being headed by orphans, people whom, not by choice find themselves in a situation of parenting for which they are not prepared. In law, there is a saying that no one can give what they do not possess and they are now expected to exercise an oversight function

of their brothers and sisters, a situation they were not prepared for. These support services could also probably be extended to include support to these orphans who are heads of families in order to be able to provide to their sisters and brothers proper parenting and supervisory work in terms of homework.

I also commend the Ministry for coming up with revolutionary ideas, such as those of vocational training and innovation centres. I thank you and in that spirit, I support the Bill.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I now revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister of Education to respond.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, it is just normal that I sweat for the N\$2 billion I am getting from this august House. I would like to thank all of you for supporting Vote 10, our Vote, and the Vote of our children. I am not going to comment on all the support and all the sympathy.

Honourable Moongo, the issue of graduates of the Polytechnic or the University who are technically competent and that they need to be helped so that they can get Government tenders to be able to do a specific job and hire others, that is highly appreciated and we support that.

The other issue is the one of Grade 10. First, we must understand that we have opened up the system to all our children. Primary education is open to all the children. Legally and administratively they are allowed to enter, but there is no country which in a short period of time can just have every single child in school and this is not because of a lack of the willpower on the part of the Government, it is distance, classrooms, background of the parents who must physically take their children to where the schools are.

Another issue is hostels. Somebody is saying the children are not getting enough food and the other person is saying the children are being spoiled. That is how things are in life or in Namibia. We have a large country with the population scattered all over the place and you cannot have secondary schools ten or twenty kilometres from each other and therefore, the need for hostels. These hostels must be maintained and it is costly. N\$260 million are budgeted for hostels, which is more than some of the Ministries' Budgets. Therefore, there are many efforts on the part of the Government and the parents and the

children benefiting should contribute to the maintenance, cleanliness and good image of those hostels and those schools.

Honourable Venaani, you are condemning the education, but all of us would like to have the best possible education in this world and, therefore, you criticise not because you hate, but because you wish it were much better. I was reading one of the publications and they are saying that for the first time the City of Los Angeles in California has a Spanish mayor and they say, "*What is such a big thing, he is going to be faced with smoke and traffic and a bad school system*". This is one of the biggest cities in the world and they are still complaining that the education system is not what all the parents want to see.

There is also a debate at Cambridge University where the new chancellor wants to reorganise things according to American schools and the people are saying, "Who do you think you are, we want the system to remain as it is", but he is saying Cambridge University is no longer competitive. He wants to re-engineer it. Therefore, one wants to improve education all the time and that is what the parents would like to see. We should not get discouraged, we should definitely introduce subjects that matter. What is the point of going to school, get good marks, and come back and you cannot help yourself or your poor mother who sent you to school? You cannot help your younger siblings to go to school. Education is not for fun, it is a demand on life so that you can improve yourself. Life is not a fancy thing, it is not Hollywood, life is tough, and study is tough.

Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase, education is expensive, it costs money and for our children to go and play around and smoke and drink is a waste of their lives. They will be fed and housed by the younger or elder brothers who were doing manual work. To go to school just to be a spoiled brat and have a false diamond in your ear or nose is not education. Education is to read, have a culture of reading, as Honourable Ulega was saying. Read, study, prepare yourself, tune yourself up and get ready, so that when you stand in front of somebody or a job, they would wish they had hired you yesterday.

The issue is not with automatic promotion. Education is supposed to facilitate all of us to learn more and move on. That is why at every good school the teachers are keeping records and at the end of each year, they write records for their children: "*This child has passed, he is able to read, and he is able to do his or her Mathematics*" and even the parents are supposed to get this information. Not all the schools are so organised and I put emphasis as a school principal, any school principal that is not in charge of his school should not even be there, because the leader must lead. The Presiding Officer must preside even if there are naughty Members of Parliament. Principals and teachers are in charge of our children, they have the responsibility, and we pay for that.

ETSIP is on its way. Let us not rush it. It is an expensive programme and we definitely have to find new ways to give more money to Education. We give a lot of money to Education in comparison to our national Budget, but we still need more.

Honourable Ilonga, in modern times it does not help us to go to school to do petty things. Yes, we have to know how to read and write. We have to know how to do our Mathematics, but more Mathematics, more Science and more Engineering. Be careful to identify children too early, the school has to include all of us. The first thing is to push everybody to move and those who start standing out, could have those Engineering and Geology courses, etcetera.

In vocational training, we definitely need to train people for the market, such as mining, to advance our economy.

Comrade Kaiyamo, thank you very much. The credit for SIDA and the EU giving us more money should go to the Minister of Finance who control those things and the Director of the National Planning Commission who negotiated this, but definitely, as a system we have proven that if money goes into the Namibian Budget, it will be spent on that project the two Governments have agreed on and we should be proud of that record.

Comrade Amweelo, we are still discussing the University of Technology and we hope it will be realised soon.

Honourable Katali, we need to save money by not always buy new things and rather to maintain what we have.

Honourable Tjihuiko, we should definitely branch out our tertiary education. If you really want to get a job, go and study what my neighbour here has studied. If I have studied Medicine like Nicky Iyambo, he would have a job and I will not have a job. Now that I have studied Education and he has studied Medicine, we are still friends and we are not competing. Social Workers are in demand and our institutions of higher education and training are not serving us if they do not identify that and start training in that direction.

The problem concerning using qualified retired teachers does not lie with us. Just try to put somebody back into the Public Service system. You have to negotiate a contract with the Public Service Commission, you have to get the permission of the Prime Minister and it is a long process and I must say that all retired teachers are mentioning that they could do a better job, especially while we are facing a crisis like this and we have no objection, but we need to be assisted to bring them into the Public Service.

Comrade Ndaitwah, I have answered on the question of hostels. On the unqualified teachers, the whole aim is that if somebody joins the teaching profession and they have a good educational level but they do not have the qualifications, we encourage them to go for courses so that they qualify. However, those who then do not meet the deadline will definitely have to get out of the system. The younger ones, who have a Bachelor's Degree and want to teach, must get the necessary qualifications.

Comrade Kazenambo, thank you very much for your support. Vocational Education and Training is necessary. To think once I can read a book I have accomplished everything I want to accomplish in life is a mistake, we still have to use our hands, we need skills and we have to start practising agriculture or building houses and we should not use money earmarked for education for cell phones and other gadgets. Money for education should definitely go to education.

Honourable Viljoen, thank you very much for the support and I think to a certain extent I have already answered *Honourable Ulenga* and I accept the advice. If you do not know how to read and write, the knowledge of computers may not be enough. There was a very good Nigerian medical doctor who was practising in London and his English was not easily understandable by other professionals. They used to say he is a wonderful doctor, but he is still uneducated. Let us not be called uneducated when we know how to use a computer, but we cannot even write a letter to an old person.

I have to thank *Comrade Shihepo, Comrade Pandeni and Comrade Tweya* for the support and the advice. As you said, everybody wants to see the best possible education system, but we have to work hard and contribute to education. Criticism will not build me up, but if you support me and support your child, you are building the school.

Honourable Dienda, fundraising is supposed to supplement the income of schools and also to introduce new programmes, but education is definitely the core activity, not the fundraising.

Honourable Nambahu, the issue of helping orphans and vulnerable groups is a responsibility we share with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is also involved and the community as a whole. At weddings and funerals, the people slaughter big oxen, but to help that child in your neighbourhoods with N\$100 to attend school is such a big issue. Why? We must spend our money to build a Nation and not just to show off so that people can register that you gave something at my son's wedding. Thank you very much, give me the money, I will go and do the job.

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ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 10
agreed to.

I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned under Rule 90, automatic
adjournment.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:00 UNTIL 2009.06.15 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
15 JUNE 2005**

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. Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 23 June 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Defence:

1. Is it true that all NDF members are forced to pay N\$110 every month to Sanlam or MOGS since Independence for a group scheme insurance policy?
2. Is it true that no documents are issued to the members who are paying this insurance?
3. Who receives the benefits if the member goes on pension, is transferred or is dismissed from the NDF?
4. Can the Minister investigate and explain to this House whether this is not corruption and against the Anti-Corruption Act?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Booy's.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: ANIMAL DISEASES AND
PARASITES BILL
HON DR N IYAMBO**

proceedings on Votes 03, 05, 06, 09, 11, 27, 28 and 29 be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any Ministerial Statement? On an urgent basis and with your indulgence, Honourable Members, I would like to make an adjustment on today's Order Paper. I want to move the Finance Minister's Motion to be third on the Order Paper. The Minister impressed upon me that this is an urgent matter with financial implications. I now call on the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day.

**COMMITTEE STAGE: ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PARASITES AMENDMENT BILL**

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

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Animal Diseases and Parasites Amendment Bill.

Clause 1 put.

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PARASITES BILL
HON VENAANI / HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise under a Point of Order, seeking clarification on the principal Act that we are amending, because according to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture we are amending the Act of 1956 and there is another Principal Act, the Animal Disease Act of 1984. I am just seeking clarification, Honourable Minister of Agriculture, whether this Act repealed the Act of 1956 or whether there are two concurrent separate Acts.

The Act of 1956 is called the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act, whereas the one of 1984 is called the Animal Disease Act. I am just seeking clarification so that we are sure whether we are amending the correct Act or whether this Act is not yet in force. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? I call on the Minister to clarify the point, which the Honourable Member put forward.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. The Act we are amending is the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act of 1956. It does not have the same title as the one the Honourable Member has mentioned, which only refers to "*Animal Diseases*". It must be a different Act.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am tempted to support the view of Honourable Mutorwa, saying that we must have another look at this, because if you look at the content of the Animal Disease Act of 1984 and the one of 1956, you are looking at the same laws with a few Amendments and the only technical difference here is that the other one has the inclusion of "Parasites". If the Honourable Minister is sure that both these Acts are running concurrently, then I do not have a problem, but I just want us to be very sure that we are amending the correct Act. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable De Waal.

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HON DE WAAL / HON IILONGA / HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, just to make sure, I wonder whether we cannot postpone the Debate on this specific Clause until tomorrow and then deal with the rest of the Bill today so that we can just clarify this issue, because it might be a serious problem if we have two Acts with more or less the same contents running concurrently. Maybe with the permission of the Honourable Minister we can just postpone the discussion on the first Clause, deal with the rest of the Bill, then come back, and just clarify this issue tomorrow. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Are you questioning the Title of the Bill? That is Clause 4, not Clause 1, which we are discussing right now. Any further discussion on Clause 1? Any objection?

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 put.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to give some clarification. The Honourable Minister responded to my question, which I put yesterday, that the Amendment is silent on search of vehicles without a warrant. The Minister said the Police have a law, which authorises them, but I did not refer to the Police only. At Oshivelo, the people who search vehicles for meat are not members of the Police Force. The Amendment is not in favour of law enforcement and therefore, it needs to be clarified so that our staff may conduct a search without a warrant. If there is a general law, then I have no problem.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion on Clause 2? I now revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Chairperson, Section 19 of the same law gives powers to authorised officers to conduct a search. Customs officers, a Police officer or authorised person may enter or search upon any land or conveyance and take with him such assistants, whether officers or not, in such animals or vehicles, appliances, instruments, tools, drugs and other things as he may deem necessary for the

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purpose of this Act, do anything which he in his power is required in terms of this Act to inspect. Therefore, general powers are given to the people who may search.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 put.

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. This N\$1 million mentioned in Clause 3(i), is it really N\$1 million or is it a mistake? I just want to be sure about this N\$1 million or five to ten years imprisonment. Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Chairperson, it is N\$1 million and I have explained yesterday that this is meant for anybody who on purpose brings germs into Namibia with the intention to cause havoc to the livestock of our country, which are a very important economic components of our Nation. Should anybody attempt to do so, then the fine for this person is N\$1 million. It is a reasonable deterrent for a person who has ill-intentions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 put.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. May I Move that the Debate on this Clause be adjourned until tomorrow, so that we can get clarity on these two different Bills? I so Move.

Clause 4 deferred.

Short Title put.

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HON TWEYA / HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I am not sure whether this is a mere mistake. In (bb) and (cc) I see reference to R2,000 and R5,000. Is this a typing error or is it applicable to this House?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Chairperson, the Rand was supposed to be deleted.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Clause 4 will stand over until tomorrow and I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
TRANSFER OF CONVICTED CRIMINALS BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Second Reading: *Transfer of Convicted Criminals Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 7 June 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Honourable Kaura adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I do not have any particular problem with the transfer of convicted offenders from one country to the other. We have had a recent experience in the last seven years or so where people who committed crimes in Namibia fled to Botswana and they had to be brought back and, of course, Namibia cannot be a haven for criminals that could flee to Namibia and they cannot be extradited. However, while I am

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HON KAURA

looking at that, I have a few questions.

When I am looking at the list of SADC Protocols and other legal instruments that are listed here, there are thirty-two SADC Protocols and among these Protocols, for example, I see a Protocol on Trade and that is the only Protocol Namibia signed, ratified and acceded to and the majority of the SADC Member States signed and also acceded to this Protocol. However, when I look at the rest, some signed but they never acceded to these Protocols. A glaring example is this Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security. All the SADC Member countries did sign with the exception of Angola, but none acceded to this Protocol.

I am looking at another Protocol, the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials in SADC. None of the fourteen SADC member countries acceded to this Protocol. They did sign, some ratified, some did not ratify, such as Angola, DRC, the Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, but the rest that signed and ratified did not accede to this Protocol.

I want to find out, Honourable Speaker, there is this one on corruption. While we are advocating zero tolerance of corruption in Namibia, Namibia did sign the SADC Protocol against Corruption but did not ratify yet, nor did Namibia accede to this Protocol on Corruption. When we go to the SADC Protocol on Extradition, Namibia did not ratify this Protocol on Extradition, nor did it accede to it. Of course, it could not accede to this Protocol before they have signed. Now what are we talking about with this one? If on extradition, we have not ratified, nor have we acceded to it, what is the purpose of this and what is the difference between the transfer of convicted offenders and extradition in particular in the SADC Region?

I therefore have a problem, Honourable Speaker. While we neither have Protocols, which we have signed but we did not accede to, nor did we ratify, we have this one again. What is the purpose of it? I really do not know and I need to have an explanation on this. How do we accept this while in the final analysis, it will never be acceded to, nor would it be ratified? Therefore, I have a problem. I want to know whether the Minister can give us a guarantee that when this one is accepted here in Parliament and signed, it will be ratified and acceded to. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Kaura. Any further discussion?
Minister of Justice.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA / RT HON N ANGULA

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, the purpose of my intervention in the Debate arose from the question posed by Honourable Kaura. The Bill before us deals with the transfer of convicted offenders. Convicted offenders are persons who have gone through our judicial process. They have been sentenced and they are serving their sentences in our jails. These categories of persons are being addressed in this Bill.

This Bill, in my view, is not based on extradition. Whether there is an extradition agreement or not, as long as there is an agreement between the two countries that a convicted prisoner who belongs to Country A can be transferred to his or her country of nationality.

For example, we had a German national who was convicted for the murder of his wife in Swakopmund. If the German Government requires that this person be transferred to serve his jail sentence in Germany, then such arrangement can be made. Extradition, on the other hand, deals with offenders who have run away from prosecution in the country in which they have committed an offence. They have not yet gone through the judicial process in order to be found either guilty or innocent.

Therefore, whether the Protocols that the Honourable Member has referred to have been ratified or signed, is not the basis upon which this Bill should be considered. This is a Bill on its own merit and should be discussed separately. Although we may consider that, when you deal with convicts and offenders, you more or less deal with crime within the same group, yet there is a big difference between a convicted person and a suspect. Let us separate the two issues and then consider this Bill on its own merits. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I have a question to the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, perhaps out of ignorance. My concern is prompted by newspaper reports the other day when the Republic of Botswana sent a South African woman back and it appears that the people on the other side of the border believed that the sentence was excessive, but eventually this woman was executed. I just want to make sure that this Bill will not cause problems between States. If one State feels that their citizen was not properly treated by the Courts of another country and this

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HON NUJOMA

citizen is sentenced to whatever punishment and the citizen asks that “*I want to serve my sentence in my own country*” and the other country requests that that should be done, and you are put in a situation whereby you have to say no to both the prisoner and also to the country of origin of this prisoner. I just want to make sure that this Act will not cause misunderstandings among States and find out whether there are means to prevent that from happening.

The same goes for somebody who comes to Namibia to work for a foreign country, not exactly in the interest of Namibia and Namibia apprehends this person and this person is sentenced, but since the person was working for another country, the other country will have an interest for this person to be released. I just want to find out whether this Act has remedial measures to make sure that countries do not have misunderstandings because of transfer of prisoners. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Prime Minister. Any further discussion? Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I rise to ask the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security whether some of these sentences will be categorised. For example, is there a possibility to categorise the convicted rapists, murderers, those who have committed serious crimes and those who have committed treason, because as the Right Honourable Prime Minister stated, the Act can cause some problems in future. There may be people who have come here to overthrow the Government and the requesting country requests that they serve their sentences in their countries of origin. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Speaker, it is stated here: “*Subject to the provisions of this Act, the sentenced offender who is in Namibia and a citizen or national of a foreign State may be transferred to that foreign state.*”

Honourable Speaker, during the days of colonialism, Great Britain had an Act known as Extra-Territoriality, which meant that if a British citizen commits a crime in a foreign country, he was sent to Great Britain to be tried and sentenced, which simply meant that if he committed a crime against natives, he

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HON P MUSHELENGA / HON TSHEEHAMA

was released when he got home. What guarantee do we have that the convicted person who is transferred from Namibia to go and serve his sentence in his mother country would not be released on arrival?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I thank Honourable Kaura for the question. I agree with you, because sometimes there may not be any guarantee that this convicted person will really serve his sentence, because different countries have different rules. The conditions of the European prisons can be considered equal to a four-star hotel. They have television and everything and they may not really feel that they have committed a crime. They may even be allowed to have conjugal rights in prisons. We have to determine whether any law passed in this House will really ensure that those convicted persons serve their sentence. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Any further discussion? Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am just a bit worried regarding the pardoning of the transferred prisoners, because it is said that if a foreign country, for example, sentenced a prisoner and we request that such prisoner come and serve his sentence here, the pardoning of such prisoner lies within the powers of the Head of State of the country that sentenced him. My worry here is that you may have a prisoner who has committed a crime, which, if it were committed here, such prisoner would not qualify for pardoning. Since that prisoner committed that crime in a foreign country whose laws are not as strict as ours, the Head of State of that country may just pardon the prisoner and here we regard that prisoner as a hard-core criminal. I have a little problem there and maybe the Minister will be able to provide some answers. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister want to reply?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me first thank the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General for the

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answer she has given to Honourable Kaura. I believe Honourable Kaura is satisfied with the explanation on the terminologies, “*extradition*” and “*transference*”.

Basically a person is transferred from a country where he is sentenced to the country of his birth, in which case that sentence will apply in that country and it will be regarded as if that person was sentenced in that country to which he has been transferred. I must say that there will be no misunderstanding whatsoever, because whatever transference is being made, there will first have to be an agreement between the Ministries of Correctional Services of the two countries. In other words, there is always an agreement before any transfer is being conducted.

On the question of spies who might come to this country and then fall into our hands, there will be no misunderstandings. Agreements will always have to be made between the two Ministries dealing with these issues and it is only under such agreements that a person will be able to be transferred to or from Namibia.

There are categories of offences and categories of sentences and we have looked into this matter. If it is a criminal offence committed by a hard-core criminal and this hard-core criminal has applied to be transferred, we may not allow him to go until he has served his sentence here in Namibia. In other words, this law will have to be administered fully by the Minister under which the Correctional Service resorts and there is always a guarantee that the offender who is transferred from Namibia to another country will complete his sentence there just as if he is here in Namibia. That other country will have to respect the agreement. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Why transfer him then?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: The purpose of transferring them is to be closer to their families, because Correctional Services these days are moving in a direction where contact between offenders and families has to be facilitated. It is no longer as in the olden days that you are regarded as a criminal and bad to society and you stay in prison until you rot there and nobody visits you. These days it is how hard-core criminals will be softened, so that they could at least once again be accepted into society. It has a kind of psychological effect.

In other words, there is a guarantee that the transferred offender will not go to

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his country to be released just like that. There has to be an agreement and maybe there will be mechanisms to check now and again if this man or woman is still in prison. There might be some mechanism of some sort.

With regard to the presidential pardon, both Presidents have the right to pardon any offender. If the offender was pardoned here and he or she is transferred, that pardon also applies in the other country or if the other country has pardoned our offender or national, that will be respected when he is finally transferred to Namibia, in which case there should not be fear of any kind, everything has been taken care of, the administration of this Act will apply, the Minister will have to administer this law and agreements will always be in place. The Cabinet Committee on Legislation had concerns of the same nature, but it was explained and their concerns will be cleared and the Honourable Members' concerns must also be cleared, that we will just free the criminals.

What I have to add is that when an offender requests to be transferred and after we have considered the request, an agreement will be entered into that the offender must be transferred to the country of origin.

Honourable Speaker, with these few explanations, let me thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. I now put the Question, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

TRANSFER OF CONVICTED CRIMINALS BILL

HON SPEAKER: The Notice of Motion is one by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister motivate the Motion?

**RATIFICATION: AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NAMIBIA AND OPEC
FUND AND NORDIC INVESTMENT BANK**

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**RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I rise in this Honourable House to seek the ratification of two very important agreements, one, the Agreement on the Encouragement and Protection of Investment between our country and the OPEC Fund for International Development and secondly, the Framework Agreement between Namibia and the Nordic Investment Bank.

In this century when the world is experiencing prosperity that is unprecedented, Africa experiences increasing levels of poverty. At the core of this misery is the continent's marginalisation from world trade and its shunning by major international investors.

