

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

**DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Ms D Sioka

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

(21 March 2005 – 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 G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister of Veterans Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr H Angula	<i>(Works, Transport and Communication)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<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>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice and Attorney-General)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

(21 March 2005 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service and Culture)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Works, Transport & Communication)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</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>
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr R Dinyando	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr P Ilonga	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Mines & Energy)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr N Goabab

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr J De Waal	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
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Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo

Mr M Venaani *(Deputy Whip)*

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr A Mbai

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Dr L Amathila (Ms) *(Deputy Prime Minister)*

Dr M Amweelo (Mr)

Mr N Angula *(Prime Minister)*

Mr H Angula

Dr S C Ankama (Mr)

Ms L Basson

Ms C Bohitile

Mr H Booys *(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House
Committee)*

Ms H Christian

Mr Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*

Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*

Mr B Esau *(Deputy Minister)*

Dr G H Geingob (Mr)

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*

Ms P Haingura *(Deputy Minister)*

Mr M Hausiku *(Minister)*

Mr P Iilonga *(Deputy Minister)*

Ms E Ipinge

Ms P Iivula-Ithana *(Minister)*

Dr A Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*

Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garöeb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr M Goreseb	
Ms G Tjombe	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

Mr R Diergaardt

Ms I Hoffmann

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr C Namoloh

(Minister)

Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)

(Deputy Minister)

Mr P Smit

(Deputy Minister)

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
15 APRIL 2008
WINDHOEK**

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? Honourable Minister of Justice.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2004, 2009
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, 2004, 2006 Annual Reports of the Ministry of Justice. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report, Honourable Minister. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Minister of Information.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the 2007/2008 Annual Report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report, Honourable Minister. Other Reports and Papers? None. Notice of Questions? Honourable Viljoen.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

15 April 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

QUESTION 50:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 24 April 2008, I will ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following questions:

1. According to the Affirmative Action Act, 1998, preference should be given to designated groups. Does it also include non-Namibian citizens?
 2. How many non-Namibian citizens are part of the 80,000 Civil Servants?
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QUESTION 51:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 24 April 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement the following question:

What are the procedures to familiarise and inform the public at large with the offering of farm units for allotment?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Questions. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 3rd of June 2008, I shall Move, that this Honourable House discusses and considers the 2008 flood situation in northern Namibia beyond the Etosha Pan and to find ways how the influence of this natural disaster can be dealt with in future to minimise its negative effect on the inhabitants of that area and on Namibia as a country.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

I further Move that the Motion be referred to the applicable Parliamentary Standing Committee for possible recommendations.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Wednesday, 4 June 2008, I shall Move that this Honourable House discusses and considers ways to foster a spirit of accountability and responsibility amongst the school principals and teachers of this country as a measure to improve the effectiveness of education in Namibia.

I further Move that the Motion be referred to the applicable Parliamentary Standing Committee for possible recommendations.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 5th of June 2008, I shall Move that this Honourable House discusses and considers the responsibility and accountability of the inhabitants of Government buildings as far as general maintenance is concerned.

I further Move that the Motion be referred to the applicable Parliamentary Standing Committee for possible recommendations. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motions, Honourable Member. Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Health.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. When diplomats met in San Francisco, USA, to form the United Nations in 1945, one of the things they discussed was setting up a global health organisation. What emerged is the World Health Organisation (WHO), which is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations' system.

15 April 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

The World Health Organisation's constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day.

This year the World Health Organisation celebrates its 60th Anniversary. Being one of its 193 Member States, Namibia will join the global community in celebrating this important landmark. The commemorations in Namibia will last throughout the year and will be launched tomorrow during a press conference at the UN House. The theme for the celebration is "*Our Health, Our Future*". The World Health Organisation Country Office in Namibia has planned a series of events to tell the history of the World Health Organisation in public health over the past 60 years, highlight major milestones and challenges for the future.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the eradication of smallpox – a disease which had maimed and killed millions – in the late 1970s is one of the World Health Organisation's proudest achievements. The campaign to eradicate the deadly disease throughout the world was coordinated by the World Health Organisation between 1967 and 1979.

Another important public health landmark is the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. As you know, we are part of this global effort and later in the year Namibia expects to receive an assessment team to deliberate on our polio efforts with a view of certifying our polio-free status.

Along with other Member States, Namibia negotiated the International Health Regulations, a critical tool in the fight against the global spread of infectious diseases. The International Health Regulations (2005) came into force in June last year. It establishes Rules that countries must follow to identify disease outbreaks and stop them from spreading. It gives the World Health Organisation a more direct role in investigating and stopping outbreaks.

Honourable Members, the World Health Organisation is one of our major partners in health. The Government of Namibia, particularly the Ministry of Health and Social Services, closely works with the World Health Organisation experts to advance the public health agenda in Namibia. Our Programme of Cooperation was established soon after Independence and since then we have benefited from the unparalleled expertise, experience and dedication of the World Health Organisation from the Headquarters to Regional and Country Office teams.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the World Health Organisation's achievements in the past 60 years have been remarkable in development of norms and standards for public health, building up efforts to achieve the health related Millennium Development Goals, undertaking measures to ensure global health security, tobacco control, improvement of diet and physical activity, improvement in health care provision and fairer access to health services. During the past decade, health has achieved unprecedented prominence as a key driver of socio-economic progress and more resources than ever are being invested in health.

Honourable Members, in spite of these achievements, the challenges confronting public health have changed in many ways. Today, the World Health Organisation operates in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing environment.

The boundaries of public health action have become blurred, extending into other sectors that influence health opportunities and outcomes. Poverty remains a major contributory factor to poor health, and poor health traps large populations in poverty. The World Health Organisation's 60th Anniversary campaign in Namibia will aim at, among other objectives, increasing public awareness on how to lead healthy lifestyles and invest in our health, which is also the capital for our future.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, allow me, through you, to extend my invitation to Honourable Members of Parliament to take part in the celebration activities that will be announced during the press conference tomorrow, 16 April 2008.

Finally, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia I would like to congratulate the World Health Organisation on its 60th Anniversary. I thank you for your kind attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Any discussions? None. I call on the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION
OF COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

15 April 2008

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

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call upon the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Hans Booyis, to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill.

Vote 01 – “**PRESIDENT**” – **N\$ 253,428,000** put for Introduction.

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

It was just on Thursday, 10 April 2008, when His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia was in this Chamber delivering the State of the Nation Address. In terms of the Namibian Constitution, this noble task is a constitutional requirement. Honourable Members of this august House may also recall that the President was in this Chamber on Tuesday, the 19th of February this year opening the 7th Session of the Fourth Parliament. This gives an indication that our democracy is alive and kicking, something which the Namibian Nation should be proud of.

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HON DR KAWANA**

On the 21st of March this year, which is barely three weeks ago our Nation celebrated 18 years of tranquillity, peace and progress. Again this is a special and significant development in that for the first time since our Independence on 21 March 1990, those who were born after Independence whom we refer to as the “*born frees*” will be able to exercise their democratic right to vote in any election.

I should also note here that in three years’ time, these “*born frees*” will be in a position to occupy any public office except that of the President. Indeed, they will be capable of replacing all of us in this Chamber without violating the Namibian Constitution, should they be democratically elected. This is a product of our freedom fighters, the heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle for national Independence.

Allow me, therefore, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our fallen Comrades heroes and heroines, including those who were Members of this Chamber such as Nathanael Maxuilili, Moses Garoëb, Peter Mweshihange, Nangolo Ithete, Dr. Mose Tjitendero, Richard Kapelwa Kabajani, John Alphons Pandeni, Niko Bessinger and others. Allow me, therefore, Comrade Deputy Chairperson to wish our Nation a happy 18th Independence Anniversary.

Since the tabling of the National Budget by our capable Minister of Finance, Comrade Nandjila Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, a few weeks ago, Members of this august House have been exercising their democratic rights as representatives of the Namibian people, to debate and discuss the Appropriation Bill. The past Debate has centred on generalities, because we were at the Second Reading stage of the Appropriation Bill. We have now reached the Committee Stage where we are required to discuss specific projects of our Votes to establish how the scarce public resources have been allocated to our Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

Today, I am standing before you to present to this august House my motivation for the funds allocated to Vote 01, Office of the President for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. The funds requested will enable the Office of the President to carry out the onerous duties and activities of that high Office. Honourable Members are aware that the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia places heavy responsibilities on the President of the Republic of Namibia.