According to the UNCTAD estimates of 2004, Africa accounted for only 3,3% of total foreign direct investments or 2,5% on average between 2001 and 2004 and accounts for an equally marginal share of total international trade. With such levels of investment, the continent faces an uphill battle against poverty and unemployment.

With civil conflicts diminishing and more and more African countries embracing democracy, international investors seem keen to explore the vast opportunities that our resource-rich continent offers. This can open up great possibilities for job creation and subsequently, poverty reduction on our continent. Africa, however, needs to seek innovative ways of translating this positive attitude of international investors into increased investment flows into its economy.

Namibia has adopted a set of strategies aimed at encouraging international and local investment. These include a range of incentives for attracting and measures to safeguard investments in our country. The Framework that is presented today in this august House for ratification seeks to extend these incentives and protections allowable under our laws to a party that has demonstrated interest to take advantage of our country's investment opportunities, the OPEC Fund for International Development.

The OPEC Fund is the funding agency of the OPEC countries, established to promote financial cooperation with developing countries, including Namibia, through provision of loans and other forms of financing to activities in those countries. Financing can be extended to both private and public projects. An interesting feature of the Fund's programme is its emphasis on small and medium enterprises funding, which creates favourable prospects for our SME sector, currently struggling to mobilise financing for its growing activities. SMEs are increasingly being recognised internationally as primary drivers for economic growth and generators of employment. They constitute, therefore, a critical aspect of development, especially for developing countries.

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Namibia and the OPEC Fund are already cooperating on a number of projects in the Public Sector. Activities to be implemented through this Agreement will therefore build on a strong foundation of successful cooperation over the years.

Our newly established Development Bank will play an important role in the realisation of the vast investment possibilities presented by this Agreement. For one, the Bank can provide a channel for funding from the OPEC Fund to especially small and medium enterprises. Secondly, the Bank can pursue joint venture cooperation with the Fund on behalf of the country. Through this, our Bank will benefit from the wealth of experience in technical expertise that the OPEC Fund for International Development has accumulated over several years of operations across different parts of the world, which the Fund is willing to share with our country.

Further, through joint venture funding, large projects, otherwise unable to get funding from the Development Bank of Namibia because of the Bank's limited funding capacity, can get access to increased resources and this will expand economic activities through increased investment.

It is in pursuance of these benefits that the Government concluded this Agreement with the OPEC Fund for International Development and that I am now presenting the Agreement to this Honourable House for its ratification.

Another agreement for which I, as indicated previously, seek Parliamentary ratification is the Framework Agreement between our country and the Nordic Investment Bank. The Nordic Investment Bank is a financing institution of the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Bank seeks to promote financial and economic cooperation between the Nordic countries and developing countries. Through this Agreement, a framework is established to facilitate expanded investment activities of the Nordic Investment Bank in Namibia, activities that started just a short while after our Independence.

The Bank's activities will include provision of medium to long-term loans, guarantees and other forms of financing. Initiatives of this nature, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, are an indication of the growing interest amongst international investors in our country and the confidence they have in our economy and we must embrace them warmly.

Under the current circumstances where our national savings are unfortunately not fully backing our local investment, these initiatives are especially important, not only because they address critical gaps in investment funding, but also because they can give rise to strategic joint venture cooperation with our financial institutions that can encourage the reverse of our capital export and its

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redeployment here at home. Through such joint ventures our financial institutions get exposure to expertise, especially in specialised areas of finance, where skills are currently in shortage in our country and here I would like to specifically refer to expertise in financing of Green Field projects where our asset managers have been complaining that they do not have expertise and they are, therefore afraid that if we stem the outflow of capital, we may force them to engage in activities that may not be successful. Therefore, here is an opportunity for them to cooperate with well-experienced institutions to deploy our vast capital.

In anticipation, therefore, that this Agreement will receive the approval that is sought from this Honourable House, I wish to encourage both our investors and financial institutions to make use of the vast opportunities that will arise out of this Framework Agreement to enhance their individual companies' interests and that of our country.

I now table the Framework Agreements for ratification by this Honourable House.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Any further discussion?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate on this Motion be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion is adjourned until tomorrow.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 05
HON NGHIDINWA**

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

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Speaker and the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, the 14th of June 2005, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 10 had been agreed to and Votes 03, 11, 28 and 29 have been introduced.

I put **Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”, N\$81,000,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I feel uniquely honoured to have been given this opportunity to account to this august House how the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration intends spending the financial resources allocated during the current 2005/2006 Financial Year and for having been given this opportunity to share with you the strategic direction of my Ministry.

Honourable Chairperson, with your due understanding and permission, I first and foremost want to thank the electorate for reconfirming with two-thirds majority vote once again and for their confidence in the SWAPO Party to lead the country towards the achievement of our short, medium and long-term development objectives. This is a clear indication that the Government's programmes, aimed at making Namibia a better place to live in, have been influencing the lives of our people in a positive way.

In the same breath, however, I acknowledge that many challenges, as we are all aware, still remain, but this in turn should drive us all towards unity of purpose for Namibia to achieve Vision 2030, a prosperous and industrialised Namibia, developed by her human resources, enjoying peace, harmony and political

stability.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, we at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration have been profoundly inspired by the visionary leadership of the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, calling upon all of us to put the interest of Namibia and her people first and to escalate our efforts to improve the quality of service delivery and that we have to live within the limits of our resources. Both the President and the Right Honourable Prime Minister have encouraged the Government to allow room for innovation and change where change is required.

In demonstrating our unwavering commitment to the ethos of public service, as adopted by the Cabinet, we have made a critical evaluation of our work and ourselves, how we currently do what we are supposed to do and what we are capable of doing. I am pleased to inform this august House and the public that the team collectively adopted the vision that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is to be the leading Namibian institution in efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in service delivery. To this end, we have adopted various key principles in the preparation of our service delivery improvement plan:

We recognise that we would not be able to achieve that vision in isolation. We have to integrate and establish mutual support with all the other sector programmes. We are delivering a very unique service that is not in competition, but complementary to all the other Public and Private Sector service delivery programmes. In a nutshell, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is responsible for the rendering of services to all citizens and foreign nationals who may find themselves in Namibia for one reason or the other. This is in terms of registering of births, deaths and marriages, issuing of national identity documents, passports and granting of citizenship, visas, permits and facilitation of entry and exit to and from Namibia.

The Ministry is also charged with the administration of refugee programmes as well as the provision of forensic science services to aid, among others, the criminal justice system.

Our consultation strategy is based on our belief that each and every Namibian has an opportunity to require our services and can thus offer us in return advice on possible areas of improvement. A questionnaire seeking this advice from each and every Namibian and visitors from outside Namibia is being designed and I will soon launch it. This customer survey questionnaire will be widely distributed by all available means to the public at large and the feedback will guide the formulation of our future strategic and operational plans.

We are currently undertaking an assessment of our production lines with the view of designing a holistic plan of action towards improved service delivery, taking into consideration all aspects of organisation development, for example, the strategies, structures, systems, the shared values, the staff and their skills.

Whenever possible we are taking advantage of technological advances and we are at this stage fairly advanced to upgrade some of our operations.

We plead for the patience and understanding from our colleagues and the public that the process of transforming the system and introducing human behaviour changes cannot happen overnight. It is a gradual and incremental process by nature. This will require strong organisational development skills and competencies to manage change. The good news, however, is that there is collective wisdom and will in the organisation to manage that process.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, during the past few years the Department of Civic Affairs, out of which the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration was created, has been operating on a Budget deficit, especially on personnel expenditure. This was created by the irregular nature of the work of immigration personnel and often they are required to participate in clean-up operations with other law enforcement agencies. A lot of overtime accrues to them and the transport and S&T expenditure increased as a result. However, the Ministry is intending to find innovative ideas, such as automation, computerisation, decentralisation and the strengthening of the regional offices to address this situation and reduce the workload. This is a process of transformation and it cannot be realised in a short time, as I have already indicated.

In the medium term plan the Budget allocated for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration was only N\$59,560,000. 77% of that Budget was earmarked for personnel expenditure, leaving only 23% for other goods and services, including the purchasing of the laser engraver, estimated at N\$6 million, the maintenance of automated fingerprint identification system, worth N\$4,900,000. This would have left us with no resources for operational purposes. I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for increasing that amount to the current N\$78 million despite the unfavourable macro-economic situation. We, however, still have a shortage of N\$4 million as per the original ministerial appeal. We are not asking for any additional resources now, but we are taking measures to cut costs and live within our Budget limits and still achieve our set objectives.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is therefore requesting this august House to approve a very moderate Budget of N\$78 million for its recurrent expenditure and N\$3 million for development expenditure. The allocations per main division will be as follows:

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 05
HON NGHIDINWA**

The Office of the Minister is requesting a total amount of N\$2,630,000.

This Main Division caters for the activities of the Honourable Minister, Honourable Deputy Minister and their support staff members. The major expenses go to the meeting of personnel expenditure, transport and the acquisition of office materials and furniture that will enable the office to operate.

The transformation process cannot be monitored and guided from a distance. Therefore, there is a need for constant contact with regional offices as well as contact with high political level, such as with governors, Councillors and traditional leaders to facilitate the process of the decentralisation of some functions to the local levels.

The Administration Main Division is requesting a total allocation of N\$15,910,000. The allocation will cater for the Office of the Permanent Secretary and the Division of General Services, which is responsible for the support services in terms of personnel, finance, logistics, internal auditing, training, information, technology and the coordination of capital projects. Administration is the core of the changed management process, driving the institution to greater levels of innovation, efficiency and accountability.

The lion's share of the allocation will be used to cover personnel expenditure and payment of other bills. We are in the process of introducing a credit limit management system to cut off at least by half on telephone expenditure.

The Civil Registration Main Division caters for the Division Population Services. It is requesting an amount of N\$29,134,000 to perform its functions. The main functions of this Division are to issue identity cards, birth and death certificates, and registration of marriages and alterations of particulars on national documents. The allocation requested will be used to cover personnel expenditure, pay for the acquisition of a second laser engraver, which engraves the national identity cards, transport, and acquisition of new cameras and defrayal of other items pertinent to the operation of the division.

My predecessor reported to this august House that the Ministry purchased an automatic fingerprint identification system, shortly known as AFIS.

I am glad to report that the conversion of manual fingerprint data will be completed between September and October this year. The envisaged acquisition of a new laser engraver and the completion of conversion of fingerprint data into AFIS are expected to speed up the issuance of identity cards from the current twelve months waiting period to less than a month. Our target is to reduce that further to just a few days as soon as our other efficiency

measures are fully implemented during the NDP3 period.

With regard to the 70,000 uncollected identity documents, my Ministry is busy to reorganise itself on how to distribute these uncollected identity documents to all Constituencies in due course. In the same vein, I would like to remind the Nation to keep their national documents safe at all times. We are currently investigating possible ways to provide services to certain institutions, such as banks and insurance companies, through controlled linkage to AFIS database at a fee. This would further advance our revenue base, improve those institutions' client verification process, and reduce fraudulent claims.

The "Alien Control, Passports and Citizenship" Main Division is responsible for the issuance of passports, Visas and permits and the granting of citizenship. The amount requested for this main division is N\$6,180,000. The biggest share of the requested allocation will mainly cater for the personnel expenditure, equipment maintenance, the acquisition of forms as well as other related activities. The Ministry is currently phasing out the manual passports and will only use machine-readable passports. According to a survey done in the SADC Region, Namibia charges the lowest fees. The Ministry is currently in the process to gazette the new approved administration fees. This will result in a significant increase in our revenue collection to the level that the Ministry would be operating on a full cost recovery basis.

The National Forensic Science Institute provides scientific evidence to Courts. The total request is N\$2,921,000. Most of the allocation requested here will go towards personnel expenditure. Only a small fraction is earmarked for goods and services. It must be noted that the services provided by the National Forensic Science Institute are crucial in the Administration of Justice. However, the accommodation of the Institute leaves much to be desired. Besides that, however, the National Forensic Science Institute is rated one of the best in Africa and has been providing assistance to other institutions in the Region. Therefore, there is a need for the Government to continue investing in the development of the Institute. I must inform the Honourable Members that the Institute is facing a staff shortage due to loss of experienced staff to the Private Sector. The main reason is lack of incentive mechanisms to retain professional staff in the Public Service.

The Division of "Immigration and Border Control" is charged with the responsibility of facilitating entry and exit points at all border posts. The allocation being requested is N\$20,192,000. The Division's biggest allocation is for personnel expenditure. Other activities are also to facilitate deportation of illegal immigrants, the provision of secretarial services to the Immigration Tribunal.

Entry points to the country are the first reflection of any person visiting

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Namibia. It portrays the image of the country's level of service delivery and the capacity for tourist attraction possibilities. There is, therefore, a need to strengthen and invest in computerisation of our entry points and building the capacity of our staff members at the Border Posts. We will seek private sector involvement in this drive and initiate smart partnership programmes.

The Honourable Members are aware that the borders in the North and North-Eastern Regions of our country are vast and densely populated. There are limited entry points now. This results in illegal crossing of the borders.

The Ministry is currently looking at opening up new entry points in an attempt to curb illegal crossing. In the South, they need to open entry points, such as Mata-Mata and Sendelingsdrift to cater for increased tourist activities in that area, in partnership with the Private Sector.

Other Border Posts that need to be opened are Kasamane in the Omusati Region, Okangwati in Kunene Region and Nkurenkuru in Kavango Region and many other entry points throughout the country.

The Refugee Administration Division coordinates refugee programmes in Namibia. The amount needed for this Financial Year is only N\$1,105,000. The allocation requested will mainly be used to defray personnel expenditure, transport, S&T and the acquisition of office materials. It is important to inform this august House that currently this Directorate is involved in the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees. This exercise is carried out in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Total recurrent expenditure is N\$78 million.

Honourable Chairperson, during the past year, the Ministry had not been successful in the implementation of its capital projects. This was due to factors, some of which were beyond the control of the Ministry. During this Financial Year, all efforts are geared towards ensuring timely and effective implementation of all our development projects. The total request for the capital expenditure being requested is N\$3 million. The allocation will mainly be used to cover costs for feasibility studies and documentation for the projects that will be undertaken in the next Financial Year.

I now humbly request the august House to support and approve the total request of N\$81 million only for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 06
HON TSHEEHAMA**

Honourable Minister and I put **Vote 06 – “POLICE”, N\$731,684,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I have the pleasure to present to this august House the Budget for 2005/2006 Financial Year in respect of the Ministry of Safety and Security, Vote 06 – Namibian Police. The total Budget for this Vote is N\$731,684,000, of which N\$69,468,000 are for the Operational Budget and N\$37,516,000 for development projects.

Before I proceed with my motivation, allow me to refresh the memory of this august House on the mandate of the Namibian Police Force. It was established in 1990 by virtue of Article 115 of the Namibian Constitution and the Police Act (19 of 1990), as amended. Since its inception, the Force is charged with the following functions:

- The preservation of the internal security of Namibia;
- The maintenance of law and order;
- The investigation of any offence or alleged offence;
- The prevention of crime; and
- The protection of life and property.

Honourable Chairperson, I would like to brief the Members of this august House on major achievements of the Namibian Police Force and setbacks, which affected its activities and operations since last year.

The Namibian Police Force, despite its constraints, has made significant progress during the last Financial Year.

On the criminal investigation front, the Force did exceptionally well, in the first place by detecting all major crimes, and perpetrators have been arrested. The overcrowding of the Police cells, which in itself has become a national concern, is just testimony to this statement. Allow me, Honourable Members, to mention a few of these cases.

Three hundred and sixty cases of commercial crimes worth N\$39,748,960 were investigated and 195 persons were arrested.

Major drug-related cases, including the seizure of 15,15 kilograms of cocaine worth N\$6,800,000 on the street, 301 kilograms of cannabis worth N\$903,000, another case of cannabis involving 138 kilograms worth N\$414,000 and a case of 200 grams of Heroin worth N\$100,000 were investigated and the perpetrators

who were mainly Angolans, South Africans and Chinese were arrested.

Amongst the major armed robbery cases investigated by the Namibian Police during the period under review are:

- The cash-in-transit hijack and robbery case at Brakwater, involving N\$5,5 million in which five suspects were arrested and more than N\$3 million were recovered.
- An attempted armed robbery case in Windhoek Rocky Crest area, the perpetrators were so callous, that they even fired upon the Police. One of them was consequently shot and killed, while four others were shot and wounded and eventually arrested. Their illegal firearms were also recovered.
- As the Honourable Members would recall, a gruesome incident was recorded in Hardap Region. Two criminals went to a farm and subsequently murdered eight persons, including the farm owners, and robbed a truck with a trailer, 60 sheep and other valuable farm properties. They then set the farm on fire. These perpetrators had left no clue or leads whatsoever at the scene of their crime. However, the Namibian Police, through its expertise and skills, subsequently arrested the two murderers and the suspect accomplice.

Honourable Chairperson altogether 74 major cases, involving 1,518,23 carats of diamonds worth N\$2,989,975.14 were recorded and investigated. Sixty-six suspects were arrested, among them twelve foreigners. Honourable Members, the successes in these cases, are simply indicative of the operational capability of our Police Force.

They could do better with more resources to maintain a conducive-investment environment of course and to ensure a sustainable economic development that will benefit all our people.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is no secret that the demand for goods and services for the Namibian Police is increasing rapidly. This trend is incompatible with the Budget allocations over the years to sustain the Police in carrying out its mandate and responsibilities as enshrined in the Constitution and the Police Act. The Namibian Police Force lacks the basic means of preserving internal security and maintenance of law and order. The Force lacks essential supporting means, such as technical equipment, decent accommodation, financial resources for training and retraining, renovation of Police Stations, particularly the inmate holding cells, speedboats for transport, rescue and surveillance operations, let alone a helicopter for multi-purpose operations along our vast coastline and inaccessible areas.

Another essential supporting means lacking in the Namibian Police Force is information technology. The Force has since 1994 embarked upon a computerisation drive with the aim to develop a computerised information management system. The world and our society have advanced to such an extent, that technology in particular computers, have become an integral part of our daily lives. It makes communication storage and retrieval of information amazingly faster and thereby allows for enhanced interactions. The computerisation project in the Namibian Police depends largely on the Budget allocated to the Force.

A crime information programme has been developed by the Office of the Prime Minister a few years ago and was set up at the Crime Information Unit in Windhoek and Walvis Bay. This programme could not be extended to other Regions of the country mainly because of limited resources needed to ensure that capable IT-network programmes are put in place. A comprehensive computerised information management system is a prerequisite if we are to achieve our noble objectives in this venture in line with NPD2 and Vision 2030.

Some operations of great magnitude, especially at the borders and mountainous areas, have been hampered by the lack of a helicopter or a fixed-wing aircraft. Such operations include:

- Pursuing of wanted hard-core criminals who normally find it safe to escape to these areas where they hide until things normalise;
- Pursuing of dangerous escapee criminals or suspects;
- Pursuing of drug traffickers;
- Pursuing of illegal immigrants;
- Pursuing of motor vehicle theft syndicates;
- Humanitarian and rescue operations;
- Detecting of cross-border crimes; and
- Disaster operations.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the current needs of the Namibian Police Force by far exceeds the allocated resources. For instance, during the 2004/2005 Financial Year, the personnel expenditure alone consumed 89% of the Operational Budget, whereas this Financial Year this figure stands at 90%. This leaves only 10% of the Operational Budget for goods and services. This trend is frightening, very disturbing and, indeed, a

cause of alarm which will force the Namibian Police Force to eventually scale down or terminate some of the services it renders.

During this three-years' rolling Budget we may not contemplate expanding our services, nor establish new Police Stations if the commensurate financial and, therefore, material resources are not availed. This is the practical reality, which would seriously undermine the country's efforts to maintain the internal safety, security, peace and stability enjoyed currently.

I further inform this Honourable House that due to financial constraints, the Namibian Police Force could not meet its financial obligations to creditors during the 2004/2005 Financial Year. Water and electricity shall continue to be cut at some Police Stations and border posts countrywide due to non-payments. Unfortunately, similar trends are foreseeable in subsequent Financial Years. It is also worth mentioning that the maintenance of the preservation of the internal security, law and order does not receive sufficient attention and priority through Budget allocations at all. Hence, there is a risk for it to be compromised during the three-years' rolling Budget. This is reflected by the constant Police Budget decreases, which are only worsening the situation.

Given the acute financial constraints and notwithstanding the need for additional human resources, the Namibian Police could not recruit or promote its members during the last Financial Year. It is even more disturbing to note that 600 recruits that were enlisted during 2003/2004 Financial Year are only receiving basic training now. Unfortunately, there is no assurance that the Force will be able to pay them an appropriate salary after completion of their training. Currently, the total number of the Namibian Police Force stands at 11,380. There is no hope for new recruits to be taken in, unless additional funds are availed for this purpose.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, to sum up, the following are the main, although not only, pressing needs of the Namibian Police:

This Caprivi Secessionists High Treason case, though of high profile, has never been accommodated in the Budget of the Force. Since its inception, the Namibian Police had made significant financial contributions to the case in the form of officers and officers' accommodation, feeding, transport and investigations. With the envisaged relocation of those suspects from Grootfontein to Windhoek, the move will further demand huge financial expenditures, which at this stage, is not catered for in the current Police Budget. We feel that this unforeseen development should be a shared Government responsibility or preferably, the project should be funded from the Government Contingency Fund.

Honourable Chairperson, most of the Namibian Police vehicles have long

exceeded their lifespan and have become a liability. Many of these vehicles can neither be serviced, nor replaced due to the lack of funds. The burden presented by the unserviceable vehicles would be well expressed in a scenario where members are being transported to duty posts. In that scenario, only one vehicle would be available to pick up and offload members from various locations around the city to their duty points, particularly in the case of the VIP Protection Division and Charge Office members. Such a vehicle would clock at least 150 kilometres in a day, which translates into 1,050 kilometres per week or 4,200 per month. This vehicle's lifespan will be reduced quickly and tremendously. These are practical cases.

I wish this august House to take note that the Namibian Police personnel and vehicles operate on a 24-hour basis, which further places more demands on both for the purpose of law and order as well as the internal security. To sustain its current fleet of 1,722 vehicles, covering an average distance of about 52 million kilometres a year, one needs a Budget of at least N\$103 million to sustain its running costs which are mainly fuel and maintenance, among others.

The Namibian Police received an amount of N\$50 million during the last Financial Year. As a result, 427 vehicles have been boarded. However, these vehicles could not be fitted with the necessary Police standard equipment, such as sirens, blue lights, etcetera. Although this did not respond fully to the transport needs of the Force, it is a welcome development.

Payment for services rendered to the Force has become unsustainable due to insufficient funds. It has become a regular phenomenon for Police Stations countrywide to be without power and water supply due to cuts by the Municipalities. The Namibian Police Force thus fails to honour payments for such services. On the other hand, the Force is expected to render services with fewer resources. For instance, non-availability of water and electricity would mean the closure of charge offices at night that trial-awaiting prisoners in Police cells will have to do without water and food and that Police mortuaries will have decomposing bodies. Imagine overcrowded Police cells without water to flush toilets, imagine the mortuaries without any electricity.

Generally unhygienic conditions will result in deteriorating health conditions and in extreme cases, even loss of life and subsequently, unavoidable claims against the Government. These are just but a few examples.

Feeding of trial-awaiting prisoners as a Government obligation is becoming an expensive exercise. Police cells are overcrowded with trial-awaiting prisoners whose feeding has become a real burden on the Police Budget. It is always difficult to project the number of trial-awaiting inmates passing through Police cells in a year. A total number 71,348 of them were recorded during the period under review. These costs are also influenced by the delays in finalising cases

in Courts, which means an extended stay for trial-awaiting prisoners and thereby further aggravating the feeding burden.

Infrastructure for the Police Stations, particularly in Remote Areas, including housing for married and unmarried members is completely appalling to describe and not conducive to a desirable working environment. Equally important is the need to upgrade and where appropriate, expand the existing Police cells to conform to the current realities of both the crime trends and the growth of our population.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I shall now deal with specific allocations for each programme of Vote 06, Namibian Police, as follows:

The combating of crime programme constitutes the financing of core functions of the Namibian Police Force. It is aimed at reducing the crime level and identified priorities in order to ensure peace, stability and an environment conducive to sustainable development. An amount of N\$328,527,000 is allocated to this programme in order to carry out the following activities:

- Crime prevention, that is by providing visible policing through vehicle and foot patrols; combating the proliferation of illegal firearms and development and implementing a national crime prevention strategy and community policing;
- Conducting general investigation of crime at Police Station level: These are crimes that will not require much specialised skills; investigation of serious, violent and organised crimes by the Woman and Child Protection Unit, Drug Law Enforcement Unit, Motor Vehicle Theft Investigation Unit as well as investigation of serious economic crimes by the Commercial Crime Investigation Unit;
- Combating unlawful dealing in protected natural resources by the Protected Resources Unit
- Provision of crime information; management of criminal records from crime scenes by the Criminal Investigation Support Unit;
- Attending bilateral and multilateral meetings to maintain and strengthen cooperation with other law enforcement agencies at sub-regional and Interpol levels and to participate in trans-national Police operations and investigations;
- To coordinate the management of crime intelligence, the evaluation, assessment and analysis of crime information and to establish an

- electronic criminal intelligence database, gathering information on crime syndicates, conducting statistical crime patterns and docket analysis in order to increase the detection rate, to study the political, social, demographic and economic variables to identify the generators of crime in Namibia.
- Dealing with organised crime through overt and covert operations and thereby ensuring intelligence-led policy.
- To maintain public order, to manage and effectively control crowds at public gatherings and social events, to secure high-risk environments, to defuse complex security situations and to rescue victims of crime and/or natural disasters and calamities.
- Road safety enforcement of road traffic legislation by means of daily patrols, conducting periodic checks on vehicles and conducting axle mass and speed measuring.
- Road offences prevention: Conducting roadside checks for unroadworthy vehicles, mounting roadblocks, conducting random breath-taking tests and increased visibility on the road and thereby disrupt traffic offenders.

The Namibian Police undertakes its own development capital projects as well as its own maintenance at Police Stations and centres throughout Namibia.

The main purpose of the border control programme is to guard and protect the country's national borders, prevent cross-border crimes, illegal immigrants, stock theft along the borders, and control over check entry and control points, including the sea and rivers. An amount of N\$307,780,000 is allocated to pursue the following activities:

- Cross border crime prevention, detection and intelligence gathering along the borders;
- Border crime investigation, patrol and border safety: The Border Control is expected to continue playing a major role in the prevention and detection of border crime.

The purpose of Protection Services Division is to protect the National leaders and dignitaries who constitute to be under a security threat while in Namibia and/or abroad, when travelling by road or plane; safeguarding their homes and offices, offer security to foreign VIPs when paying visits to the Republic of Namibia as well as ensuring adequate physical security at Government installations. An amount of N\$38,656,000 is allocated for the following activities:

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HON TSHEEHAMA**

- Close protection to the Head of State, Cabinet Ministers, Political Office-bearers, visiting foreign Heads of State and guarding of Strategic Government Installations.
- Ministerial guards which entails the placing of guards at all Political Office bearers' houses and offices.

The Administration Division advises and assists the Minister through the Inspector-General and Permanent Secretary on relevant law and order activities and exercise control over and manage the Force in terms of structures, resources, development, administration and operations. An amount of N\$56,721,000 is required for administration purposes and the following activities:

- Spending is foreseen mainly in the areas of training at NAMPOL training institutions, and institutions of higher learning inside or outside the country. Emphasis in training will be placed on the training and retraining of Police members and other operational personnel, particularly in the areas of human rights, the Criminal Procedure Act and the Rule of Law.
- Training and capacity-building sources are also envisaged for the development of the Force's IT-infrastructure and data collection, storage and dissemination of official statistics. Research and development activities also fall under the management and administration component. Expenditure cost is foreseen for conducting research and survey studies with specific emphasis on crime, victimisation and youth offending patterns.
- The establishment of the Gender Desk to oversee the implementation of the Gender Policy and HIV/AIDS programmes are some of the activities under this programme.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in terms of the figures, the Budgetary allocation to the Namibian Police Force can be summed up as follows:

Combating of crime	N\$328,527,000
Border Control	N\$307,718,000
Protection Services	N\$ 38,656,000
Administration	N\$ 56,721,000

TOTAL: N\$731,684,000.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, in conclusion, on behalf of the Namibian Police Force I would like to express our appreciation for Government's efforts in availing to us financial and other

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resources throughout the years. The Force also recognises the economic implications that gave effect to the physical measures taken by the Government, particularly aimed at curtailing overspending. However, despite these implications, NAMPOL is required to provide services that are crucial to the safety and security of the Nation in a consistent way.

The allocated Budget of N\$731,684,000 to Vote 06, unfortunately, will compel the Namibian Police to employ the following measures of its own in order to avoid operating on a deficit:

- Reducing the number of currently existing Police Stations and cut back on some of the planned activities countrywide;
- Scaling down the number of Police officers involved in the provision of protection services to political office-bearers, embassies, high commissions and public institutions.
- Freezing training activities at Ondangwa training facility and Pius Kajundu Training Centre.
- Freezing of Capital Projects at Ndijona and Rupara Police Stations.
- Freezing promotion of Police members;
- Reducing the food rations of trial-awaiting prisoners countrywide.
- Further cutting of utility services, such as telephones, and the introduction of other appropriate saving measures.
- Considering freezing salary adjustments for the Police members.

I believe that the current crime situation and the trends thereof are indicative of the need for us to provide more funds to our main law enforcement agency, the Namibian Police Force. However, I present the sum of N\$731,684,000 to this august House for approval although I am certain that it is grossly insufficient for sustaining internal security and maintenance of law and order in Namibia. I, therefore, trust that this august House will support me in calling for the reversal of the Budget trends of the Namibian Police and effect an increase in the Budget allocation for the Force for the 2006/2007 Financial Year and beyond.

Honourable Chairperson, I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put **Vote 27– “YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORTS AND CULTURE”**,

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HON MUTORWA

N\$164,130,000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I am extremely honoured and, indeed, I have the pleasant task to introduce and motivate Vote 27 of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for the first time since my appointment as the Line Minister. I thank His Excellency, President Pohamba for the trust and confidence that he has put in Honourable Deputy Minister Pohamba Shifeta and I to be the political heads of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture.

This Ministry appears to be a new Ministry, but the portfolios of the Ministry and the tasks that are entrusted to are definitely not new, because the Government of the Republic of Namibia has been executing those tasks since the 21st of March 1990 under different Ministries, as follows:

- From 1990 to 1991, under the then Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, headed at that time by our current Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula.
- From 1992 to 2000, under the then Ministry of Youth and Sports, which was started by our current Minister of Justice of Attorney-General, Comrade Pendukeni Ithana and I happened to be one of the Deputy Ministers, the first, Comrade Reggie Diergaardt, others and myself.
- From 1995 to 2000 under the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation and that of Basic Education, Sports and Culture.

What is new though, Honourable Members is the heightened impetus and emphasis put on matters, especially those matters pertaining to the welfare of our youth that the Government of the Republic of Namibia must attend to through this Ministry. A Government document entitled “*Namibia Vision 2030 Policy Framework for Long-Term National Development Summary Document*” that I have in my left hand here, on Page 35 succinctly and clearly explains the important role of the youth in our society when it convincingly argues as follows:

“Young people in Namibia are both a major human resource for development and key agent for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Developing the capacity of the youth to participate in their own development and national development will not only have a major positive impact on short-term social and economic conditions, but also on the well-

being and livelihood of future generations. Therefore, Vision 2030 ensures that all young men and women in Namibia are given opportunities for development through education and training and in this way, motivates them to take up entrepreneurial opportunities and that they are well-equipped appropriate skills, abilities and attitudes.”

The 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto is even more pronounced, even more bold and is very specific when it states the following regarding the youth on Page 35:

“It is the youth who are a reserve bank of Namibia’s future leaders, both in the Public and Private Sectors. This group is a transmission belt of the Nation’s vision and mission statements. Owing to the unacceptably high rate of unemployment among the youth, urgent measures need to be put in place with a view to addressing the problem. This will be one of the major focuses of the SWAPO Party Government for the next five years.”

Honourable Members, the message that is coming out of here is definitely not party-political, it is a national message, because the problems affecting our youth are national problems.

Vote 27 of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture is divided into the following seven Main Divisions:

- Main Division 01 – Office of the Minister;
- Main Division 02 – General Administration;
- Main Division 03 – Youth Development;
- Main Division 04 – Youth Training and Employment;
- Main Division 05 – National Youth Service;
- Main Division 06 – Sport; and
- Main Division 07 – Arts and Culture.

I shall now proceed to motivate the specific allocations to those Main Divisions that I have just mentioned.

For the 2005/2006 Financial Year an amount of N\$2,620,000 is being allocated to Main Division 01– Office of the Minister. The specific details are provided and I would like to thank the Colleagues in the Ministry of Finance that have beautifully summarised the motivations emanating from the various Ministries. The specific details are very clearly summarised on Page 442 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the 2005/2006 Financial Year that were distributed here and I would not like to bother the Honourable Members by reiterating those details.

A total amount of N\$39,065,000 is allocated to Main Division 02 –

General Administration: The activities that are carried out under this Main Division are again comprehensively outlined on Pages 268 to 367 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Again, Honourable Members may wish to go and read further the motivation as outlined there, so that we are ready for tomorrow's discussions.

N\$20,145,000 are allocated to Main Division 03 – Youth Development. I must hasten to point out here, Honourable Members of the House that the bulk of the Ministry's activities are really carried out through Main Divisions 03, 04 and 05, dealing with youth matters. Therefore, a total amount of N\$60,966,000 has been allocated to the three mentioned Main Divisions.

On Page 442 of the document the specific activities earmarked to be carried out under these Main Divisions are clearly articulated and summarised.

Main Divisions 04 and 05 deal with youth training and employment as well as the National Youth Service, respectively. Honourable Members are kindly invited to acquaint themselves with the broad activities that are being carried out and planned to be carried out under these Main Divisions on Pages 365 to 366 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. In this regard, I quote: *“The main purpose of the programme is to inculcate and promote the spirit of volunteerism, internship and entrepreneurship among the youth so as to enable them to acquire the necessary and marketable skills, exposure and experience that will enable them to access jobs and self-employment”*.

Honourable Chairperson, a total amount of N\$29,893,000 is allocated to this Main Division 06 – Sport, for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. The main objective of this programme is to encourage and enable all Namibians, old and young, to participate in sport of their choice. It is very important for our health and it brings people together socially. All of us are encouraged to participate in sports and I can tell you, if we do so, the Budget of my Colleague, Honourable Richard Kamwi, may also be lighter, because we will become healthier. In this particular regard, Page 366 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document provides the finer details of the activities that are earmarked to be carried out under the programme of sports.

An amount of N\$31,586,000 is requested to be favourably considered by this Honourable House for Arts and Culture. Article 19 of the Namibian Constitution entrenches culture as a fundamental human right under Chapter 3 of the country's supreme law. Honourable Members, this programme of Arts and Culture aims, amongst others, to work purposefully towards nation-building, National Unity and national reconciliation, especially in the context of Namibia where for years our different groups were kept apart.

We have to bring them together on our road of establishing One Namibia, One

Nation. Our arts and culture programmes also enable the Nation to ensure contact and cooperation in international cultural links with other Nations of the world.

Honourable Members, I would like to invite you to acquaint yourselves with the main activities for this main division on Page 367 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document.

It is also necessary that I point out that the other bodies are being funded through annual subsidies from the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. These bodies are the National Monuments Council, a statutory body whose law we passed here in this House, the National Arts Gallery of Namibia, the National Arts Council, the National Theatre of Namibia, and the Katutura Community Arts Centre. The Katutura Community Arts Centre is a very important institution. The former migrant hostel in Katutura, which was a symbol of oppression, has now been converted by our artists into an art centre and I would like to extend a very kind invitation to the Members of the National Assembly, including the National Council, to visit that place, because you will see what our artists are doing at that place. We need to put more emphasis on arts and culture in terms of attracting tourists and in terms of generating income as it can contribute substantially to the Fiscus.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, Vote 27 represents vibrancy, energy, idealism, hope, exuberance and vitality. I am very sure that even those in this House who are no more youth today and outside this House are longing for those days when they demonstrated those characteristics of energy, vitality and exuberance. The Government, through this Ministry, remains ready to implement the programme activities as elaborated in my motivation speech, but also very importantly in this document, Namibia's Vision 2030 document on Page 35 warns us about the following issues that must be avoided at all costs when it comes to youth development:

“Neglect the education and training of our children; marginalisation of the youth; neglect the creation of employment opportunities for youth.”

If we do, then are dreams will not become reality in Vision 2030 because Vision 2030 is for the youth.

In the spirit of partnership and in fulfilment of our Ministry's motto, which is *“strive, seek and find”*, we remain confident to realise our Ministry's mandate, vision and mission for, as our revered founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, reminds us in his foreword in this Vision 2030: *“Namibia's future will also depend largely on the people themselves. Much will depend on our ability and willingness to respond with innovation and commitment to new challenges.”*

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HON TWEYA

I now finally submit Vote 27, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, for your kind consideration, for your critical Debate and then finally for a unanimous approval of this Vote. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put **Vote 09** – “**FINANCE**”, **N\$1,199,085,000** put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, thank you for granting me this opportunity to introduce the Vote of the Ministry of Finance for the 2005/2006 Financial Year and the Medium Term Plan for the period 2005/2006 – 2007/2008.

Although the Ministry of Finance is the custodian and distributor of Government finance, the Ministry, like other Line Ministries, has activities of her own to fund during a given Financial Year. This year the total proposed expenditure under Vote 09 – Ministry of Finance amounts to some N\$2,3 billion and out of this, the Ministry of Finance is seeking your approval for N\$1,199,000,000 her activities for the Financial Year 2005/2006. This represents a mere increase of 6% over the previous Financial Year, reflecting increased expenditure from the Development Budget and the expected contribution of our development partner.

The balance of N\$1,147,000,000 is earmarked for meeting our statutory obligations and expenditures which mainly refer to borrowing-related charges on loan repayment and which are not voted for in terms of the *Appropriation Bill*. These have been appropriated in accordance with the provisions of the State Finance Act.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, on the 7th of June during her reply the Honourable Minister of Finance expressed her wish that this august House: “*The Debate in this House and in public paid more attention to our efforts in reforming public finance and management and in moving from line item Budgeting to programme Budgeting.*” She hoped that the Committee Stage would, “*see more specific references to our programmes, activities and performance measures.*” Obviously, as a new Deputy Minister who wants to keep his job, I will do my best to comply with her wishes.

As the Honourable Members would have seen from our Medium Term Plan on Page 100 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, it consists of eleven programmes. I will not describe each in detail. Honourable Members can read

the information for themselves, which I believe they have already done. I regret that in the production process some of our performance information disappeared. There is one page, which went missing in that process and I would be happy to provide the Members with that one missing page.

I would like to highlight those where we are making major changes over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period and I will start with public expenditure.

The development of Medium Term Plans provides greater and more useful information for public expenditure decision-making. If we are to make best use of that information, we need to sharpen our analytical skills. Over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, the Ministry of Finance will build its capacity through training and recruiting new analysts. Alongside the move to programme Budgeting, we also need to ensure that public expenditure is actually constrained within the ceilings that have been set. That requires the use of more sophisticated methods of financial controls.

The Medium Term Plan includes additional resources that will speed up the implementation of an Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). The system will improve the quality and timeliness of financial information, thereby enabling Ministries to manage their affairs better and avoid overspending.

Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry of Finance is responsible for funding the Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme. As Honourable Members will recall from the Budget statement by the Honourable Minister, additional resources are being made available to enable the Government to meet its obligations as responsible employer towards particularly those suffering from HIV/AIDS. The Ministry did a review of this Scheme to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and to drive out wastages and abuses. As a result, we expect savings realised to offset rising costs in the second and third year of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

During the tabling of the Budget The Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, indicated and which is in line with the NDP2 and Vision 2030, that the Ministry of Finance is looking at avenues to strengthen revenue collection. She outlined our main policies for bringing that about. To support that effort, the Ministry has made provision for the construction of revenue offices at Keetmanshoop in the Karas Region and Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region. Construction has already commenced and it is envisaged that these projects will be finalised during the 2007/2008 Financial Year.

The Ministry of Finance has also embarked on other capital projects in order to contribute towards the objective of Government to provide employment opportunities to our people across the Regions, such as Khomas Region at the

Hosea Kutako International Airport, in the Oshana Region the Oshakati Customs and Excise Regional Office, in Karas Region the Oranjemund Border Post and Lüderitz Customs and Excise, in the Kavango Region, Katwitwi Border Post with a new Customs and Excise Office, in the Caprivi Region the Wenela Border Post with a Customs and Excise Office, in the Erongo Region, Walvis Bay Customs and Excise Office and in the Ohangwena Region, the Oshikango Border Post and Customs and Excise Office.

The Ministry of Finance is also investigating the possible expansion of its existing facilities. It will embark on feasibility studies at Karas, Otjozondjupa and Khomas Regions to strengthen revenue collection.

Air Namibia, which has been receiving a big chunk from this programme, for example, N\$366 million in 2004/2005, is now well on course to becoming self-reliant. As a result, we are seeking reduced provision over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, a mere N\$116 million.

Existing facilities, such as office and official accommodation, have to be maintained to ensure that generations to come can use them. To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Finance has budgeted N\$9,8 million. This money is to be utilised in phases. An amount of N\$1 million is to be utilised during this 2005/2006 Financial Year, while the rest will be spread over the remaining two Financial Years.

The Ministry's head office cannot accommodate all staff members. Currently the Ministry is renting offices from private estate agents all over town, which makes it extremely difficult for supervision and effective control. It is in view of this that the Ministry is planning to build a proper structure on the erf, which used to house New Era Head Office in Robert Mugabe Avenue. As a result, the Ministry expects to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations.

The Government is nearing completion of negotiations with the EU for support to public finance management. In line with our commitment to transparency, the contributions we expect to receive are shown separately in the Medium Term Plan. The expected results of Namibia's public finance reforms are outlined in Chapter 7 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Lastly, within this programme, Honourable Members will be pleased to learn that additional resources have been provided to give effect to increased pensions for Honourable Members of the National Assembly in accordance with the Rule Amendments Document 2. There is an increase in terms of that new rule.

Honourable Chairperson, as the Honourable Minister of Finance requested, I have motivated this Vote on the basis of the Medium Term Plan that was laid before this august House and in doing so, I am conscious of her observation

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HON DR A IYAMBO**

that, although they already provide better information, more needs to be done to improve the quality of the Medium Term Plans. May I assure you, Honourable Members that my Ministry and I will be in the forefront of efforts to ensure that that improvement actually comes about?

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry plays a very central role in the macro-economic management of the country and is, therefore, expected to be all-systems-go at all times in order to be in a position to execute that function effectively and efficiently. Notwithstanding, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Finance, as much as it implores other Line Ministries to do so, will continue to exercise expenditure restraint and, therefore, be exemplary.

With these few remarks, I now call upon this august House to approve the proposed allocations of N\$2,345,909,000 to Vote 09, Ministry of Finance, as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for the 2005/2006 Financial Year and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I put **Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY”** put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I support our Vote, the Vote of the National Assembly. I am going to concentrate on Page 6 of the speech of the Honourable Speaker under Programme 2 – Consolidation of Democracy with particular reference to the funding to Political Parties.

The Political Parties would receive an amount of N\$16,259,000. Honourable Chairperson, democracy is well and healthy and here to stay in Namibia although there are some, in the words of Honourable Nicky Iyambo, naughty ones.