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In order to carry out such responsibilities within the letter and spirit of the Namibian Constitution, the Office of the President requires a reasonably funded and well-equipped support infrastructure.

Article 27(1) of the Namibian Constitution states that the President is the Head of State and of the Government, and is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force.

The most critical functions of the President are contained in Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution. The President also exercises numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. In this regard, Parliament from time to time through legislation assigns functions to the President. In addition, the Common Law as well as Customary Law imposes certain functions on the President. These responsibilities place a heavy schedule on the calendar of the President whose implementation requires both human and financial resources.

At the international level, the President has continued to promote a positive image and international esteem of our country.

Today, Namibia enjoys a respectable status and our citizens are able to proudly walk tall among the free Nations of the world. In this regard, many sons and daughters of Namibia are being called upon, from time to time, to assist in the resolution of conflicts in many parts of the world. This has been done within the framework of the United Nations, the African Union and SADC, to mention but a few.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, it is not my intention to dwell on the activities undertaken by the Office of the President during the last Financial Year. These will be fully reported on in the form of an Annual Report to be tabled before this august House. This notwithstanding, allow me to give a summary of activities undertaken by our President.

The President made time available to interact with various stakeholders. He invited to State House important economic actors and policy-makers from the Government, private sector, and organised labour in order to engage them and solicit their views regarding the performance of our economy. Through such actions, the President is demonstrating his commitment to investment promotion and the revitalisation of our economy.

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HON DR KAWANA**

The President has also continued to engage our citizens, from the business community to political leaders, from church leaders to traditional leaders, and from Regional and Local Authority Councillors to individual citizens.

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

On missions undertaken at bilateral level, the President's main objective was to promote the economic interests of our country and use such opportunities to attract investments. His programme included meetings with industry and business leaders in those countries so that they could be informed about investment and business opportunities that Namibia can offer.

I am proud to inform Honourable Members that Namibia continues to enjoy respect from the international community both at bilateral and multilateral levels. In this regard, the President undertook a number of missions abroad.

In most cases, the President included local business leaders and entrepreneurs in his delegation in order to enable them to interact with their counterparts and initiate business-to-business contacts. Indeed, I must add here that some of our business leaders have already concluded business deals as a result of these bilateral contacts. In addition, Namibia experienced a record number of State and Official visits by both Heads of State and Government.

At the multilateral level, the President attended the AU Heads of State and Government Summit and the SADC Summit among others.

It is now my honour 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 2008/2009 Financial Year.

From the summary, I trust that Honourable Members will appreciate how the requested financial resources are intended to be used.

Like previous Financial Years, the current Financial Year will be a busy year for the President, both domestically and internationally. This can specifically be seen through his constant engagement with communities from all backgrounds, particularly his schedule to tour all our Regions in order to familiarise himself

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with the prevailing socio-economic conditions in our country. In addition, His Excellency has been invited to a number of countries around the world. These visits will enable Namibia to once again cement good diplomatic relations with such countries and provide an opportunity to promote trade relations between our business community and such countries.

In addition, we expect a number of Official and State Visits to Namibia from Heads of States and Governments of other countries. Unfortunately, I am not at liberty to disclose such countries until such time that communication has been made through diplomatic channels between Namibia and those countries. What I can confirm is that as a member of the United Nations, African Union and SADC, the President is expected to attend Summits of these Organisations.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I now turn to discussing specific programmes. There are five main programmes covered under Vote 01. These are 01 - Protection and Defence of the Namibian Constitution; 02 - Delivery of Services; 03 - Intelligence; 04 - Office of the Founding President and 05 - Cabinet Secretariat.

Programme 01: Protection and Defence of the Namibian Constitution 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 the Namibian Constitution;
- Ensure that the Organs of State deliver on Government's overall objectives; and;
- Ensure that threats to Namibia's national security, territorial integrity, political stability, military threats and economic sabotage are checked.