Honourable Chairperson, all Political Parties will get a certain amount. That is good for democracy, but I have a worry. I said that democracy is working well in Namibia, but democracy seems to be undermined by the so-called democrats who seem to have become anti-democrats. I am worried about this big amount of money of N\$16 million that we equally share, those who accept democracy, the verdict of the people and those who do not accept that verdict.

I can see here that there is an amount earmarked for the undemocratic coalition of the RP and the CoD. Therefore, I want to ask a question to the Honourable

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Speaker: Will it not be possible for this money to be suspended until further notice, until the Political Parties that are here accept the verdict of the people?

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, it is good to practise democracy, but I am worried about other developments that are used as we practise our democracy. I see that there are some Political Parties, which propagate and champion things such as tribalism. Tribalism is one of the most devilish parents of Civil War and peace can be at pain. Therefore, I want to suggest that as we support the Political Parties with this amount of N\$16 million, we should start thinking about the nature and the representation of the different Political Parties. Are we propagating democracy, but at the same time, we also seem to propagate issues of tribalism? Some Political Parties do not have a national character, to say the truth, but are rather tribal in spirit and body as well as in practice. Therefore, they do not qualify to be National representation. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? You are elaborating on democracy and the misuse of democracy. Do you want to propose that the Honourable Speaker invokes Rule 104 on the Honourable Members who walked out of this House yesterday?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I feel so sorry for the Colleague, he is alone and I will not answer that question, I will leave it to the Speaker.

I am worried about this amount of money of N\$16 million and the trend that we see coming from Political Parties. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask the Honourable Minister a small question? Comrade Minister, you asked whether it would not be appropriate to withhold the subvention of certain Parties because of the mischief they are involved in. Do you not think there is a high probability that if this money is released while the Court case is going on, that this money may be used to pay the lawyers and other related claims?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I agree

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with the word “*mischief*”. Yesterday I deliberately used the words “*organised hypocrisy*”. Let us wait and see, let us ask the Speaker to advise the Minister of Finance not to give the money.

Therefore, I want to suggest that we should consider, in order to avoid tribalism in the guise of democracy, to deregister any Political Party, which does not operate in more than six Regions so that they do not stand in national elections.

Finally, Honourable Chairperson, I want to find out if the Opposition can tell us who our counterparts in their shadow Government are.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to congratulate the Speaker for the tidiness of the Parliament of this country. I do not think there is any other Government building which would score higher in terms of tidiness and cleanliness of its premises and I think it is a very good example for other Ministries to follow suit.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to concentrate on the capacity building of Members of Parliament, especially backbenchers, and I am referring to some of the issues, which were raised on information needed. A perception is created in this country that backbenchers only work when they come to the Chamber and I think Members who were in the Executive and are now serving as backbenchers can testify to the fact that it is not a half-day job.

One problem that the Honourable Members and backbenchers are experiencing is research. Other Parliaments in neighbouring countries, a group of five backbenchers would have an assigned researcher to help them with information they need. Here we have a central pool of one researcher for thirty-six backbenchers, a situation which I think is untenable and some of us who are really trying to make a contribution end up paying people to do research for you and I think that is not in the interest of the work that we are here for.

I also see a big problem when it comes to information on old statutes and acts. As a Member of Parliament you are forced to go to the library where you would find a particular Act and perhaps we can try to avail some funds in the future for a group of ten Members of Parliament to have an established library in certain sectors. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Chairperson, on a Point of Order. I have a problem with the Official Opposition. They have five Members, but every day there are only two Members present. If one day they are in the majority, will they be able to meet the quorum in this House or are they sympathising with the Honourable Member who walked out yesterday?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That is not related to the speech. Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON VENAANI: Statutes are very important and even today I had to bring one statute, which came into effect in 1984, and one of 1956 and such information should be more available to Members to be able to do research in order to ensure that we make coherent and consistent laws.

Another issue I want to raise is the HANSARD services. Honourable Chairperson, when you look at other advanced Parliaments, they have stenographers. One finds that your speech is returned to you after two weeks to be rectified and put in the HANSARD and on some occasions, you do not even get a copy of what you have said. The institutional memory of the Parliament is based on the HANSARD services of Parliament and I think that we should really try to get some stenographers so that the Members could always equate their speeches to the ones that are written in the HANSARD.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, there was a proposal by the former President in one of his State of the Nation addresses with regard to a working quorum and a voting quorum. Especially last year, which was an election year, we have experienced that matters could not be disposed of because of a lack of a quorum. Perhaps it is time for us as the National Assembly to have a working quorum and a voting quorum, where you need everybody to come and vote and a working quorum for people to dispose of the work of the House more efficiently. With these few remarks, I support the Vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Geingob.

HON DR GEINGOB: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. Firstly, I rise to support the Vote for democracy, the Vote for the people. After all, people are sovereign and because they could not exercise sovereignty directly, they have elected us to represent them. This is a very important Vote and I would like to congratulate the Speaker, Honourable Gurirab, and, since the cleanliness of this place was mentioned, to record our recognition of the sterling work the former Speaker has done. This Parliament is respected all over the world because of the work all of you have done under the guidance of the former Speaker. The Committee Members who are travelling to attend meetings have all acquitted them very well.

The Parliament is known as the first line of defence of the people. That is why what I am going to say, has bearing on the issue that the people out there must follow and know what is happening here. Quite often the Government is asked, after this kind of Debate, what they are doing with the money or are being suspected of how they are spending money, but as we can see in this Parliament, that starting with the Budget that is so transparent and also looking at the trouble the Ministers are taking to try to be transparent by explaining every cent they are going to use and once we debate it here and pass this Act into law, then they are going to work and not look back around the money, because the money has been approved by the people's house. That is why this Debate is very important and I hope more people could come and attend this Session so that they can know what is happening.

However, in the absence of that, it will be good to address especially the Outreach Programme of the Speaker. The Speaker is taking the Parliament to the people and that would need more money in the future if they were going to do justice to that approach. That should also be augmented by our television coverage. There is a Parliamentary channel and the Speaker and Prime Minister can sit in their offices and watch the proceedings here. That could be extended if there are funds, so that we can have either one or two hours coverage every day after the Parliament is over, so that people can watch and see their representatives in action. That way they will know what we are doing here and if we act in a funny way, they will see us and know who is serious in the Parliament and who is not.

I have seen how we are struggling to speak English, it is not our language and I would like to propose that in the future this Parliament would allow any person to use the language of their choice in this Parliament, so that they are able to express themselves. We are told some cannot express themselves properly because of this English. That is something to be looked at and I am not saying we should copy South Africa, but I am impressed when I am watching their Parliamentary channel. Somebody can get up and use any language and then they switch over to English or Xhosa or whatever language they want to use. I think we should look into that. Maybe we can choose a few key languages, but

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I do not want to commit a crime here by saying which languages are key.

Another issue is the work of the Committees. I am one of those who were on the other side and I am now on this side. I am not going to say I am now working more than compared to what I was doing that time, I would be telling a lie, but Committee work is going to be very important when I look at the terms of reference and I crave the indulgence of the Speaker to see to it in future that the Committees are allocated their own Budgets so that they can plan their work properly. They are now lumped into one Vote and they do not know what they are entitled to and, therefore, they cannot plan their Committee work.

Democracy is very expensive and it is good to have an Opposition of minority Parties in the Parliament as long as they are constructive, as long as they are patriotic, because the majority Party alone cannot maintain peace. It will take all of us in this country to continue to maintain this peace that we are enjoying in this beautiful country of ours. I would just appeal that the minority Parties do their duty and add value to the Debates and that the Ministers, as usual, can do their part by also participating properly.

At one stage, I was a little disturbed that sometimes the Parliament becomes disruptive. The Honourable Speaker used to say interjections are allowed, but if interjections become disruptive, it is not good. We must be seasoned parliamentarians and when we raise Points of Order, we should do it as Honourable Ruppel used to do it. There were people who used to know how to interject and it was adding value to the whole Debate. I cannot forget that day when late Honourable Barney Barnes rose on a Point of Order in a heated Debate and asked, "*Since when do we allow Nigerians to sit in this Parliament?*" He was referring to our Right Honourable Prime Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I also stand up to add my support to the Vote 03 of the Parliament and the Vote for democracy, the Vote for the people, because we all sit here as representatives of the people.

We have already congratulated the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their election on a previous occasion. In doing so every, one of us in the House has demonstrated the trust that we invest in the persons who occupy these posts without any doubt.

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I would like specifically to congratulate the leaders of Parliament at that level also for the African Pathfinder Programme. I know that the history of this programme is long and I am glad to see that the work in this field continues and I support it wholeheartedly.

The issue that was raised by many in the past, including the founding Speaker of the House, is the need for accessibility to the House, which was also mentioned yesterday by the Speaker when he motivated the Vote. I only want to add my voice of support to it. It is definitely a programme, which is long overdue.

I have a few general concerns, Honourable Chairperson, that I would like to raise which definitely have to do with the Vote, because when you scrutinise the Vote, you see some coverage of some of the items, but a number of important items still need the attention of the House and of the Government, specifically the Ministry of Finance.

There is the question of security on the premises of Parliament. Honourable Chairperson, we have a situation where there are two main entrances. I am now talking about the National Assembly side of Parliament and I see that the members of NAMPOL are deployed at both entrances. There are also additional monitoring facilities except the persons themselves. However, we have a situation where our offices at Parliament continue to be broken into and items disappear from the offices. This has happened to me personally and I understand it has not happened only to me. It is a deplorable situation, which seems to have become the rule rather than the exception. I wonder to what extent the attention of the Speaker has been focused properly on this issue and perhaps there are already moves from the side of the Speaker to deal with this matter. I have not heard him talking about this. If there are no moves, I would like to urge the Office of the Speaker to look into this matter seriously. There is either lack of diligence on the side of the people who are supposed to be protecting the premises, or there are really a number of very clever criminals at work here, because our properties are disappearing and something should be done about that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I want to ask a question to the Honourable Member. The issue the Honourable Member is raising is very important an issue, which should concern everybody and this is the reason why I interrupted the Honourable Member. I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether the incident was duly reported to the Police and what the Police have done, because it should not end up at the Speaker, but it should go further to the law enforcement who deal with these specific situations.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, the matters I referred to have gone through their due course, they have been reported, but I do not really want to get into the discussion of a Vote, which is still to come. It has been reported to the Police and I am sure the Police have done what they could do. I am not really getting into the results of investigations, I am just talking about the fact that this can happen at a place like this and I feel the place should be looked after better. Resources should be made available to look after this particular situation here at Parliament.

Honourable Chairperson, the second issue is that I want to decry the state of the recording and transcription services at Parliament. I see that one of the people who spoke before me has touched on this matter and I think it is so important that I still have to mention it. I initially thought that this is a simple matter of officials of Parliament not doing their job properly, because in the past this service seemed to have been better. Until one year ago, when a Member stands up in this House and speaks, within a day or two a physical transcript on paper would arrive on their desks in their offices and they would be asked to correct the transcript and send it back to Parliament. I do not know exactly when this stopped, but at one stage I realised that this is no longer happening, the transcripts of speeches of Members in the House do not come back to the Members for correction any longer.

When the President was here, a few days ago, to deliver the State of the Nation Address, there were discussions from the Floor, some Members put questions to the President, and I just happened to ask for the transcript of my question that I have put. For a long time I have not asked for these transcripts, but I did so yesterday and I was shocked to see the state of the transcripts, it was worse than substandard. I do not know what happened, I understand on enquiry this morning that this work is actually done by Private Contractors.

Honourable Chairperson, somebody needs to look into this matter urgently. When the transcripts do not come to Members that means Members do not have a chance to correct them and to make sure that what they have delivered in the House is indeed what appears in the HANSARD. I hope the Honourable Speaker will take up this matter urgently and that this is corrected immediately, because this is a matter that cannot wait for any additional Budget in the future.

A third issue of concern is the Library service. I do not want to say anything negative on this particular issue. I see there is money Budgeted for this particular Section of the Vote and perhaps I have not done my homework thoroughly, because I could not detect exactly for what particular purpose this will be, but I would like to repeat the matter raised by Honourable Venaani, that there is a need for the presence of old statutes here at the Parliamentary Library.

When Ministers introduce Amendments to the House, there is a lack of

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background against which these Amendments can be discussed, unless Members are provided with the fullest information regarding the histories of these Acts.

A matter in point is the Amendment Bill that was introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry recently. We went around, looking for the actual Act that was supposed to be amended. I understand some Members even had doubts whether that Act actually exists. It is important that here at the premises of Parliament we have the most fully equipped library services which also provides us with everything that has ever been passed in the South African Parliament, because most of these amended Acts are from that period and, of course, our own Acts. I actually have no complaint, because I see from 1990 that there are limited copies of Acts in the library.

The website of Parliament, Honourable Chairperson, does not provide us with the details of Acts passed in the House. Perhaps this can be looked into so that we do not have to go around physically looking for these Acts and one can just access them on the web.

Somebody spoke about Party funding. I have heard the arguments coming from the Honourable Minister who spoke. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up, Honourable Member. Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker of the Whole House Committee, last week we addressed you as Honourable Deputy Speaker, today it is "*of the Whole House Committee*". New Members like me feel like parrots, we do not know why we have to address you this way. We had an induction course at the beginning of the year, but I feel they must tell new Members what to do at the induction course. For instance, why do you refer to "*this august House*" or why you may not cross between the Speaker and the person who is speaking. I think it is called Parliamentary etiquette and this must be included in the induction course. We dealt with this issue this morning in the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders.

I support Vote 03 of the National Assembly and Honourable Minister Abraham Iyambo, thank you very much for the money. (Laughter).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I revert the Floor to the Speaker to respond to these questions.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. It is not usual to feel the way that I feel, having to respond to queries about any Vote. That was in my previous life. Since this is our Vote, the queries and comments have been gentle and I appreciate that.

Honourable Minister Abraham Iyambo, you expressed your views fully and in a descriptive manner, first about the relationship between some of the Opposition Parties in the House and democracy in Namibia, that some are called democrats and try to behave like democrats, but under the guise of some other things and in saying that, you particularly mentioned two Opposition Parties, the CoD and the Republican Party and proceeded to suggest, through the Speaker, whether the money that they are entitled to should not be suspended until “*further notice*”.

The answer is that it could perhaps be done, theoretically speaking, but I do not see the basis on which the Speaker would propose that that be done. In some of the preceding discussions during the general Debate, when I occupied the seat of the Speaker, this issue came up repeatedly and my Ruling was and continues to be that the Honourable Members were duly sworn in and were privileged by being addressed by the President and because of that the Speaker considers them as individual Members of their Parties, properly constituted in the House. Should the circumstances change otherwise, the Speaker will consider it at that time, but we have not reached that bridge yet.

Some Parties are expected to believe in and act as democratic Parties and promote democracy. Instead, they use tribalism and do not promote democracy. Since it was left to the Speaker to deduce which these Parties might be, the Speaker is not in a position to do that at this moment. If perhaps the individual Members or the Parties as such could be identified, the Speaker would be in a better position to respond to tribalism versus democracy.

The Honourable Minister also entreated the Opposition Parties concerned to unveil their shadow Government by way of identifying the opposite members to the Ruling Party, perhaps for better interaction I presume.

You repeatedly made a point that the money is too much. What you said and what you implied is that it is not being properly allocated, that instead of promoting democracy, some of these Parties are doing other things in contradiction of the letter and spirit of the decision to provide them with money.

Honourable Venaani, I thank you for the congratulations. The credit at this point really goes to my predecessor and the people who keep the place clean and tidy are doing it habitually. I, on his behalf and for the few days that I am here on my own behalf, accept the accolades. Thank you very much.

I fully agree with you and the Honourable Members who have spoken about the need for much greater capacity building to enable the MPs, particularly the backbenchers to do work that is more effective as MPs, such as to carry out research, to access information and data necessary for them to prepare their contributions in the work of the House.

The HANSARD has been referred to. I am told by my advisors that the stenographers are available. I am told we are busy to train our research officers to enhance the capacity of the delivery system. In the future, it is hoped that the situation will improve. The library is well stocked, there is room for equipment, the Acts and statutes are available, and they are stored in the basement. When the capacity expands and we have enough room, we will unearth them and place them in such a way that they are accessible to Honourable Members.

You also spoke about the problem of the transcription of the speeches of the Honourable Members when they take the Floor. Honourable Ulenga also added his voice to that. We all agreed this morning in the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders that we will address this issue. We are of one mind. Even before I came in the Office of the Speaker, the situation has existed. It is a very regrettable backsliding, unjustified and we certainly will look into this matter. There is no reason whatsoever under the sun to defend this. This is a betrayal of trust, that the Members of Parliament expect nothing but speed and urgency. When they speak, they would like to see transcription of their speeches to correct them to find their way into the HANSARD, which is the most important Record of Parliament.

The issue of quorum is one of the things that we would want to address and I have it on my work plan. We will bite the bullet and decide on the working quorum versus the voting quorum. It is absolutely necessary. Because of the absence of one Member, we are unable to transact the business of the House.

Honourable Member, thank you for your support, and for the accolades you paid to my predecessor. He will be happy to hear that. The Outreach Programme is indeed very important and I took some time to speak on it, both in terms of taking Parliament to the people and ideas that I have about a Parliament for our young people and our work as MPs, the conscience of the people, the representatives of the people, but we can do that only if what we do here in the House and what we do outside is recorded and transmitted for people to know what is taking place in the House and what we do. In my motivation, I

made that point, both with respect to the utilisation of ICT wonders, but also through the Outreach Programmes now in place and the ones that we envisage.

When the relevant Vote is considered the role of the media should be taken up, that we here too work in terms of smart partnerships with the elected Political Office-Bearers and media, which has its own responsibility to inform, educate and entertain the people.

On the question of national languages, the facilities are available, it again comes back to capacity building. We do not have the translators as the establishment of the House does not make provision for this, but that should not be the real issue, we should cajole and be friendly to the Minister of Finance to see this as a very important cost. We are talking about communicating to our people, the majority of whom do not speak the English language, so we would do well by doing that for the people.

Honourable Geingob put emphasis on the role of the Opposition, that the Opposition be not only responsible, but add value to the business of the House and the Debates. Perhaps the whole time I should continue reminding us about how it used to be. Interjections, if we watch mature Parliaments where the best wits are appropriate and timely interjections, can derail the speaker by disrupting the train of thought and making your opponent look bad. However, that is not the objective, it is a way of people loopback, informed interjections, and interjections for a purpose and I think we would need to revisit that point. When I respond, to *Honourable Viljoen* I will emphasise that as part of the induction programme and we should perhaps itemise a checklist of things that we should emphasise in that induction course.

Honourable Ulenga, the Pathfinder Programme is up and running, but out of that initial partnership we had with Microsoft and other good friends, we intend to benefit from it here, not only what we are able to do for education, but here in the House and I touched on some of it in my motivation.

I addressed the issue of accessibility for people with disabilities and we are all concerned about that. I hope that in the forthcoming years we will make provision to improve on that situation.

On the security at the premises, I was very worried, this matter has not been brought to my attention, but I am told that the law-enforcement people have been informed about it and we are dealing with them to act on the potential dangers that could come. At this point, bad as it is, it is about items being removed from offices broken into and we can very well imagine that people who have access to these offices may actually do worse things than simply stealing properties. We are discussing this matter with the VIP Unit I am told. The Minister of Safety and Security responded to this and I can only but

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encourage the Minister to assist us, together with the other Line Ministries, so that we bring this situation under control.

I spoke about the sorry state of the production of HANSARD. This we all share.

We must continue to improve on the website, otherwise it does not serve the purpose for which it was created. I trust the ears around have heard what you have said.

Honourable Viljoen, thank you very much. We will step up induction and sensitise the old and new Members about the nitty-gritty of the business of the House. I thank you all.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any further discussions? Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much and I would like to thank the Honourable Speaker for the responses to some of the issues that were raised especially from my side so far.

This I will just mention in passing because the Speaker did cover it in his speech and I am sure it is enjoying his attention, namely the question of office space and furniture in the offices of Members. Therefore, I do not need to go into the details because the Speaker knows, but I understand that us being a full Parliament, consisting of two Houses, my understanding is that there is more space in the National Council than there is in the National Assembly. Perhaps I can urge the Honourable Speaker to continue to interact so that in the end we are both properly looked after in terms of office space.

In other Parliaments, even though the resources are never equal from nation to nation, in other Parliaments of other nations all Members of Parliament are provided with space not only for themselves but also for their secretaries, so that they can actually have all the services so that they can be properly productive in their work.

There are Members who feel that the Opposition side should make known the Parliamentary responsibilities of their Members. I agree completely with this kind of request and as a matter of fact, it cannot be otherwise.

Members of the Opposition, just like Members on the Ruling Party side, have

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specific responsibilities and from my side I will make known to the Members who are interested what particular responsibilities are covered by the Members of the CoD in Parliament. I will not do it today, I will want to give properly set out information and not shoot from the hip in this case.

There is a perception that especially from the Opposition side we are decrying the way our democracy is working, for example the kind of balances that you have in the House, the number of Members of Parliament on the Ruling Party side and the numbers of Members of Parliament on the Opposition side and how this may affect our democracy. Let me assure the Honourable Members that it is definitely not my opinion that the numbers of Members of Parliament according to a particular Party really affects the democracy and the workings of democracy in the country. The fact that the Ruling Party, for example, has fifty-five Members of Parliament as opposed to a lesser number from the Opposition should not be seen as a problem with the Namibian democracy. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, are you looking for clarification or is it Second Reading now?

HON ULENGA: I am actually addressing an issue that was mentioned. I thought I could talk about it, the Speaker in his motivation did mention the issue of checks and balances and this was my way of introducing that issue, because people think that the questions, which come up on the checks and balances are somehow linked to the way the Parties are represented in the House. I just want to assure the House of Members of Parliament that Parties will come here according to the mandate that comes from the electorate and everybody accepts that and the responsibilities of Members of Parliament do not really depend on which Party they represent. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Through you, Comrade Chairperson, while agreeing with the Member that what we are seeing here is the result of the elections, which means people have pronounced themselves and definitely that is democracy, is it also true that come next elections and SWAPO wins 72 seats, we will take it that people have pronounced themselves and it is democracy?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, unfortunately I am not the one to guarantee the Honourable Minister that SWAPO will get 72 seats. It was already said that the people are sovereign and in the end what happens there on the floor of the Nation, when it happens fairly and transparently, will be what everybody would have to accept. I have no problem with that whatsoever, but it is not for me to guarantee it, it is for SWAPO to guarantee it that is how they want it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask a small question, please? Honourable Member, you mentioned that we are here because we have accepted the mandate of the people. Does the CoD also agree with you when you say we must accept the mandate of the people? The people have spoken in the last election and now you say you accept, but what about the rest of your Party?

HON ULENGA: The Honourable Member is providing me with a very good opportunity to respond to issues that I did not intend responding to. Of course, I accept the mandate of the people and of course, the whole of the CoD accepts the mandate of the people or the voice of the people. It is another matter if somebody tries to interfere and do other things to the mandate of the people, but I will not go into that one now. I wanted to talk about the issue of the Opposition and how and when it becomes acceptable.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, you are putting us in a difficult situation, because you are now addressing the House, you are no longer putting questions for clarity by the Speaker. You are now addressing questions, which were supposed to be answered by the Speaker. The Speaker was trying to protect you, but you are again trying to open a Pandora's Box.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, I respect your Ruling, I will not be the one who is opening this particular Pandora's Box. That concerns the conditions on which the Opposition will be accepted in the country. Others have spoken about it and I want to say that there is no problem to put any condition, everybody comes here and must be accepted unconditionally. It is not in the power of any Party, including the Ruling Party, to decide on, for example, the patriotism of any Party. There is a possibility that in the minds of some

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Opposition Members they may be questioning the patriotism of any Party, but that will not be the condition on which Parties are acceptable. It is a question of who have been voted for by the people. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Chief Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rose to give my remarks on this Vote of the National Assembly. When you come in a place for the first time, many things appear new to you and so am I to the environment and too many things taking place in this Honourable House. I would like to say that I honestly like the Budget of the National Assembly as put forward. I only want to get clarity on certain issues, particularly the Outreach Programmes of the National Assembly. I have heard before that the National Assembly has tried to reach out to the Regions and that is a very good thing. In fact, I would like to say that some of us who are living far from Windhoek where the National Assembly is situated have had some problems of following the proceedings of the National Assembly on a daily basis and also to have access to materials relating to the proceedings of the National Assembly.

Therefore, Honourable Chairperson, I would like to find out whether the Outreach Programme has looked at the establishment of resource centres in Regions where members of the communities could come and access Bills or documents related to the proceedings of the National Assembly and inform themselves or their communities, or little corners where the community members could come and have a little Debate about issues of their interest they would like to put forward to various Members of the National Assembly. It is just finding out whether such inclusion has been looked into. Overall, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I now reverse the Floor to the Speaker to respond.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. We did exchange views on the office space mentioned by *Honourable Ulenga* and the Speaker has been tasked to consult with the Chairman of the National

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Council to see whether it would not be possible for now for the National Assembly to make use of whatever available space there is. Furniture is perhaps something else and we have to look into that. I am sure the House is happy to know that the President of the CoD assured us that the shadow Cabinet list would be made available.

The others were more comments, not decrying the results of the votes, the people are sovereign, the configuration of the House is the result of the votes of the people and I think you just wanted to emphasise that point.

Honourable Chief Ankama, it is in a way creative thinking about what the Outreach Programme might entail now and in the future, but we are humbled by the availability of resources. The idea is that we would have places, in conjunction with Regional Councils and other representations of the Government and of Parliament in different Regions of the country, that we would have resource centres specifically dedicated, providing information about the work of the Parliament. I think that will be a good thing, but it is part of the plans that we have to enlarge the Outreach Programme to take the Parliament to the people beyond what we do as Members of Parliament when we go and visit the Regions. We will look into that and all the Members of Parliament are invited, now that the announcement has been made and that we have started on this journey, to provide bright ideas of how we can enrich the Outreach Programme. For now, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 06 agreed to. I put **Vote 11** – “**NATIONAL COUNCIL**” for Discussion.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, we want our support to be registered so that the Colleagues of the other House know that we just passed their Vote. We are interest in their work, I think they are doing a very good job and, therefore, we support the Vote. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you very much. I will be very brief. I also want to thank the Members of the

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National Council and specifically when I listened to the motivation of the Speaker, there is a particular item whereby the National Council is going to make some readjustments to their building in order for it to be accessible to people with disability. I think this is very commendable and we are also now hearing that the National Council has more space than the National Assembly. I remember when we were debating this particular Vote at one point, we were asking what the National Council was trying to do, spending money on this building and now we congratulate the Chairperson and I am sure it will be the same with State House, because now we are appreciating the foresightedness of the Chairperson of the National Council when he was asking money to build this House. I want to find out when we in the National Assembly are going to have that provision as it is in the National Council.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ekandjo.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Provision should be made for the Members of the National Council to also have the privilege of asking questions to the Minister during the Budget Debate, because the Budget goes from here to them to be passed. During the Committee Stage, they ask questions, but there are no Ministers to respond. Maybe an arrangement can be made so that Ministers are present rather than they are asking questions in a vacuum, nobody responds, and then they pass the Budget. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Any further discussions? I now revert the Floor to the Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: There were no questions, only comments. On the last observation by the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, we are the same Parliament, but different Chambers and it was a deliberate arrangement that the Executive sits here. Without being in the Chamber to respond to legitimate questions by Members of the National Council, I think the Committee system that brings the two Chambers together achieves that objective. The bottom line is for the Members of the National Council to have access to the Members of the Executive to put questions to them to enrich their knowledge and to better their work. That is the objective. However, I do not see that it is allowed for

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the Members of this Chamber to go and sit on the benches formally in the other Chamber, but there are different ways to skin the cat. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 11 agreed to. I put **Vote 28** – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION**” for Discussion.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to express our support for this Vote and wish to make a few observations by way of supporting this Vote.

Honourable Chairperson, we support the appropriation of N\$8,684,000 for the work of the Electoral Commission. In the type of system that we have chosen, credible elections are the only way the citizens choose their representatives. It is therefore a necessity for the type of system, which we have chosen.

In the moneys that are being sought under this Vote, there is money that is being sought for continuous registration. Honourable Chairperson, continuous registration is a requirement of the Electoral Act that between elections, there will be registration for those who have turned 18 or for those who have lost their registration documents and may need duplicates.

Honourable Chairperson, in this respect we believe that continuous registration and voters' education should go together, that it is one process. As I was saying, the main clients of the Electoral Commission in the category of continuous registration are those who have turned 18 the day after the elections.

Many young people as well as those who may have lost their cards and need duplicates often do not know where to go for these services if they live outside Windhoek. It would therefore be a good thing that as part of its information and education drive ideally the Electoral Commission works together with local authorities and regional authorities to establish facilities, be they permanent or temporary where prospective voters and others can go register.

Honourable Chairperson, on Page 375 of the Budget document it says: “*Among the priorities during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period is to combine a credible Voters Roll.*” As you will appreciate, this is an important function, firstly because of the manner in which it is being done presently. At the moment, we are told there are more than 800,000 voters for national elections. We would believe that in the given age we are living, that instead of giving us these documents, as happened during the last elections where we received what was to be a Voters' Roll... (Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, can you not see that you are speaking in general now?

HON T GURIRAB: No, I am addressing Page 375.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You must not address in general, you have to talk to the details of the Budget, Honourable Member. Question the Budget.

HON T GURIRAB: I wish to refer the Chairperson to Page 375 of the Budget document which sets out the priorities and that is exactly what I am addressing, two of those priorities on Page 375 and I was saying, Honourable Chairperson, one of those listed on that page is to compile a credible Voters' Roll and the point I was making was that last year we received this Voters' Roll three days before the elections in eight to ten boxes. In future, it will help all of us, because of the process for which the voters roll is produced, and given the age in which we live, that we should probably look at giving us the Voters' Roll in a different form, a CD Rom or whatever. It is probably an area where improvement is needed.

The second point on the same Page is "*to enhance the capacity of staff members on board to provide increasingly demanding and high levels of service to ECN.*" Chairperson, we believe that this is an important part, that the quality of what we receive on the other end, the quality of what comes out of the process will critically depend on the levels of training and skills and expertise of those who are manning this process. We support these priorities and would wish that they could be implemented sooner rather than later.

Chairperson, let me conclude by saying that the very essence of democracy is the diversity of opinions. They need not be correct, whatever the definition of "*correct*" would be in this case, but a democracy allows a thousand flowers to blossom. The only enemies of democracy are those who wish to close this space. As they say, enemies of democracy do not argue, they shout and they shoot. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. May I ask a tiny question? Honourable Gurirab, you are

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saying that the people who want to block democracy are those who want to keep it narrow. There were two activities, Presidential and National Assembly elections and you failed to challenge the Presidential elections. Is it not you who want to hijack democracy?

HON T GURIRAB: I was hoping that you are going to rule him Out of Order because clearly that was not a question. As I was saying by way of concluding, as they say, enemies of democracy are those who do not want to argue, they shout and they shoot. We must not go down that ally. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The institution called the Electoral Commission is the central institution of democracy. In fact, I would say it is the midwife of democracy. Therefore, I support the Vote. However, this institution is like a prodigal son as far as the Executive is concerned. The other time it was taken care of by the Office of the Prime Minister, but you found that perhaps the Prime Minister was going to influence the outcome and it was taken from there and given to Parliament, which is another branch of Government. Now this institution is in trouble because nobody is really supervising it in terms of its operations, in terms of its needs, etcetera.

I am asking the leaders of the Opposition Parties to start thinking about how to assist this institution to be a true midwife of democracy. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, are you questioning the leader of the Opposition?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, I said the Honourable leaders of the Opposition, not the Official Opposition, especially Mr Viljoen who is not here.

Sometimes this institution has needs, such as amending a law and they have nowhere to go, they have been thrown from here to another office, nobody wants them and the Speaker who introduces their Vote here, cannot come here

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and move an Amendment. Please, I am asking you Colleagues, through the Chair, to consider how we can assist this institution to have some kind of a home in the Executive Branch, so that at least they can be assisted where they need some assistance from the Executive. I will give you some time to think about it, but I will come back to you to consult and I hope that you will have some suggestions in this regard. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote before the House and to make a few observations.

One is – and I need your indulgence Honourable Chairperson, - that Honourable Moongo Moved a Motion in this House after the recount, a Motion that was accepted and passed by this House, that Parties were supposed to be reimbursed for the Party agents that worked overtime unnecessarily and the Motion was accepted by the House. Therefore, I want to ask the Mover when the Parties would be reimbursed for the costs that they incurred during that period, because the Motion was accepted.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I think the Right Honourable Prime Minister mentioned a very interesting position and whether we want it or not, when it comes to the question of whose baby the Electoral Commission is, I think it is the baby of Political Parties. In a country such as Finland, the staff component of the Electoral Commission is derived from stakeholders. Every Party has representation in the governing council of the Electoral Commission, because it is the baby of Political Parties that brings democracy of the people and I think it is one route we could consider. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Could Honourable Venaani verify that the employees of the Electoral Commission belong to one Political Party? If you bring the list and say all these are from one Party, it is totally unethical. If you want to mislead the people outside there, you cannot mislead this House.

HON VENAANI: I think the Member misunderstood me. I said that the work of the Electoral Commission is the work of Political Parties and when you have counting agents of all Political Parties as officials, there are examples of advanced democracies where every Party would have a quota of representation in the work of that Commission. Then you would ensure fairness and our Party is preparing a proposal to that effect and we are very happy that the Prime Minister was really proactive. We are going to prepare a position paper towards that.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, the Budget seeks money for voter education. I think this is one of the very important elements and one wants to congratulate the members of the Electoral Commission if you look at the spoilt ballots, which are becoming lesser with every election.

I was so surprised during the election campaign that you would find Namibians who have never voted since the Independence of this country. You find people up in the mountains who do not know which Party is which and I say I support the efforts of voter education and knowing the fact that we only vote after every five years or when a by-election arise, some illiterate people also forget the voting pattern. Therefore, I support that and I also support the sentiments on the question of the Voters Roll, that it is just incomprehensible that we cannot before every election have a proper Voters Roll for 900,000 voters. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I did not intend to speak on this Vote, but perhaps I will say something after the Prime Minister has made this very positive suggestion.

I feel we are dealing here with a very sensitive institution and it will be in the interest of the country as a whole if it is properly looked after, especially in such a way that it remains beyond reproach and its actions remain beyond reproach. We are still a new democracy and young as a country and perhaps there is some wisdom in those who refer to other systems and who are urging that we look at some of those examples and see what we can copy and what we can leave.

One very important thing is that a sense of maturity and a sense of confidence need to be developed within an institution such as this. Therefore, the appointment of people at every level of this institution should be done in such a way that nobody in an institution such as the ECN feels that they are beholden

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to anybody else outside the ECN. This is an institution, which is supposed to be a referee. The Prime Minister is talking about a midwife function; I would rather say it is a kind of referee. For example, if you look at the two teams in a soccer match, even though they are eleven-eleven, it will be so clear to you as referee that the one team is going to beat the other team, but it is not for you as referee to jump up and say, "*you are weak, you have no chance against the other team.*" (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. I deliberately used the word "*midwife*", because when you are a midwife, you do not know whether this child is going to be a boy or a girl. Until the child is born, you cannot anticipate the outcome. It is in that respect I used that word. When you are a referee and decide already two minutes after kick-off that this one is going to lose, then you are biased.

Therefore, the word "*midwife*" is the right one.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed, Honourable Members. I do not know, women are used as an example here.

HON ULENGA: I have no quarrel with the Prime Minister's choice of words. Somebody said the marvel of democracy or the essence of democracy is diversity and perhaps it also comes down to the choice of words. There is some space for democracy there. Definitely, it is a midwife and it is also a referee, it can be both.

However, what I want to urge is that whatever is happening outside the House, this is a baby that needs to be looked after properly, in such a way that there is a sense of confidence and a sense of earned respect as far as this institution is concerned. It is only us who can do it as a Nation and I do not mean as Political Parties necessarily.

Therefore, I will definitely join the Parties this side who have already expressed their willingness to look into the suggestion that was made by the Prime Minister. We need to do it in such a way that when this baby, which is the ECN, takes up its duties, we are sure that our matters and our interests are properly looked after.

I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I have one question and I would like to premise my question on the following:

It is agreed that regular free elections are actually the cornerstone upon which the principle of democracy is based. The institution that we are talking about was established based on a law that this Honourable House has passed. The Electoral Commission itself is the policy-making body, which must ensure that the law that has established it is scrupulously adhered to and implemented and that it has its Secretariat, the Directorate.

Honourable Chairperson, through you to the Honourable Speaker, I am not very sure whether procedures for appointing the Electoral Commissioners are provided for in the law itself, because I have seen that the positions are advertised, people apply and I am not very sure which body must look at the applications to ensure that the requirements are fulfilled and so forth. (Interjection) No, we should not make jokes. The Electoral Commission is not a body that just came unexpectedly. This body was established, by the law that this Honourable House passed. I am not very clear that the same law is clear on the procedures for appointment and I want to know from the Speaker whether the procedures for appointment are stipulated in the law, so that we are all clear. I think it is a fair question. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Pandeni.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I also rise to support the Vote and I have only one small issue that I want to clear. I think we are maybe confusing two things.

My understanding of the process regulating elections is that it should be a fair process that does not align to only one interest and to do things transparently and in a manner which promotes adherence to the law. It cannot be argued that Political Parties have specific Party interests and their participation there is only to promote transparency and democratic participation. Now I do not know what

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we want. Do we want institutions made up of Political Parties? If so, which law will regulate those, while we have various constitutions that protect our Party interests?

I think it is just fair that the Electoral Commission acts within the framework of the law and does not try to play Party-Politics. We are here asking it to conduct voters' education. I believe that is also the responsibility of Political Parties and that is why Political Parties are paid through this august House and then they play their Party-Politics. However, the voters' education by the Electoral Commission is not partisan and I sometimes get confused, whether we really want an institution that ensures that laws are protected and the playing field is fair and transparent or do we want to bring it to our Party lines. If so, how can that institution run democratic elections that are free and fair? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I want to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for his request to the Opposition Parties and I want to ask him only one favour. The Electoral Act has been amended so many times that it is very, very difficult to find a copy which is actually the true copy currently and I wonder whether the Prime Minister cannot help us by asking somebody in his office or in one of the Ministries to supply us with six copies of the properly amended Act, so that one does not make mistakes when you work on proposals. That is my only request. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There were two questions and I will respond to the general comments all lumped together in my response.

The two questions were one by *Honourable Venaani* seeking a response from the Speaker about the reimbursement of Political Parties for overtime. I am rather surprised that something like that managed to be passed in the House, but the Honourable Member claims that that was agreed to. Who was supposed to do the payment? The Electoral Commission? (Interjection) We will remind

them. I did not see anything to that effect in the document and I would not want to encourage the Opposition Parties to hold their breath.

The second question was one by the *Honourable Minister Pandeni* of the young people of the Republic of Namibia as to whether the procedures for appointing Electoral Commissioners is stipulated somewhere in law or is it by convention. I am advised to inform the Honourable Minister that the appointment of Commissioners is provided for in the Amendment Act of 1998. Procedures are set out very clearly in the Act.

The rest of the comments, some of them very enlightening, were the business of the House of politicking. I said the following in my motivation: *“Namibians now have ample time at our disposal to re-engineering and fast-tracking the entire electoral process and back-up mechanisms in the country. Nothing must be left unturned with a view to ensuring effectiveness, training of staff members with greater emphasis on competence, professionalism and transparency. In that same vein, we must as national leaders, be of one mind in finding a permanent and suitable home for the Electoral Commission of Namibia and the Directorate of Elections.”* It is about time. Therefore, I welcome what the Prime Minister has offered by inviting the Parties to engage the Prime Minister so that we find a way forward. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 28 agreed to. I put **Vote 29 – “INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING”** for Discussion.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for a job well done in Oshakati. A new, modern building was built for the NBC and I am wondering whether the same could be done in the Kunene, Karas and Caprivi Regions.

However, I was disturbed when I read Page 7 of the Minister’s speech where it is said: *“The NBC has demonstrated professional, effective and responsible coverage of the election events last year, 2004.”* This is not true and I know some of the Colleagues become uncomfortable when I stand up to tell the truth and only the truth. Only two Colleagues from that side, the Honourable Speaker and the Prime Minister, are not arrogant. They used to listen, but the others are arrogant and uncomfortable. (Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member that is not part of the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. I think the Vice-President of the DTA should withdraw the words that we are arrogant. The Honourable Members here are not arrogant and I demand that he withdraws that word.

HON MOONGO: In this House, we have to advise each other and tell each other the truth in order to change and to be proper leaders in future. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: For the sake of progress, just withdraw the word “*arrogant*”, because our kids will hear that we are arrogant here.

HON MOONGO: I withdraw the word “*arrogant*”, but they are uncomfortable and lack tolerance. I withdraw the word “*arrogant*” but I say there is a lack of tolerance on the side of the Ruling Party Members.

The next point I would like to touch on is the television coverage. They do not cover the Opposition. They cover all the events of the SWAPO Party. I was disturbed to notice that whenever the Opposition would like to announce a meeting, we have to pay N\$150, which is too much for a small Party. However, when it comes to SWAPO Regional Councillors, they have free airtime to make announcements and then they end up having a SWAPO meeting free of charge. This is intolerable and we want NBC to be neutral. Therefore, I want to rename NBC tonight to be called SWAPO Broadcasting Corporation. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Geingob.

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HON DR GEINGOB**

HON DR GEINGOB: I rise to support this very important Vote dealing with the media. A democracy without media, both print and electronic, cannot survive. I just wanted to talk about the NBC in a constructive way. It has improved very much. I was away for two years and when I came back, I noticed a lot of improvements in many respects.

Since I like to sleep with the television on, the whole night and watch, sleep, get up, and watch, I noticed that China television is on throughout the night and if we could mix it with other stations relevant to African issues, it would be good.

Secondly, the NBC has to provide information, education and entertainment. Stations such as CNN, Sky News and the BBC interrupt all other programmes when they have to address a serious issue and give you proper information. Since the Government is providing 70% of the funds, we are not saying Government should be glorified, but important information is sometimes interrupted because apparently the time is up. Instead of covering the issue properly so that the person speaking makes sense, it is cut up and dissected and it does not make sense in the end. If they would allow more time and allow persons to speak for themselves, I think the information is going to reach that side. Sometimes they stop a very important topic and then show a movie or a commercial. If they were going for another important topic, I would understand that, but really, since we have to educate our people through television and radio, it would be good if a little bit more time were spent.

Even in advanced countries the privately owned companies, like CNN, once Michael Jackson's case was on, they all switched to that and they stayed with it until the end. What then happens to the time that they already had a programme for? I am just appealing that the NBC improves on that and cover issues so that we can educate our people properly.

I am not saying it should only cover the Ruling Party. I know the Opposition likes to cry, but it is a known fact that some people are good at ingratiating themselves with the powerful ones. If there was anybody tolerant, I have been there and it saved you, to tell the truth, through working to create reconciliation. Definitely, I worked and it is how it is. When you see the new power, you want to ingratiate yourself and it is understandable, it is how some people are.