Therefore, the aim of this programme is to comply with Chapter 5 of the Namibian Constitution which deals with the President and other relevant provisions of the Constitution as well as to maintain peace, stability and good governance. The activities involved under this programme include hosting of ceremonial functions, official opening of statutory bodies, receiving and commissioning of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, undertake State and Official Visits to various countries in order to promote bilateral relations,

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commercial trade and investment as well as to sign treaties with other countries. There is no doubt, therefore, that these activities ensure compliance with the Namibian Constitution.

The programme will also enable the President to carry out functions vested in him and the Cabinet. The programme is aimed at strengthening and consolidating diplomatic relations with the international community, improve governance, enhance democracy and attracting foreign investors to Namibia.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, before the inauguration of the New State House on the 21st of March 2008, I had an opportunity to read what was reported in one of our print media. It was speculated that the cost of the project is about N\$800 million. Another print media made similar speculation after the inauguration.

May I, therefore, use this opportunity to inform the Nation that the final cost of the project will only be known when all issues pertaining to the project have been sorted out. This includes the expropriation of certain private properties and the finalisation of negotiations regarding municipal land on which the State House is located. As previously stated, this is a transparent Government, we have absolutely nothing to hide regarding this matter. We will inform the Nation about the total cost once outstanding issues have been sorted out. What I can, however, inform the Nation at the moment is that the Government has thus far spent N\$383,311,800. It should be pointed out that within this programme, an amount of N\$95,438,000 is provided in the new Budget. This figure is to cover landscaping, furniture and equipment at the residence, water purification, retention fees, possible purchase of land and occupational rent for 18 undeveloped plots.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, an amount of N\$129,868,000 is requested under this programme.

Programme 02: Delivery of Services: As pointed out earlier, the President is the Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities. As such he has to ensure that the Executive Branch of Government acts in the national interest.

Therefore, the President directs, monitors and evaluates the activities of Offices, Ministries and Agencies in the implementation of Government policies, promotion and maintenance of conducive environment for commercial trade, and

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HON DR KAWANA**

contribution to the promotion of international peace and security. The activities of the programme will include assisting the President with executive policy matters through research, policy analysis, speech writing and technical briefs in collaboration with various Offices, Ministries and Agencies as well as to carry out assignments tasked by the Head of State. The overall objective of this programme is to improve public service delivery, regular review of policies and promotion of national unity and harmony in our country.

Honourable Chairperson, an amount of N\$14,811,000 is requested under this programme.

Programme 03: Intelligence: As Honourable Members are aware, our intelligence agency carries out its functions in terms of the Namibia Central Intelligence Service Act, 1997 (Act No. 10 of 1997). The main function of the Service is to defend the territorial integrity and Independence of Namibia. To this end, effective gathering of intelligence is vital in order to thwart threats to Namibia's constitutional and democratic order. From time to time, the Service shares the gathered intelligence information with law enforcement agencies in order to prevent and combat criminal activities.

In broader terms, the Service contributes to the enjoyment of life by the Namibian people in a safe and secure environment, where they can pursue their activities without the threat of violence and crime. Honourable Members will agree with me that to go further than this may compromise our security and is not consistent with customary practice in any democratic State. The security of our Nation is not negotiable. Therefore, Honourable Members do not expect me to elaborate further than this.

Under this programme, an amount of N\$79,753,000 is requested.

Programme 04: Office of the Founding President: The main purpose of this programme is to ensure that the Office of the Founding President is properly maintained and that efficient services are provided to the Founding President. As Honourable Members are aware, the Founding President performs ceremonial functions as per invitation from the public and the private sector. He also attends official functions inside and outside Namibia. The Founding President also carries out functions provided for under the Former Presidents Pension and other Benefits Act, 2004 (Act No. 18 of 2004). I must point out that following the seamless transfer of power, our democracy has grown deep roots. Honourable

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HON DR KAWANA**

Members on this side of the House look forward to a second seamless transfer of power to another SWAPO Party President after the expiry of the second term of the incumbent President.