Radio is covering about 90% of the country and that is a good sign. They are doing a good job. I do not listen to all the programmes, but radio is doing a great job. The NBC is doing a great job, but they should try to raise their own funds. I would have thought that more advertising could be done to raise money that way. There are only about two or three commercials. I would go to businesses and ask them to put adds on television, thereby raising their own funds.

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It is the only one we have, it is working, it is informing and, therefore, I support the Vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Nghimtina.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 29. I want to commend the men and women armed with pens, notebooks, vehicles, video cameras, busy to entertain, educate and inform this Nation. They are doing a good job.

There is a programme on the radio on the payout of pensioners. You might believe that each pensioner has a radio. Once the dates, time and places are announced, definitely all the pensioners will be there.

There is also another very good programme, the phone-in programme for the Regional Councillors in the morning, announcing their activities and it is commendable, because we know who is alive and who is not. However, if possible, some mechanisms need to be put in place also to monitor that what they are saying is what they are going to do, because they are only announcing this one, but you do not know that they are fulfilling the promises they are making to the people.

Another issue is cameras for all the Regions, because in other countries you can view what is happening in other Regions and that could probably also be done in Namibia so that we know what is happening in Omaheke that particular day, what is happening in the Karas, the Ohangwena or the Caprivi Regions. Even though we do not have money, we need to try to have something.

Big events in this country are being captured by the NBC for three to four hours, but once it has been cut, it only has three or four minute's coverage.

Citizens of this country might want to buy some of the tapes of big events, such as the inauguration of the second President, but I do not know whether there is a law, which prohibits it. However, if it is possible, you can reproduce and sell the tapes and have additional income. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ncube.

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. First, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Information and Broadcasting for making an effort to cater for the hearing impaired on the national television.

I would also like to refer to the terminology that the NBC is using when they are covering issues on disability. There is terminology, which says “*people living with disabilities*”, but in every country, people have adopted their own terminology and in Namibia we prefer to be called “*people with disabilities*” or “*persons with disabilities*”, because we do not live with a virus, disability is not a virus, it is a development issue and it is a human rights issue. That is just information to the NBC. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Nicky Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to register my support for Vote 29 and I only have three short comments.

I think it is true that the NBC has improved quite a lot, but there is always something which I do not understand, whether it is just a particular habit of Namibians. This is the pronunciation of people’s names. For example, the NBC announcers will say “*Hifikepunye Pohamba.*” I mean, it just does not sound good for me who knows how the name should be pronounced. I do not know whether it is simply that our names are difficult to pronounce or people cannot rehearse to pronounce them correctly. (Interjections)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, could you do me a favour? Just pronounce the name /Ui/o/oo for me.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: /Ui/o/oo. (Laughter)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Is that the correct one?

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HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, it is correct.

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Does the Honourable Member remember someone referring to Queen Elizabeth the Eleventh and the Duck of Edinburgh? (Laughter)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Member, that is a foreign title, maybe it could be pronounced wrongly, but we are referring to Namibian names. That is one issue.

Another issue is that when you have items on television, for example, something about Nigeria, but then the caption of what will follow is something about South Africa and then they will immediately change to what is correct. Do they not first verify what is on the tapes and do the editing? It is about Nigeria but what is shown on the screen is about South Africa. These things still need the attention of the NBC. Otherwise, there has been a tremendous improvement. Thank you very much. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Abraham Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson, I have only two points. The first one is that I think the State-Owned Enterprises under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have improved drastically over the last few years. I want to concentrate on the NBC.

As Honourable Hage Geingob, the former Prime Minister, said, the NBC is to educate, inform and so on and I want to concentrate on the programme, *The Talk of the Nation*. I used to put aside my Mondays to listen to this programme, to be educated and to be informed. I want to put a question mark, Honourable Minister, on a few things. One is the issue of the quality and the depth of that programme. It was good when the Dr Ndjoze-Ojo was there, but things have changed to some extent. I put a question mark at the quality and the depth. The same is with the selection of topics for the *Talk of the Nation*. I put even a bigger question mark. The programmes are sometimes too repetitive. You hear

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things about the combination and the number of panellists in most cases. I put a question mark in terms of prior research about the topic. If we were going to talk about the history of the former Prime Minister, then one would need to get a bit of background information about him, not when he comes there.

Therefore, I want to propose, Honourable Minister, that you completely revisit this programme and overhaul it and possibly do a public fact-finding mission for the public to express itself on value for money, how they have been educated and informed. It is more about the depth, the quality, the selection. If it is possible, I would like a national survey to be conducted for us to propose a few things. I am concerned about the depth in terms of economic issues. I support this Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, in supporting this Vote, I would like to mention a few positive issues first before I get into a few critical issues. I want to speak positively about some of the very clear positive aspects of the Vote that we are discussing. One of them is the frugality, the way in which the Minister makes use of the paper very economically. I was looking at the Minister's paper, comparing it to this paper, but I am not discussing this, I just made a comparison, five thousand words on nine A4 pages. Three thousand words on twenty-eight A4 pages. If this continues to be the trend, at least we shall be able to save some money in this particular Ministry for other needs.

There are a number of positive developments that must be mentioned, one of them being the opening of a radio station that covers some of the San languages, including Juu ≠hoan si in Tsumkwe. I was there at the NBC and this organisation will make or break democracy. So many people and so many communities in the country really depend on the NBC for information and for education. It is high time, therefore, that the NBC really takes seriously the issue of creating some depth for its programmes.

Many have spoken about the need to educate. I remember in 1969 when the then SWABC opened and at that time, especially what they called Radio Owambo, a number of operators were employed to do service on this particular service and I remember specifically the term "*Opposition Parties*" came up and several tried to translate it into Oshivambo. That is about 35 years ago. The same rudimentary translations are kept until now. They do not fit into the political landscape that we have right now any longer. (Interjections) Have you

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tried to listen and try to understand how “*Opposition Party*” is translated into Oshivambo and how it comes across? It is like “*the one who has turned their back*”. Sometimes some people think it is just all right, it fits in. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. I know the word the Honourable Member is talking about, which literally translates into English as “*a party of the back or the buttock*” or something like that. The correct translation now is “*ongundu yompinge*” That is the correct translation.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, suffice to say that if the NBC is really to reach the sufficient depth that they need to reach, these terms need to be revisited and there should at least be consensus across the Nation... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. The best word for opposition is in Otjiherero, “*Otjira otjipirure*”. (Laughter)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, this country has now been free and independent... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Chairperson, the Honourable Members said that *Ongundu yo Mpirameno* is a bad word. It is not a bad word. It is just like in English, “*opposition*”. You just oppose for the sake of opposing. Oppose is supposed to be “*Mpiramenako or Okupirura*”, so what is the difference?

HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. I see the Honourable Minister of Information is taking copious notes and I should like to make a proposal that on the Oshivambo Service, the opposition be referred to as “*ongundu yo pashiwana*”.

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HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, I was saying that this is our 15th year of Independence. We are no longer an embryonic Nation. We are a young Nation, but we are not embryonic and it is unacceptable that on the Oshivambo Service of the NBC they refer to the whole area south of Ovambo as *Oushimba*. It is totally out. If the NBC is there to educate Namibians, then it cannot continue to call south of the old Ovamboland *Oushimba*. That term should have died at least a hundred years ago. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Can you translate the direction south in Oshikwanyama?

HON ULENGA: I wonder whether I should get into this. Of course, in the Kwanyama language, like it is in some other languages, directions are localised in their meanings. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information. Honourable Ulenga, I think you can do well for this House, you are a member of this society. Just come up with the terminology that you think is appropriate. It is not only a matter of the NBC, come up with new terminology.

HON ULENGA: Our task today, Honourable Chairperson, is to give our views, not necessarily to get into a Committee to design names. There will not be time for that. That is for others to do. We are giving our views about what is happening, and the term "*Oushimba*" is not only outdated... (Interjection) No, it is not a direction, it is a place and it is long outdated, it is derogatory, it is misinforming, it is not educating and it should be changed, it should not be on the NBC. The same goes for the word *Kwangara* which they use on the radio. It must just die out.

Honourable Chairperson, the NBC promotes cultural insecurity. (Intervention)

HON NAMBINGA: On a Point of Information. I think as parliamentarians and responsible people we must also be very careful not to mislead the people out there, because inasmuch as we would like to criticise the NBC, we must

admit we cannot force the NBC to change certain things. If, for example, Honourable Ulenka is saying that “*Oushimba*” and whatever must be changed, one has to call a conference and that is not the responsibility of NBC. NBC cannot simply decide this terminology is outdated, we must opt for this. You are misleading the people, you must be responsible. I thought you have become a leader of an Opposition Party and you will be more responsible. You are misleading people.

HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. Of course Government has a responsibility when the NBC uses language which we find inappropriate. For example, if the NBC uses words like “*kaffer or boer*”, those who have an oversight function have a responsibility to see that it does not happen. It is a responsibility of Government. If it talks about “*kaffers*”, would we like it?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson, I will want to continue to show respect to all the Honourable Members. We say the NBC is there to educate and we mean it when we say it that way and that should just happen and it is for us to make sure that it happens.

The promotion of cultural insecurity happens in many ways with the NBC, but it is specifically when you compare what the local productions are as compared to what the airwaves have to offer. I know that the NBC really lacks funds and it is for us to make sure that sufficient funds are provided for the NBC so that they can meet some of these requirements, but it is going to be futile. If we want to retain our cultural self-respect, we cannot do it in the present atmosphere where the NBC productions can just not be compared to what is available elsewhere on the airwaves, both radio and television.

The NBC continues to show unacceptable bias in favour of the Ruling Party in the covering of news and in the covering of other programmes. The NBC, both radio and television, for example neglected to cover the CoD Congress last year. They even did not turn up when the congress was opening. If you contrast this with what happened at the SWAPO Congress, it was completely another story and I like the way we were properly informed about the proceedings at the SWAPO Congress. That really should be like that, but the NBC should not leave this page incomplete. It should make sure that the Nation is properly informed. If funny, acceptable and perhaps even stupid things happen with other Political Parties, let it come out from the NBC and let the people be given the opportunity to judge for themselves. (Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ulena that is not a Parliamentary word. Even the kids are listening and tomorrow they see us on television talking about stupid Parties. It may sound very bad. I am not going to recommend withdrawal. I am just saying it is not a Parliamentary word.

HON ULENGA: It was within the “*if*” Clause. I did not really say anybody is stupid, Honourable Chairperson, but if you do not like the word, I am prepared to withdraw it.

However, I want to say that it is high time that the NBC shows less bias in the covering of events in the country.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up. Honourable Peza Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and I will be very brief because part of the issues I wanted to raise was mentioned by Honourable Geingob and I am only left with one point.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to focus a bit on the NBC. The BBC and CNN post their news on their websites. For example, when we leave here we can go to their websites and read the news there. The NBC also has a website, but they do not fully utilise the News Section. I would want to propose that they should at least on a daily basis post the news of the day on that website. If one wants to look at the news for today, the latest news you will find is for the 3rd of May. A month has passed and you do not know what has happened in-between. I want to propose that they should at least on a daily basis post the news on their website and when we leave Parliament, we can go and read the news on their website. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kaiyamo.

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HON KAIYAMO: I would also like to give my support for Vote 29 and underline the fact that NBC has seriously improved three, four times. Last year this time, we were tearing them to pieces, but they have improved. They do not come late anymore, they are properly dressed and I congratulate them.

Secondly, I want to salute the Minister for taking the initiative to promote the photo of the President and obtain copyright, not giving it the commercial bourgeoisie to make money for them. I support that initiative and continue with the good work.

Lastly, I also fully support the position of the Ministry concerning the film of the President. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to echo the sentiment that the NBC has improved in terms of arriving on time and so forth and I want to give them credit for improving. However, I have a few concerns.

When you look at other State broadcasters in the Region or beyond, they would always have a slot on their news for what is happening in the National Assembly. I am seeing for the first time this year that the NBC has improved. Sometimes Ministers bring important legislation that needs to be reported as news, just the fact that they are introduced, but then such information would only come during the Parliamentary Report and not all Namibians have the time to watch Parliamentary Report, but I am sure all of us have the obligation to watch our own news. Perhaps it would be in the interest of Parliament for the news to have a two or three-minute slot on what is happening in both Houses of Parliament to be carried out as news. Legislation brought here, Ministerial Statements that are made here are important news that need to go to our electorate.

On the issue of international news, I do not know whether it is a matter of not having enough resources and perhaps I should be informed, but when you watch SABC Africa, they would tell you what is happening in the whole of Africa. Perhaps we should also try to have those slots.

The other issue I want to raise is the question of marketing our industries on our national television. Our national broadcaster should be geared to market this

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country and I do not think we are really doing enough. I want to urge the tourism industry to use the NBC to sell Namibia, because you have foreigners coming here for holidays, but our broadcaster does not sell this country. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You are also not marketing Namibia properly.

HON VENAANI: I am. I brought twenty investors to this country. There is a need for live coverage of the Debates of the National Assembly and National Council. What I dislike about the Parliamentary coverage is that the reporter would say many things and not allow the Members to have the Floor themselves. I know there was a complaint that some of us are not very clear when we address this Chamber, but let us have more speaking time for Members in their own voices.

Honourable Chair, I crave your indulgence to say the following and I have kept quiet until today and it is what happened last year on the Herero Radio and the Damara Radio. During last year, the Herero Radio was perpetuating the agenda of one Political Party, namely NUDO, openly! It was just a clear campaign machinery and reporters of the NBC were acting... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I please ask the Honourable Member one question? Honourable Venaani, as you are addressing that specific point, can you please clarify to this House and the Nation so that there is no confusion, last year there were sessions where Political Parties were given airtime and they had to speak about their campaigns and then there were times when they had to cover all Rallies. Can you please clarify whether you mean when the Political Parties had to utilise the airtime allocated to them? Is that what you are referring to?

HON VENAANI: I am not blaming the Party, but I am blaming the reporters who did this outside the airtime allocated to Political Parties. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, on a Point of Information. The NBC has the right to make a judgment as to whether the statement that has been made is newsworthy. If NUDO has made newsworthy statements, obviously it has to be covered.

HON VENAANI: I am not talking about news coverage. There are these phone-in programmes and the reporter would say, "*It is very clear that everybody is going to vote for NUDO.*" It is not ethical for a journalist to tell the Nation that he thinks people are going to vote for a certain Party. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask a small question? Honourable Venaani, which NUDO are you referring to? The NUDO affiliated to the DTA or the NUDO outside the DTA. There are now two NUDOs, which NUDO are you talking about, because you are also a member of the NUDO affiliated to the DTA.

HON VENAANI: The NUDO that you promised positions that you never gave them. I was at those negotiations. You were not there. Ask Honourable Tjiriange, I was at the negotiations.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am not blaming the Party, I am blaming the journalistic ethics that were portrayed by members of NBC. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask a question? It seems as if the Honourable Member has a problem with the fact that people voted for NUDO. I just want to find out from him whether he has also voted for NUDO.

HON VENAANI: The propaganda made on Herero Radio has shown what national Parties do and the Damara Radio... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: On a Point of Information. There is no

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such thing as a Herero Radio and a Damara Radio. It is a Herero Service. Please use the correct vocabulary, you are also not educating people and promoting Namibia.

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Minister just remembered that I complained with him last year in two open letters to the NBC. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of information. Today is a very interesting day. This morning there was an *Afrikaner-twis*, now this afternoon a Herero-*twis*.

HON VENAANI: The last month before elections we had to hire people to listen to the radio and what the people were doing and journalists of the Damara-Nama Radio Service were promoting ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order. We want some progress and peace in the House. Could I propose, since we are here covered by Parliamentary immunity, for the DTA and NUDO to go outside and sort themselves out?

HON VENAANI: It is not a NUDO-DTA fight, I am talking about the ethics of journalism at the NBC and I remember addressing two rallies in the Caprivi and if there was a big rally of DTA, the tape would go missing. We experienced this twice. The very first time that I wore the Himba regalia, the tape went missing. The first one was the biggest rally that we ever had since Independence, three thousand people. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL

GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First, allow me to wholeheartedly support the Vote of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and allow me to use this opportunity to pay tribute to the ex-Board of the NBC that was under the leadership of Comrade Kaumbi and his team, for having introduced the indigenous language programmes. It really contributed a lot in breaking the legacy of colonialism as far as information-sharing is concerned and I equally trust that under the leadership of Comrade Ponhele Ya France this will be extended, knowing how he committed he is with regard to issues of the grassroots.

Furthermore, I would like to support the funds allocated to the NBC for infrastructure development, especially for the transmitters that they are constructing in the Rural Areas. As we are speaking, radio is the only source of information in the Eiseb Blok, there are no telephones and if the money could be utilised for the development of this infrastructure mostly in the Rural Areas, it will contribute to information sharing with the community.

Radio is very critical compared to television, because the majority of the Namibian people do not have access to television sets, neither can they afford it, but in terms of pricing, radio is the most affordable source. If the NBC management and Board could balance the money allocated to radio versus television, I think it will go a long way in distributing information and entertaining the vast majority of the citizens of this country who are rural-based and even the urban poor who cannot afford the luxury of television.

Furthermore, the issue, which Honourable Venaani touched on, the issue of being bias, unprofessional, and unethical journalists, is a serious one. When listening to some of these services, one hears selective morality, one hears discrimination, and one hears denigration of leaders. Terms are being coined, while some leaders are promoted by some journalists, they downplay certain people. We have Chiefs in our communities, Royal Chiefs who are denigrated and if that is the approach, it is unethical. In an open society, you are not afraid of hearing different opinions. You bring two different informed opinions and let the people be the judges.

We even see it sometimes on the programme of Talk of the Nation that they select certain people. No people have a monopoly of information. Let us open the field, let people put their case, let people argue and let the society be the judges. Let us not censor people. The most unprofessional and painful thing is that because of this approach, which the NBC takes... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, I just want to ask the Honourable

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Member a question. The Honourable Member is referring to Royal Houses, is he actually representing a specific group of people or Royal House? If that is the case, can he please be specific and tell the House that as a Deputy Minister I am representing a specific group of people?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, before I proceed, I will happily respond to that. In the first instance, I am a Namibian citizen, secondly I listen to the NBC services and the Honourable Member is touchy about this issue because he knows very well that both from my mother's side and my father's side I am from the Herero and Mbanderu Royal families. Do your own investigation. By blood, I am representing them and there is nothing wrong with that. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, here we are listening to a Deputy Minister, may I again ask a question to the Honourable Member? Is the Deputy Minister really representing a specific group of people or is he representing a specific Royal House and is the Deputy Minister doing it in his capacity as a Deputy Minister or is he doing it as an individual?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Chairperson, I am speaking as a Deputy Minister, I am not in this Parliament as a Deputy Minister, I am here as a Member of Parliament and the gentleman who smuggled himself in on the NUDO ticket knows I am here speaking as a Parliamentarian. I am referring to your Chief Riruako who by blood is not a member of the Royal family, he distorted himself. He is not the traditional Chief of the Hereros. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I seek your guidance. Given the lateness of the hour, I want to know how much time would you allow for what looks like a Herero fight. (Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The time allocated is ten minutes, but the more you intervene, the more we extend time. Round up.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I was answering the Honourable Member that yes, the Herero Royal House of Zeraeua, Manasse and Nguvauva do exist. Go and do your own research. Riruako, your Chief and the Chief of your Political Party, was appointed by the South African colonial Government, he is not gazetted, he is a political thief, he is not a Chief! (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kazenambo...

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I withdraw the word "thief".

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Your time is up. Honourable Ben Amathila.

HON B AMATHILA: Maybe we need this heated altercation in order to keep awake, it is past nine now. I rise to support the Vote. I have noted that there has been a continuous decline in the Budget allocations to this Vote and the reason obviously is that this Ministry and other Ministries are competing for the same resources, but the implication of this decline, in my view, is very frightening. It is clear that the Ministry of Information cannot raise its own money, given the small market that we have in the country. They are supposed to finance radio and television, which are very critical means of communication. Given the size of our country, the 90% radio coverage is very critical, not only in times of need, but also in times of emergencies. I think a solution should be found to find additional funds to beef up the work of the Ministry of Information and especially for the NBC. It is very, very important.

One thing I thought I should mention is that I have noticed that on the NBC Television that sometimes there is this continuous disruption of programmes and to me that is the first signal that the lifespan of the equipment of the NBC is possibly coming to a cycle where very soon we are going to have more disruptions and the more disruptions, the more unattractive the services of the NBC are and the lesser the chances for the NBC to raise its own money and better for the other competing radio and television stations in terms of subscription, because of the poor conditions that the NBC may have. It is either that the equipment is reaching the end of its lifespan or the training of the people operating these stations is possibly not adequate because of a lack of funds. It is very important that we keep the NBC in good order and fund it properly in order to render the national service, which each and every one of us require.

Honourable Minister, I noticed on Page 13 of your motivation statement that in one of the paragraphs you mention the question of trying to promote Namibia as a destination for Film Industries.

You mentioned that since your participation in the Cannes Film Festival, there have been many enquiries made and I am not so sure, what you can do with this kind of money in order to promote Namibia as a destination for filmmaking.

There is one thing that I noticed that could maybe be addressed. From the past experience of those filmmakers who came to Namibia, they put up structures for villages to make films here in Namibia and it would appear to me that once they have completed their film-making, according to the rules and laws under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, they have to clean up the area, break up everything and destroy whatever they cannot use or sell off.

You find that in the Film Industry you can make villages that people with small Budgets can come and utilise at a cost. You can have these villages in desert conditions, you can have them in the sub-tropical areas for people who may choose to make use of them and I think there is a need to negotiate with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to exempt these villages which filmmakers are putting up not to be demolished. Negotiate with the filmmakers to donate these to Namibia so that Namibian filmmakers can have access to these facilities at a very reasonable cost.

Otherwise, with the kind of Budget that you have, I am not so sure you will be able to promote successfully the question of Namibian participation in filmmaking in Namibia.