I have no doubt that with the continued trust of our Nation, the SWAPO Party will obtain more than two-thirds majority in the forthcoming elections. Under this programme, an amount of N\$20,775,000 is requested. Included in this amount is an amount of N\$15,500,000 for the construction of the Office of the Founding President.

Programme 05: Cabinet Secretariat: This programme carries out activities provided for under Chapter 6 of the Namibian Constitution, namely, the Cabinet. It is, therefore, common knowledge that Cabinet Secretariat performs constitutional functions assigned to it by the President and/or Cabinet. As such, Cabinet Secretariat serves as the depository of the records, minutes and related documents of the Cabinet.

Under this programme, an amount of N\$8,221,000 is requested.

In summary, an amount of N\$116,028,000 is requested for the Operational Budget, while N\$137,400,000 is requested for the Development Budget.

Honourable Chairperson, with these remarks, I respectfully urge all the Honourable Members of this august House to support and approve the total allocation of N\$253,428,000 in respect of Vote 01, Office of the President. I so Move and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you, Honourable Minister.

Vote 02 – **“PRIME MINISTER”, N\$420,762,000** put for Introduction.

15 April 2008

APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members.

It is my distinct honour to present to the National Assembly the motivation for the Budgetary Allocation of Vote 02 – Office of the Prime Minister for the 2008/2009 Financial Year as set out in the Medium Term Plan which will end in March 2011.

I wish to point out that information on the salient features of the Office of the Prime Minister's projects reported in the Budget has already been provided to this august House. In this regard, Honourable Members will recall that the Annual Report of the Office of the Prime Minister for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2007 was tabled by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. The Report provides updated information on the flagship programmes and projects of the Office of the Prime Minister.

I have also tabled a comprehensive Report on the situation of the recent floods in our northern and north-eastern Regions. This calamity is now receiving the full attention of the Government and about 66% of the allocation to the Prime Minister's Office to demonstrate that we pay priority to that programme very seriously.

The information provided in the aforementioned documents supplement this motivation. Therefore, I will not elaborate on the details of the various programmes and projects of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the past Financial Year has been a very busy one for the Office of the Prime Minister. In fact, the activities of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister continue to expand. In this regard, interaction with all stakeholders of all sectors in various communities across the country continues to be a centrepiece of the Office in carrying our constitutional mandate. Such interaction requires of us to provide guidance, advice and assistance on the successful implementation of the policies and programmes of the Government. As a result, the justifiable needs expressed by our people guide our policy-making and policy implementation process.

Honourable Members, I wish to emphasise that the projects incorporated in the drafting of NDP3 form the core of our Programme Budget.

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In order to fully implement, manage and evaluate the map of Vision 2030 and the achievement of the key result areas set out under NDP3, the Office of the Prime Minister, as in the case of other Offices, Ministries and Agencies, is soon to complete its Strategic Plan. The five-year Strategic Plan will be based on achieving the strategic development outcomes set up in aforementioned National Plan.

Thus the Budget Allocation of the Office of the Prime Minister over the next medium term and in particular the allocation for 2008/2009 will again provide us with necessary resources to achieve the realisation of our strategic goals, while placing the Office in a stronger position to coordinate the work of the Government.

Honourable Members, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework provides that the Office of the Prime Minister is expected to execute its Budget according to three main programmes and these programmes are:

- Constitutional obligations of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister;
- Public Service Management and Improvement;
- Disaster Recovery and Emergency Services.

We are expected to execute these programmes with the requested appropriation of N\$420,7 million for the Year 2008/2009. This amount is higher by more than N\$300 million compared to last year's Budget. The whole Financial Year's allocation is divided into:

- An Operational Budget of N\$396,5 million; and
- The Development Budget or Capital Budget of N\$ 24,2 million.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I will now proceed to highlight the projects as we have budgeted for in line with the aforementioned programmes.