You mentioned in Paragraph 2.8.1: *“As already informed in this Honourable House while answering questions from Parliamentarians, this project, that was a private initiative of PACON...”* and I guess that is the film, *“Where Others*

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have Wavered.” Is it no longer a private initiative or what has happened, because the word there is in the past tense, it was a private initiative and I heard people outside saying that there seems to be a dispute between PACON and the Film Commission. I would have loved to get a clearer picture on what is happening on this matter. Otherwise, I support the Vote and it is my hope that in the future more funds will be allocated to the Ministry and especially to the NBC for the reasons that I have mentioned earlier. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, this time around, I am not going to pick a fight. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Member, since you were asleep until we mentioned that NUDO is being favoured on the Otjiherero Radio Service, are you the engineer of this favouritism on the Otjiherero Radio Service?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, allow me, to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting for the good presentation that she has made. I like the introductory remarks that she has made about the NBC, saying that it is to inform, educate and entertain. I wholeheartedly agree with her and I agree with the sentiment that has been expressed that the NBC has improved. It is true that for the last couple of years one has always seen an improvement in the programmes and presentations and the body language of the presenters and they need to be congratulated for that.

There are two areas that I want to touch on very briefly. The first one is the New Era. I was happy to hear that the New Era newspaper is now getting there as a Parastatal. I was very critical of Parastatals and I must admit that this Parastatal is doing the things that they are supposed to be doing. The mere fact that they have now increased their advertising by over 100% is very encouraging. Having done that, they have now been able to construct a very expensive headquarters of over N\$6 million. This gives the impression that this company is really being run in a professional and businesslike manner and I

think they need to be congratulated for that.

We were also informed that they are being expected to make a profit of over N\$200,000 during the 2005/2006 Financial Year. All these are very positive signs for the New Era operations and I think as a new company, we want to hear these things in this august House. Based on that information, Honourable Chairperson, I believe that, having proved beyond reasonable doubt that this company is making profit, they ought to be banking credit-worthy and, therefore, they must be in a position to access working capital from the commercial banks. I was surprised to see in the Budget that an amount of N\$4 million has been budgeted for the New Era. I cannot see the reason why an amount of N\$4 million should be Budgeted for the New Era, because looking at the information provided, being an independent private sector company, having done so good, they ought to access loans from commercial banks. I cannot see the reason why we should Budget money for the New Era. This N\$4 million should be spent for a better purpose. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question. Honourable Tjihuiko, you were asking the Honourable Deputy Minister whether he represents a certain group. Does your Party represent an ethnic group? Should it not serve in the Traditional Council rather than serving in the National Assembly where national issues are discussed?

HON TJIHUIKO: I do not know whether I should try to answer that or not, but let me try to answer. The Honourable Member did not understand me. I was trying to be educated as to whether the Honourable Deputy Minister was representing a specific group of people. I did not say that I am representing a specific group. The Honourable Member is the one who ought to know, because as a recognised Chief he ought not to be sitting here.

I, therefore, would wish to see the N\$4 million being spent on something better and I will come to that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Colleague, you are saying that the New Era is doing very well. you are also proposing that they should be punished for doing well. Is it fair to punish those who are doing well or should they be rewarded? What is your view? I would prefer that we reward them.

HON TJIHUIKO: They are not being punished, they have grown up out of infancy and they have now become their own and therefore, they can take responsibility for looking after themselves.

The second point that I want to touch on is the private project called, “*Where Others Wavered.*” Honourable Minister, it is very clear, I would say beyond reasonable doubt, that this project is a private initiative. It has nothing to do with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is a private initiative that was initiated by private people and knowing the fact that the private sector ought to do better, for them to initiate a project for which they must have done a feasibility study before they started and developed a business plan, they must have raised the funds in order for them to cover their expenses. For the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to come up with a Budget of N\$65 million out of the blue for a project that has been initiated by the Private Sector cannot be explained. Knowing the fact that all Ministries’ Budgets are being properly scrutinised by the National Planning Commission as well as the Ministry of Finance, I was totally surprised to see this project go through while we have a great need for money. I cannot understand it. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up.
Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 29. This Vote deals with information and we all know that the development of any society, whether economically, technically, socially, culturally and even spiritually, largely depends on the information and knowledge available and how it is utilised. That is why I am saying we are discussing a very important Vote.

Lack of appropriate information and knowledge in any sector makes a society short-sighted. People say that the eye cannot see what the mind has not seen. I remember at the beginning of this year the Director-General came to this House and requested funds from this House in order to develop and cover all the people. This country is very big and he was requesting the Honourable Members to support him. I do not know whether this problem has been solved. If not, let us look into this and seriously consider whether they have enough equipment and transport to cover the whole country and all her people and whether their capacity needs strengthening. If this problem has been solved, I have no problem, but if not, we have to go down and try to support the Colleague.

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Just imagine if there is an event in Kunene and at the same time, there is another in Tsumeb and the people stay in Oshakati or there is an event in Rosh Pinah and another one in Lüderitz at the same time. How do you expect these events to be covered if the people do not have enough transport, equipment and personnel? I want all us to consider this. The demands are very high and we have to look at that point very seriously.

With those few remarks, Comrade Minister, I refer you to Page 8 and the amount which has been sharply reduced, the subsidy of 34%. I would like to support Comrade Ben Amathila who said that maybe in future we should reconsider to support your colleagues so that they can cover all the people in this country, which is very big.

I am seeking clarity on Page 11 where you said that the Namibian Communication Commission is a regulating body of broadcasting. I have no problem with that, but I have doubts about the telecommunication and postal services. I know that these two are regulated under the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication and an Act of 1992. I am seeking clarity on whether there is not duplication in the administration of these services.

Otherwise, I fully support Vote 29 and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Diergaardt.

HON DIERGAARDT: Madam Chairperson, Honourable Members, may I echo the sentiments of all the Colleagues who spoke in support of this Vote. A lot of the issues that I wanted to raise have been covered, but there remains one tiny issue.

Honourable Minister, I am very appreciative of all the news bulletins in the different indigenous languages on the NBC-TV, however I fail to understand why Afrikaans is also not covered. I am so sorry that my Comrade-in-arms, Honourable Viljoen, has left now. I was expecting his support. Nevertheless, Madam Chairperson, I refuse to believe that it is for historical reasons, because I refuse to believe that we will ever contemplate punishing the language for all the atrocities that were committed in the name of the language, of *die taal*. For the reason of nation-building and national reconciliation I want to plead with the Honourable Minister to consider *die taal* as well. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Chairperson, firstly I should like to associate myself with the views of Comrade Amweelo on this Vote, but having said that, I have two observations and questions. The first one is on the Film Commission. We believe that this is an important function and like others who spoke before me, I think we need to think more creatively about how we can use both resources and input of others to see how Namibia can benefit from work that is being done in this area. We have already seen a number of films, which have been produced in this country.

Honourable Chairperson, let me also say that we fully support the project referred to here as the Film Project, "*Where Others Wavered.*" We believe that this is an important project, which in a visual manner attempts to project an important part of our history. Where we differ is on how we are funding the project and from reports now, it would appear as if the funds, which is primarily coming from the State is not being properly applied. We hope that that is not the case. We would urge the Minister to ensure that the funds are applied for the purpose for which it is being granted.

We believe too, because it is an important project that we should not only lean on the Treasury, but that we should go out and actively seek financial support from others both at home and abroad in support of this initiative.

Honourable Chairperson, my second observation is with regard to the New Era. Again, we are happy to note that some progress is being made on steadying this project, but it would appear from what is being reported that this newspaper is being produced at high cost. To look only at two figures the Minister has given here, the Minister reports that they are looking at some profit of about N\$200,000 in this Financial Year, but at the same time there will be a subsidy of N\$4 million. The Minister, of course, has not told us what the subsidy would be applied to, but in plain arithmetic or economics, the paper clearly is not making profit. Therefore, my question is whether there is a business plan, which shows viability and assures us that at some point this newspaper will be viable, pay for itself, and not lean on the Treasury and that we can use the resources that are being applied for other equally needy projects. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Katali.

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HON KATALI / HON MUTORWA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote and to congratulate the NBC for its information and entertainment role that it is playing. I like listening to Otjiherero and Oshivambo Radio Services most of the time and some young women are asking the small children about their leaders or current affairs of the country. However, sometimes I am disappointed when people are being asked about their leaders and they do not know them. I have a request to the Honourable Minister pertaining to this because I know seeing is better than hearing. I made this request here before, but maybe because I made it jokingly when I referred to Honourable Ulenga that time, the Ministry did not consider it seriously. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting used to print posters with the names and faces of the leaders and at one of the schools that I visited; it was still a poster of the first Cabinet. When you ask that learner who is the Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism, they look at the poster and say Ben Ulenga. I mentioned that jokingly that time, but apparently, it was not taken seriously. The posters are very important to our children and every time there is a change of Members of Cabinet, we need to print new posters so that we update the information, so that the children could know their leaders.

The same posters can also be used to raise some funds. For example, there are people who are interested in having them in their houses for their children to know their leaders. Therefore, Honourable Minister, if you have some funds available please have a look at this. This time I am not making the request jokingly, but as a genuine request, because I feel it would be very helpful to have these posters updated when the Cabinet is reshuffled.

With those few remarks, Honourable Chairperson, I support Vote 29 and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I rise in support of Vote 29. The issue of language and words and vocabulary is very important. People who work in the media, NBC and other institutions, are journalists and I think we should also appreciate the enormity of their tasks. We were talking about the problem of translating words and coming from the background of schools, I know that language is a vehicle of communicating the information. You need experts there and I want to put a proposition on the table.

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When the journalists, especially working in the indigenous language services of the NBC, namely Otjiherero, Oshiwambo, Silozi, Setswana, etcetera, translate words from English into the vernacular, most of the times they do so by taking these words as they are being used in the particular locality. Therefore, I think it is high time that the NBC could take the first step by establishing a Committee within the NBC where people from those communities are invited to help. For example, if one just looks at the political terminologies that we are using here on a daily basis, economic terminologies, etcetera, then it is not easy. This Committee could be tasked to develop a kind of glossary of economic terms and in that way could we be able to ensure that, indeed, the words used are standardised, so that the proper information is provided to educate the people. I agree with those who said that if that particular aspect is not taken care of, you are misinforming the people instead of educating them. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Mutorwa a question? Honourable Mutorwa, I know that NIED, the National Institute of Education Development, has a language directorate and you find all the languages there and those people are experts. What prevents the NBC to go to them and ask them to develop some of the glossaries you are talking about?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I fully agree with you, that is why I am putting this proposition publicly here while the management of the NBC is here. However, I think we should go a bit further than that. Yes, the language experts of NIED are centralised in Okahandja, but these people deal on a daily basis with these tasks and therefore, the NBC must establish links with the local people in the Regions so that the appropriate vocabulary, terminology and words are developed. That is all that I wanted to mention here. Otherwise, I support Vote 29.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. This is our Vote and no wonder, almost everybody has taken the Floor to express him or herself on the Vote. It is our Vote and, therefore, we all support it.

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Most of what I wanted to say has been said already. I however remain with only a few comments. One, congratulations to the NBC. Some of us who have been Members of this august House from its inception have seen the progress that the NBC has made since those days. The NBC was not even been able to pronounce certain names of places in Namibia. Okahandja was Okahanja, Opuwo was Opuwa, let alone the names of Honourable Members and we kept hammering them on occasions like this one. Now that they have advanced, let us give them that recognition.

I also appreciate the many programmes they have come up with which are really educating the people, facilitating communication through the call-in programmes, people who were unable to communicate with their loved ones when there are accidents. We congratulate them.

What others have said in terms of the challenges facing that institutions and also the problems remain to be addressed and I am not going to repeat them, however I would like to move on to the New Era.

The New Era has started very, very small as a weekly newspaper, today it is a daily, and it has brought about a balance in the reporting of events and news in the country. However, I have one small issue with them and that is that they continue to confuse people's names. You can read an article attributed to a certain person, but you know for sure that is not the person. I have seen it and it is being repeated and they need to be very careful and be certain about what they attribute to individuals.

Another small complaint I have is that some of us have probably been around in the political arena for too long, their archives must be full of our photos, and when they place an article on what you have said, they use that first photo of 1989. Then you ask yourself if they have failed to find a recent photo or why are they using this one.

Honourable Katali mentioned something very important. We have a population, which is growing up. Children are born, they are growing up and they need to know us the way we are. When they see a Pendukeni of 1989, they will wonder who this one is. They need to see me with my current looks, not how I looked in 1989 when we were malnourished. We must be seen and be appreciated for what we have also appreciated after Independence.

With these few remarks, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 29. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Nambahu.

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HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much. In the first place, I would like to support the Vote and echo most of the sentiments that have already been expressed. I would like to say a few things on the NBC-TV, the radio and the New Era.

There has been a remarkable improvement on the NBC-TV and that is noteworthy. However, I only find that the news has too little international content, sometimes only one item and that could probably be a bit more balanced in order for us to be informed.

With regard to the programme, Penduka, I am not too sure if it is only the entertainment part that we are looking at or whether it has any other purpose, because our kids sometimes watch this. These are their heroes, and sometimes we do not know what constituency it is trying to address. Sometimes the presenters, who are the role models of our kids, are not really projecting the image that our kids would like to emulate. Maybe you should take another look at the educational aspect of it.

Most of the senior Members talked about the language services and I am not going to belabour the point, but I will be very brief. There are words that are very important to national reconciliation and Nation building and I commend the NBC for being one of those few national organisations that really have an attractive slogan. Even when they present their programmes, they are telling you that they are building and reconciling this Nation and I want to commend them for that. However, while we are shouting One Namibia, One Nation, there is one language service which is equating a certain language group to a Nation and you are learning to speak that language and you hear that that is a Nation on its own and when you tell your kids that we are building One Namibia, One Nation, then your kids ask you, but how many nations? Even the Political Parties do not educate their constituencies on the repercussions of these things.

If you listen to some of these language services on a historic national day, there is no information, nothing educative as far as that specific day is concerned and some are making a remarkable effort to educate people of nationalism and patriotism. Maybe the Honourable Minister could also look at this.

I want to commend the New Era that their newspaper is reaching all the corners of the country, but there is only one point, namely that it sometimes borders on sensationalism or a little bit too tabloid. For example, a certain Head of State was addressing his Nation and when walking back, he fell. Do you know how it came out in the New Era? "*So-and-so Falls.*" You wonder whether his regime fell and these are our friends. Probably most of you read about this and this is supposed to be a Government organisation or entity.

I do not want to repeat what the Honourable Minister of Transport had to say.

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You sometimes ask yourself whether it is an ideological inclination. We need to look at these things and then maybe remind them of their social responsibility and their role in Nation building. With those remarks, Comrade Minister, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. After twenty participants, I just want to express my thanks to the NBC-TV and the NBC Radio for the programme “*Our People’s Parliament*” which is really educational.

NBC Radio needs to be thanked for promoting local musicians. Everywhere you go you hear the song (*Ongejama ja Iraka*). Even those who want to talk about tribal things are united when it comes to our local music. That is good and they must keep it up.

I am happy that the New Era became a daily, but I have a problem with their reporting. We mention many important things here, they take a photo of you, but you will never see your photo in the New Era. If a Member of the Opposition just asks a question, you will see his photo. Is this decided by the editor or is it selective morality, that some must be covered and others not?

I have mentioned last time that it seems we are not in this House. Your children will ask you, “*Daddy, you are always telling us you are going to Parliament but why you are not there?*” Is this done by the editor or by certain Board Members who gave instructions? That must be looked into.

Finally, on the support to be given to the project, “*Where Others Wavered*”, which is a private initiative, the Government took a decision to support and I do not understand our Opposition. Comrade Minister, make it clear to them that this money is not going to end up in a bottomless pit. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. It is not a question of the Opposition opposing, it is Opposition trying to look at the priorities of the projects, not opposing for the sake of opposing but we have a serious objection on the issue of priorities.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Honourable Chairperson, this project is a priority for the history of this country and it should continue. I also want to remind the Honourable Member that this money is not going to be taken to another Vote, as they did in their Parties by transferring money. What is important here is that the money is going to be refunded after the completion of the film and when you are going to watch this film, you are going to pay. All this is mentioned in the Minister's motivation, you should read and ask where you do not understand, but do not come with irrelevancies.

With that I support Vote 29.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 29. I just felt that it would be so unfair for me who is a TV star not to rise and support the NBC.

Firstly, I wish to thank Honourable Dr Iyambo for the kind words that he likes "*Talk of the Nation*." A lot of people like the programme and I just want to sensitise my committed viewers out there that it is by virtue of my appointment that I could no longer do that programme. However, I am willing to pass on the skills free of charge to whomever they are going to select to replace me, should it be required by the NBC, because it is an on-the-spot programme and you need a lot of public speaking skills, because it is not recorded and you cannot undo what you have done. Therefore, the NBC could rely on me if they want something like that.

The prominence of the independent media cannot be over-emphasised, especially as already said, it provides a kind of quality, it adds value to the three arms of governance. Without a very independent media we would not have started and I think the NBC has been trying to be as independent as could be, but there is always room for improvement.

There is a need to enhance programmes such as "*Talk of the Nation*" "*Tutpopyeni*" and "*Penduka*" and I am just wondering, especially because we have been talking about the language policy. There is nothing wrong with the language policy. In fact, it is in place in governance. All these things that we are talking about are provided for in the policy and even in the media. We could use our languages sometimes and there were times that I was presenting

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“*Talk of the Nation*” and I wondered why we cannot talk in one of the Namibian languages once in a while, because the kind of people you want to reach are the people who will not necessarily understand English.

We have to diversify and sometimes “*Talk of the Nation*” could be in English because that is the language of education and of the media, but sometimes it could also be justified to have a programme where people phone in and speak in their own languages.

General, there is a need for programme improvement. If we are saying (*Tupopyeni*), “So come let us talk”, why can we not just talk sometimes in different languages?

The independence of the media is crucial for the consolidation of democracy. Honourable Members, I just want us to remember that the socio-economic, political and linguistic cultural milieu of Namibia is an embodiment of diversity in unity and unity in diversity and I think the NBC should be representative of that kaleidoscope of our Nation, so that when you are in Namibia and watching the NBC, you would feel that you are in this country, because if you go to Zimbabwe and Zambia, you feel that you are in Zambia but somehow one tends not to feel that we are watching the NBC. Therefore, put more of the programmes of the people, let the people see themselves and the mode of dressing should be represented on our television. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Esau.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to register my support to Vote 29 – Information and Broadcasting. I want to speak on the electronic media, especially the NBC.

The Honourable Minister has mentioned that there is a substantial reduction in the allocation to the NBC and if there is a reduction in income of any institution, there are implications linked to that. One of the implications is in terms of labour. I do not know how many people will be retrenched or how many will be employed with this reduction. Maybe the Minister can tell us whether this was discussed so that we could at least take precautionary measures to see how we can avoid such kind of situation.

I believe that there is a performance arrangement between the Government and

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the NBC and I do not know whether that instrument was also revisited when you talked about reduction of revenue.

I want to compliment the NBC on especially their efforts with Penduka. I think it is a company called Penduka, these advertisements which are normally run on the NBC, encouraging people to pay their annual fees to the NBC. I do not know whether that initiative has contributed towards an increase in income. Are you collecting more fees from the members? I would like the Minister to reflect on that.

Comrade Chairperson, with these few remarks, I once more want to register my support for Vote 29.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Hans Booys.

HON BOOYS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. It would have been very unfair from my side if I did not contribute to this Vote, because last year I was privileged to visit the NBC Radio while I was still the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

I should first thank the Minister of Information and Broadcasting for taking all the trouble to bring this Budget to this House. It is true that the funds allocated to this Ministry are not enough, but I would like to be specific today on the NBC Radio and Television. Why? Because in every corner of Namibia you can listen to the vernacular languages. Forty-five kilometres outside Opuwo or Sesfontein where there is no television or telephone, the radio will reach you. Even tonight you can go to the NBC and ask for Tsudao who is sitting 40 kilometers outside Sesfontein, that he needs to be in Windhoek tomorrow and he will get the message the very same time, he can depart and will be here tomorrow. That is how I know the radio service of the NBC.

That is why if I had a chance to appear before the Cabinet Committee on Budget, I could have pleaded for more funds to be budgeted for the radio services. We have Ministries, such as Education for example. What is the role the Ministry of Education? Why do they not support the NBC? Some of the programmes, which are educational, can be supported by that Ministry financially. For example, I heard that if your Ministry gets a car from Transport, you carry the cost of the kilometres, not the Ministry of Transport. Why can Agriculture not contribute to the NBC radio and television programmes on crop production and farming? A Nation should feed itself and

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there should be more programmes on the NBC about agriculture.

I have seen the tendency that whenever there is a show in Windhoek, the television shows people who are drinking there, clothing from China, but there is nothing about agriculture. There is even nothing about the quality bulls at this show. My Colleagues are crying about the red line, they feel neglected, but the situation beyond the red line and in the former communal areas are the same. There are no quality animals, and we need education on how to breed these quality animals and the NBC can be used for that.

What is the role of the Ministry of Sports and Culture when it comes to education? They can buy programmes and pay the NBC and we can watch sports and culture. Where there are no telephones there are radio services and you can contact a person through the NBC who is one thousand kilometres from Windhoek.

Maybe we should look into accommodating these Ministries to come and invest in the NBC Budget as well. Thank you very much. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Tsheehama.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I was almost provoked by everybody who has said something and I thought it would be unfair if I did not give support to Vote 29. In fact, I would like to congratulate her for this Vote.

As I have said, the Vote has generated quite a great interest in this House, to the effect that almost everybody at this very late hour is still not feeling tired or showing a gloomy face, because they are hungry. Everybody seems to be very fresh and this is just because of the interest generated in this House.

A lot has been said about this Vote and I do not want to repeat what others have said. What I would like to mention here is something, which was not yet mentioned, namely competition. Competition should rule this country. We have so many Political Parties and they are competing. We have six radio stations in Windhoek and I am sure everybody knows who they are. Apart from the NBC, we have Radio Energy, we have Omulunga Radio, we have UNAM Radio, Katutura Community Radio and we have Radio Kudu. Which of these radio stations are attracting interest among the population of this country? Is the NBC doing that, is Radio Energy doing that? Which one is generating more

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attention? Mind you, there are different types of interest in any society, depending on the age. For example, you will not find the youth listening to the NBC. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, taking into consideration the previous job of the Honourable Member, are the questions the Honourable Member is putting now mere rhetorical questions or are they questions the Member is really looking for information on?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: The Chairperson has ruled your question Out of Order. I was saying that the youth have their own interest and listen to certain broadcasts. They might also be divided. To which radio is their attention attracted and what is in that radio that attracts them? Yes, they like music and they are attracted to the radio station, which plays music almost throughout the evening. Radio Energy and Radio Kudu do that and most of the youth are listening.

I do not know what percentage of the population of this country listens to the NBC. I do not want the Minister to answer this question because no one knows at present. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, you are doing very well, there are six radio stations and you are encouraging competition. In your view, do you think that all these radio stations must now play Kwassa Kwassa music in order to attract all the youth and then what will be the consequences for those who would not be listening to Kwassa Kwassa music? My last question is which radio stations do you listen to most, Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Actually, I am not encouraging competition. Competition is there already. The fact that these Radio Stations have been created is because of competition. For your information, I do not listen to radio, I have so many television channels and I mostly listen to the news. That is my interest as a politician. Then you come across the youth listening to the radio and only to music. Of course, we would like to be attracted by the NBC through programmes that attract us. What are

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those programmes? Programmes on farming are of great interest, the bulls Honourable Booy's talked about, agricultural programmes and many other things. Apart from agriculture, many other things could be shown to attract the listeners.

You would, therefore, find that if the NBC today has half a million people in Namibia who listen to that broadcast, that is good, but if we have only 200,000 people who are listening to the NBC, that is not good.

Another element I would like to raise here is the training of the NBC broadcasters. Please, training must not end. The broadcasters must be trained and retrained and before they go and read any news, they must rehearse the names that they think are difficult to pronounce. Otherwise, they end up insulting people. If you have pronounced a person's name wrongly, you have insulted that person and that person will feel very bad.

With these few words, let me thank you and let me thank the Honourable Minister.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Tjihuike.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, my problem is with the N\$65 million budgeted for this project. I am trying to justify my concern and I hope that you will understand. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Since we have explored all possibilities, I Move that we all unanimously support and adopt the Vote. I so Move.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, the problem that I have with the N\$65 million is a problem of priority. We are going to spend N\$65 million.... (Intervention)

HON NAMBINGA: On a Point of Information. It is very disturbing if some

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Honourable Members pretend that they are serious. NUDO is part of DTA and these people allowed themselves to be led by the South African colonial regime, which was spending more than N\$3 million per day to eliminate SWAPO. Why are these Honourable Members pretending to be serious? Whom are they trying to fool? I think we should not have our time wasted. We know the history of this country and nobody will mislead us. They can never be serious. The film is about the founder of this Namibian Nation and we must pay respect to him.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, you will spend N\$65 million on this project and at the same time you are talking about economic development, you are talking about Small and Medium Enterprises. (Intervention)

HON BOOYS: Will the Honourable Member accept a question? You raised this point now for the second time. A week ago I read about N\$80,000 missing from NUDO. Are you not concerned about that money?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, we will spend N\$65 million on this project, we are talking about economic development, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will spend N\$45 million for economic development and N\$65 million for a single project that has been initiated by the private sector. This is the point that I am driving at, that we are not serious. Those who are talking about NUDO/DTA should also think about SWAPO/CoD. The point that I am trying to drive home is; are we putting our priorities right by giving N\$45 million for the development of the country and N\$65 million for a single project, which has not been started by us. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order. We are getting our priorities right, the only wrong one is to have agreed to give money to NUDO. The others are right.

HON TJIHUIKO: With those few comments, I would support the Vote.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Honourable Chairperson, I want to talk on New Era and NAMPA. I really support the allocations to these two institutions, but I want to follow up and link this to what was raised by Honourable Tjihuiko and Honourable Gurirab on the issue of capital investment into these institutions.

Honourable Chairperson, it is hypocrisy of the highest order to think that one can start an institution and when it is doing well, you do not reinvest in that institution to continue. You will not think of that idea in any business management, it is wrong. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Do you really think it is fair to give money to the Opposition if they are absent? What is the need to allocate money to them? What are they doing and where are they now?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

I agree with the Honourable Minister that it is typical of the Opposition. They are talking of corruption and they are changing banks, not being serious with national duties. That is typical of them and the Nation must judge them.

On the issue of the New Era and NAMPA, and I have worked in the Parastatal for the past five years, sometimes those institutions are facing a dilemma that Board Members appointed to these institutions, the people who are supposed to drive the policy of these institutions, have no clue whatsoever about the management of those institutions and they have no technical skills and then what situation arises? It is war in those Boardrooms, which influences the activities of the institutions, and this creates a problem. When we are selecting Board Members for New Era and NAMPA, please, with all due respect, let us select people who have relevance to those institutions, who can turn these institutions around. As much as I appreciate that, we need to have political appointees in those institutions, let us appoint political appointees who have skills in their line of duty, rather than people who go and suffocate the progress of these institutions.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I now revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have to thank Members of Parliament for the interest you have shown in this particular Vote, which is a clear indication that information is power and it has been proven today, hence the interest. I will answer your questions and comments. I have been very patient to listen and I am asking you to be very patient so that I can also do justice to the discussions as you have done justice.

There has been a general or unanimous understanding that the NBC has made progress and you all congratulated the NBC and I thank you on behalf of the NBC and give the message. I think credit should go to my predecessor, Comrade Mbumba, who has done this.

Twenty-seven people spoke and I am going to comment on all these twenty-seven. (Interjections) Why did you repeat? I am going to repeat as you have done.

Honourable Moongo was the first to speak. Of course, thank you for acknowledging the work done by the NBC by upgrading its facilities in Oshakati and should money become available, the intention is really to do the same throughout the country. However, I have to tell you, looking at what is available, that the pace will be very slow unless there could be an improvement on the allocation of money to the NBC.

You want to claim that the NBC did not cover the elections professionally. You know that you are not honest. Last year the elections were professionally covered. You will remember there was a group from the Political Parties that used to meet with the NBC and agreed on the programmes based on signed agreements. That has been complied with and mechanisms were in place for any Political Party to make its point if that particular agreement signed between the NBC and Political Parties was violated. There was no complaint and that is why it is clear evidence that they did cover those elections very professionally.

You were claiming that television does not cover the Opposition. I think as the Debate went, we could see each one is saying he is not covered and this is one of the challenges. When I was introducing this Vote, I mentioned the challenges that the NBC is facing. One of the challenges is that the demand is very high. Everybody is demanding to be covered, but it is not possible and we have to understand that. It is not possible to cover you in the manner that you want to be covered, because there are only 24 hours in a day, and the NBC has really done what it could.

You said the Opposition Parties have to pay for announcements while Regional Councillors do not pay. Regional Councillors have a slot and it does not say Regional Councillor from which Political Party. It is a slot for all Regional Councillors to make announcements, because we know that what they are doing is a public responsibility. However, if you want to make an announcement in a different slot, then you have to pay for it. Even if Regional Councillors are doing it at a different time slot, which is not meant for public announcements, then they have to pay. I remember one time I wanted to announce a death and the programme meant for that was over and I had to pay to have that announced. Therefore, that goes for everybody.

The NBC is the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation and it can never be the SWAPO Broadcasting Corporation. That is the name and that is how it is.

Comrade Hage Geingob, thank you for congratulating the NBC on its improvements. You have rightly raised concerns on the late night programmes and there are more of the Chinese programmes. On this one, I have to go back and discuss it and see how we can deal with it, because you are not the only one who mentioned it to me today, somebody else outside did the same. Of course, we know that the Chinese are one of our main partners when it comes to supporting the NBC, but we will see how we can consolidate the cooperation between the Chinese and ourselves. They have very good programmes, but you are asking whether they cannot be mixed with others so that the topics can change.

You asked for more coverage of issues of national interest and I fully agree with you that this is necessary and this question has been coming up so many times. What we really have to understand here is that the NBC can cover an event of three hours, but you cannot expect them to show the whole three hours on television, the reason being that there are different events taking place on the same day and they that all need to be covered. That is why editing is done. For example, the President's State of the Nation Address is covered live, however in addition to it appearing on the News, during the course of the week you may find an hour has again been dedicated to show the programme. I am sure if the Colleagues follow, you would realise that some of the programmes appear on the news and then you can see them in a specific programme.

It is the intention of the NBC to raise its own funds, but as I have mentioned in my motivation, this is a dream which is likely not to be realised, unless as a Government we invest more money to allow the NBC to have two television stations, one for news and programmes and one for commercial purposes, because the time that we have with one station is dedicated to developmental programmes. Much of it is dedicated to the local content that we are talking about and these are screened free of charge, they are not paid for. That is why

this dream will not be realised. However, if we inject money and we have two stations, one commercial and one for news and programmes, then the NBC may be able to raise funds. However, at this stage it is just not possible.

Comrade Nghimtina, thank you for commending the good work done by the NBC. You referred to the pensions and the morning programme. You then asked whether there could not be cameras in Regions so that the Regions could send in information daily so that we know what is happening throughout the country. This is also, what the NBC would like to see, however within these limited resources it is just not possible. Some private people have taken the initiative and I can give the example of Lüderitz where there is a small NBC office. This was made possible by the support received from the Municipality of Lüderitz who provided free office space and the Private Sector which decided to buy the camera for the NBC to be there. That is how that office came about, but we are just not able to do so elsewhere.

You mentioned the sale of tapes and this is already being done. If you want a tape of the Independence celebrations or inauguration, just write a letter and you will be given the price. When an event is covered for three hours and only five minutes is shown, it does not mean the rest is thrown away. All these things are kept in the archives of the NBC as well as the National Archives where it can be used for history.

Honourable Manombe-Ncube thanked the NBC for the sign language and I am sure the NBC staff members are here. I will take the message so that they make use of the right terminology, which is “*people with disability*”. I will make sure that they use the right terminology.

Comrade Nicky Iyambo and others mentioned the pronunciation of names, but I am also happy that some Honourable Members have acknowledged that there has been an improvement and in any situation there is always room for improvement and I will take the message to the NBC that we need to train our staff, people need to practise. It is their profession and they need to ensure that they do it properly.

You mentioned the wrong pictures shown during the news. I also detected it at one point and it is part of the training, because we use this technology. As time goes on there will definitely be improvements, but it is really being taken care of.

Comrade Abraham Iyambo mentioned the *Talk of the Nation*, the quality of the debate, the selection of topics and the panellists and topics sometimes being repeated. I know that in the past two weeks, there was a repetition on the topic of corruption, but that was done on the demand of the people. First, they felt that the first one was not inclusive because there was no representative of the

Government. Then there was a request that there must be a representative of the Government and that is why it was repeated.

The NBC does the selection of the topics, but there are also times that the community selects topics or even Ministries. I remember when I was at the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare we asked the NBC to have a topic focusing on women, because we were approaching the International Women's Day. Therefore, you may suggest a topic to the NBC and it will then be taken up.

Sometimes there is a problem regarding panellists. People are invited and they do not turn up. Some refuse to accept, some accept the invitation, and then when the programme starts some people are not there. Some of them decline at the last minute and then the whole programme will be affected. The people like the programme. We should just participate and select the topics.

Honourable Ulenga, I saved on the paper because I looked at my Budget. Thank you for acknowledging the Tsumkwe station. You said the NBC should have more depth in its programmes. I say there is room for improvement in every situation. I must say today's Debate was so encouraging to the NBC and I will take the message and that will definitely enable them to improve.

Coming to the translation of certain words – and this was also mentioned by other Members – lately the NBC shows a programme when we have new Ministries, such as the Ministry of Safety and Security. The first time when it was announced in Oshiwambo, there was no difference from the Ministry of Defence. I checked with the NBC and asked them how they deal with a situation like that. I was informed that they go to the UNAM Language Centre whenever they are confronted with situation like that. They then ask how it can be translated into a local language. That is how they are getting the information on the languages. Some of the words you have, such as *Oushimba* mentioned, might have been used on Radio, not necessarily by the NBC announcers. It may be mentioned by people who are phoning in, and that is another possibility. I do not want to say it did not happen, but I just say that there is that possibility. If it is used by the NBC staff, then we will work on it.

If the word *Kwangara* is really used by the NBC staff, we will look into it. For example, maybe somebody is covering the news from Okongo and Comrade Royal will remember that in English you say San people and while we are talking on the television, they intervene and say, “we *Ova Kwangara* do not want this and this.” If you get something like that, it is not really an offence because that is how it is. It is just that bad connotation, but when you go into that community, that is what they are saying.

The NBC production on agricultural programmes needs to improve. Yes, we

definitely need to improve, but as I also mentioned in my introduction, production is very, very expensive and I am telling you that it is the production which is putting financial pressure on the NBC, because you have to take the camera, take those people in the field, they are the ones doing research and at the end of the day they come and sit, do the editing and put everything together, unlike when there is a private person who is doing it and then you go and buy.

That industry is very small in Namibia and that is why I can maybe bring in here the issue raised by Comrade Booys, that other Ministries can make use of the NBC in the same way they are paying for the Government Garage. If you have a programme on fisheries, which is always covered, pay for it. I will be happy to introduce that and I am going to look into this very seriously, because some people are saying no, it is a public broadcaster, why should I pay if I am bringing in an agricultural programme. We are going to discuss that and I will be very happy if Ministries will be willing to pay for their programmes.

Honourable Peya Mushelenga, I will discuss with the NBC to post the news on the website. He is not here and I cannot answer people who went to sleep.

Comrade Kaiyamo, thank you for congratulating the NBC for the work that they have done and the Ministry for facilitating the copyright on the President's photo and your support for the film, "*Where Others Wavered*."

Honourable Venaani, I am not quite sure if what you have observed is correct, because you want to argue that when it comes to Parliament, the NBC News only waits until Parliament time in order to cover what happens. I do not want to agree with you on this, because there are issues, which are mentioned here in Parliament and you find that it will be a news bulletin. You will not get it the same evening it was said, because by the time we finish here at 17:45, the news is already prepared. However, when there is something very urgent, arrangements can always be made for that issue to be brought in, but that must really be a very urgent issue. Otherwise, you find issues, which were discussed here becoming news items and then they are repeated at the slot of Parliament.

I have also noticed that sometimes we do not have international news, but not because we do not have items, but also because there are days when we have a lot of local news that really need to be covered. As a result, you may find there is only one agenda item on international news. This is only because of time, because when you are running a television station, you have allocated time for the news, that the news starts 20:00 and ends this hour. Now we give priority to local news and that is why sometimes you do not have international news. If we can have two stations, we will definitely be able to have news that is more international.

You mentioned the need for live coverage of the National Assembly and the

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National Council. We have no problem with that if money can be made available. That will mean the equipment and the personnel will have to be there all the time and if you want me to work on it, I will work on that Budget and bring it to Parliament and if Parliament can tell me where to get that money, we would want to do that.

There was a programme on the local services and you were talking about the Herero Service. I do not want to comment on this because I realised from the Debate that you were not really talking about radio services, but there is something between the two of you, which I do not understand. Please just solve it wherever it can be solved.

Comrade Kazenambo, thank you for recognising the work of the NBC and also for appreciating the work done by the outgoing Board under the leadership of Comrade Kaumbi and the good wishes to the new Board under the leadership of Comrade Ya France.

The biggest allocation in the capital Budget is specifically for transmitters, because we know that people are demanding radio services and it is justifiable, because radio has now become the major means of communication and as I mentioned in my presentation, radio now covers 97%. Maybe I can also react here to the comment by Honourable Tsheehama. The NBC Radio covers 97% of the country, which means more people listen to the NBC than any other radio station. There are nine commercial radio stations in Namibia, but they are confined to specific areas. For example, Radio Antenna is only in Walvis Bay, Windhoek and Gobabis and Radio Kudu is only in Gobabis, Tsumeb, Keetmanshoop and Lüderitz and they are not really covering the whole country.

The problem is that you will never satisfy all the people and you have to appreciate the situation these journalists are finding themselves in. When you cover an event where so many things are said, then you have to condense it into three minutes, because that is how you run a television station. Some Members referred to the BBC and CNN. If you listen to those, they are more monotonous than anything, because they run the same news items the whole day.

Honourable Ben Amathila, I appreciate the sympathy you have expressed with us considering the constant cuts on this Vote and one just does not know where we are going to end. As I said, it will be extremely difficult for the NBC to raise funds. They need to be boosted if they have to raise funds and it is just difficult.

It is true that the equipment is ageing and they need to be replaced. I agree with you on the N\$3 million for the Film Commission. This is only for promotion purposes and will not go a long way. If you look at the Budget, the Film Commission is given N\$53 million, but N\$50 million are going to the film,

“Where Others Wavered” and what the Commission is left with is N\$3 million in order to carry out their programmes. We really need to see the priorities and I will talk to our Colleagues of the Ministry of Tourism and see what can be done about the villages, but we find ourselves this situation.

The film was initiated by private initiative, it remains a private initiative, and that is why I mentioned that there are negotiations between the Film Commission and PACON so that they enter into an agreement to pay back the money.

Honourable Tjihuike expressed his concern about the N\$65 million for the film. I have already explained that what I am asking here is N\$50 million. N\$15 million were already given to the project by the Commission in line with its mandate of promoting the Film Industry in the country and it was going to be a once-off payment because the initiators were going to raise funds. They utilised those funds by putting the project in motion, making all the arrangements, entering into contracts with actors and bringing them into the country for the film to start. At the point when the people were already here and N\$15 million were already spent, then the remaining money did not realise and that is where the Government had to come in to save this project, because we have already spent N\$15 million and we agreed that it is project of national interest. It is going to generate money and then the money will come back. I am sure you are going to be happy when the film is released.

New Era is doing very well because the board has been guiding it. They have used all their savings to become a Parastatal and to build their headquarters. Now they need to continue operating and that is why as Government we are giving them the N\$4 million. They still need to grow and we cannot just say that they should go and borrow and then they collapse before they get off the ground. We must really appreciate what they have done and we need to support them.

Comrade Amweelo, thank you very much for your support and underlining the importance of information and work which the NBC is doing. I am happy that you still remember the appeal of the Director-General to the Parliament when he came to address the Parliament and I hope the Parliament can do something about it.

You had a specific question on the Communication Commission where I said that it is a body that regulates broadcasting, telecommunication and postal services. This is exactly what the Commission is doing and this is in line with the Amendment of the Act governing the Namibian Communication Commission. I cannot remember which year it was amended, because originally, the Communication Commission was only regulating broadcasting, but then the law was amended and extended its regulatory work to

telecommunication and postal services. They are the ones who are issuing licences. For example, Telecom is paying an annual fee to this Commission. Everyone who is running communication in this country in whatever form has to pay this Commission because they are the ones who are allocating frequencies and there is no duplication.

Honourable Diergardt wanted to know why Afrikaans, *die taal*, is not one of the languages used. We know we are building this Nation and nobody should be discriminated against. I remember Honourable Kosie Pretorius also asked this question at one time. I am going to find out how much time is being consumed and it should not be seen in a negative way, because German is also not used.

Honourable Tsudao Gurirab is not here and I will answer his questions. If a person asks me a question, the person should remain here until I answer.

Comrade Katali mentioned the printing of the posters. I hope all Members of Parliament have had their photos taken by now. A letter was circulated here based on a request from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, because we now want to do the Government posters. We are going to make a poster for Cabinet and one for Parliament, but they will only be ready around July. We will ask Treasury authorisation to sell them and at how much.

Honourable Mutorwa, I have partially responded to the question of translation and maybe we could consider your recommendation. When we come to the local languages, some of the people we are using are not permanently employed by the NBC, but we invite them just for that particular time.

Honourable Ithana, I thank you for congratulating the NBC. You mentioned the balanced reporting of the New Era. Maybe the poster is going to help the people at the New Era to know who is who, so that you are not going to see Netumbo's photo with the name of Nghimtina

Comrade Nambahu, thank you for acknowledging the improvements. The NBC will look into the Language Services that do not recognise the national days, because these days are national and they must be treated as such. I think I understood what you were trying to say on how this issue was reported in the New Era and serious issues should really be addressed seriously and where they want to be lighter, they can be lighter.

Comrade Ilonga is not here and I will not answer his questions.

Comrade Ndjoze, thank you very much. We will miss you and I will take the message that we can make use of your skills. We are talking about training here and maybe we can make use of you in one of our training courses. We

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appreciate your offer to do it for and I think I will take the message to the Board to see how they can utilise your services.

Comrade Esau asked a question on the implications of the reduced Budget. There will be implications, we are going to feel them and you may find that even the local programmes of the NBC may be reduced if there will be no funds for people to go in the field to do the research, because as I said, to produce a programme, you need people to go and do research. There may be vehicles but if there is no petrol, they will not be able to move, so there will definitely be implications. I said in my introduction that as a Ministry we would do our best within those limited resources, to do the maximum we can do.

Comrade Booyis, I agree with you that the NBC has become a major communication tool in our country and I will take up your proposals with my Colleagues in the Cabinet. If they could pay for their programmes, that would boost the NBC and I think the Minister of Finance will be helpful.

Finally, Comrade Kazenambo, thank you for your support of the New Era and NAMPA and their Boards.

To conclude, thank you very much for your support to the NBC and pay your television licences!

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 29
agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:26 UNTIL 2005.06.16 AT 14:30