Programme 1 – Constitutional obligations of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister:

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An amount of N\$ 23,9 million is to be availed under this programme. This is an increase of about N\$ 7 million, which is about 30%, compared to last year's allocation. The main reason for the increase is the inclusion of essential secretarial services which is in line with respective statutory provisions necessary for both the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council and the Public Office-Bearers Remuneration Commission. This amount is also aimed at enabling the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to continue to enhance the work in assisting and providing support to His Excellency the President, to coordinate Cabinet business and to lead Government business in Parliament.

Some of the major projects currently in the process of being executed under Programme 1 are worth noting:

Firstly, the Transformational, Economic and Social Empowerment Framework (TESEF) Consultative Process, approved by Cabinet, is a major policy undertaking. The eventual finalisation of this empowerment framework will revamp all future actions of socio-economic empowerment, so that empowerment policies and programmes targeting historically disadvantaged citizens are broad-based, inclusive, fair, transparent and sustainable. Thus, the consultancy which started last year will proceed in the new Financial Year.

However, once the process of consultation and policy formulation is concluded, means will have to be found to implement the approved TESEF policy framework. The Office of the Prime Minister has, therefore, already provided an amount of N\$ 1,4 million as from the 1st of April 2009 for implementation.

Honourable Members, the TESEF policy proposals will be submitted for debate in this august House after all the necessary consultancies and related work has been finalised and completed.

San Development Project: The funding for this project has received a significant boost and now stands at N\$800,000, double the amount approved for the same programme the previous Financial Year. The project which aims to facilitate socio-economic mainstreaming of the San people by way of cross-sectoral projects, is enthusiastically embraced by the San communities.

The micro-projects which are already underway are managed and evaluated to ensure maximum socio-economic impact. We have concentrated on providing support to students at secondary and tertiary institutions. We have resettled

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landless San for agricultural projects and we have launched housing improvement initiatives. The promotion of the San language at some schools has been started and we are busy studying additional bankable projects for the San empowerment.

Thirdly, the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council has been inaugurated in accordance with the Act. The Right Honourable Prime Minister, as the Chairperson of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council has put in motion benchmarking exercise on performance contracts with a 4-month evaluation of State-Owned Enterprises. Additional mandate has been requested to establish the remuneration parameters of boards and chief executive officers of these institutions and to develop policy directives on investment and dividend requirements.

The database on skills profiles, qualifications and experience of board members will also be updated. The work of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council and its Secretariat will require just over N\$ 3 million from the 2008/2009 Budget.

Programme 2: Public Service Management and Improvement, will require N\$108,2 million. Several projects, designed to enhance Public Service Performance and improving public confidence in the delivery of service by the public sector of Namibia, are ongoing.

The Honourable Minister of Finance already provided details in her Budget speech about the improvement of the conditions of service for staff members.

The Office of the Prime Minister is preparing for the bargaining process with NAPWA and NANTU to consider further proposals on salary increments for the more than 84,000 staff members over the next three-year period. This should be ready for implementation as from the 1st of April 2009. The efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the Public Service are key policy instruments of the Government to ensure that development expectations are achieved in our young democratic enterprise.

Over the next year we will expand the implementation of the Performance Management System across the Public Service, establish the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) and expand e-Government initiatives. In addition, projects on the service delivery improvement scheme, a new job evaluation and crafting system and HIV in workplace initiatives are soon

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to be operational. This will enable us to design implementation strategies for strengthening of internal improvement levels of the Public Service.

The projects I have just mentioned have been previously motivated in this august House and thus need not to be repeated here. I can report that NIPAM, as a dedicated training facility, will require N\$24,2 million this year for building an infrastructure in Namibia. NIPAM will soon be established as a statutory body, offering custom-made training programmes for public servants. Various committees have been established with stakeholders and international representation to ensure that NIPAM is a well-organised and reputable institution.

Let me again utilise this opportunity to express appreciation for the continuous support we have been receiving from our cooperation partners in this venture, namely the Governments of Finland, India and France.

As part of the same programme a significant allocation of N\$75 million, spread over the next 3 years, has been made towards the implementation of E-Governance Policy Framework. As I indicated already last year, this investment will be made because we are convinced about the immense socio-economic developments which ICT usage can bring to many areas of public domain.

A number of initiatives, such as those in the area of electronic human resource capital management, electronic records and documentation management and the modernisation of the Government ICT infrastructure to ensure faster and more reliable communications are under way and will be expanded.

This initiative, in turn, will build on other electronic projects of the Offices, Ministries and Agencies, including financial and asset management, custom administration and the population and election registers.

In accordance with the mandate of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister will guide and oversee all aspects of ICT planning, development and usage of Public Service. The ultimate goal is to support an increased access to Government services, enhance the professionalism of the Public Service and to improve service delivery.

Honourable Members, last year Namibia hosted the Continental Public Service Day to highlight the indispensable role Public Servants have played in Africa.

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Another such event will take place this year in June. The theme for 2008 Africa Public Service Day Celebrations is, “*From Policy to Result-based Implementation.*” I call upon Offices, Ministries and Agencies to give their full participation and support to this important day.

Programme 3: Disaster and Emergency Management: Honourable Members, this is the last programme on the Office of the Prime Minister’s Budget. As I mentioned earlier, this programme carries the largest allocation on our Vote, namely N\$288,6 million.

The need for effective disaster response, mitigation and management at this time of floods and drought is an essential element of safeguarding people’s lives and guaranteeing sustainable development.

The undesirable effects of climate change seem to be intruding steadily in Namibia and we must be better prepared to avert social and economic meltdown that climate changes could produce.

The Report on the floods in the north and north-east submitted toward the end of last month in this august House provided extensive information on the extent of the disaster which was declared by His Excellency, President Pohamba and is testimony of the need for allocation of resources to mitigate the impact. The funding now before you is meant to address the plight of the population affected by drought and floods. A full Report will be submitted on the expenditure which was incurred so far in the response and mitigating efforts we have undertaken.

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, in view of my Motivation of Vote 02, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$420,762,000 as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2008 for the Office of the Prime Minister. I thank you.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 04
HON DR KAWANA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 04 – “AUDITOR-GENERAL”, N\$28,323,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise once again to motivate Vote 04, Auditor-General. It is common knowledge that the Auditor-General performs important constitutional functions as per Article 127(2) of the Namibian Constitution.

The Office of the Auditor-General is one of the offices in our governance system which promotes transparency and accountability. In any democratic system, the Nation is entitled to know how the taxpayer’s money is used by the Government of the day. The best vehicle for this function is the Office of the Auditor-General. It is, therefore, imperative that this Office should be adequately resourced by both financial and human resources in order to carry out its constitutional mandate.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the Office of the Auditor-General has set itself a number of Ministerial targets during the 2008 to 2011 Financial Years.

The provided resources will be used to, *inter alia*, publish three performance audit reports and four follow-up reports in 2008/09, and two from 2009/10 onwards. In addition, the Office plans to carry out 50 asset inspections throughout the country per annum in order to ensure the safeguarding of our national assets. I am also assured that the Office intends to table all 124 Financial Reports within the limits of the law. In order to achieve these objectives, the Office is forced to source additional services from the private sector to audit municipalities, boards, corporations and parastatal bodies.

In addition to the above, the Office has set itself two main programmes during the 2008/09 Financial Year. The first programme involves **Performance Auditing**. This component will strive to achieve the following goals:

- Finalise at least three performance audits and four follow-up audits;
- Retain good quality recommendations which are 100% acceptable to clients;

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- Assist the Public Accounts Committee to enforce the recommendations made in Performance Audit Reports;
- Continue in-house training for newly recruited performance audit staff as well as to organise workshops; and
- Improve the quality of Audit Reports.

The second programme will involve **Financial Auditing**. To this end, the Office of the Auditor-General will:

- Strive to obtain timely financial statements from institutions to be audited in order to decrease the backlog of one hundred and eighty-six Reports by one hundred and nineteen Reports;
- To ensure implementation of Audit Reports by Offices, Ministries and Agencies;
- Organise continuous and relevant training events to improve audit quality;
- Reduce audit costs per hour by implementing the time recording system in full;
- Ensure full acceptance of recommendations made on Audit Reports by the Public Accounts Committee;
- Improve the language used in the Audit Reports to be user friendly to the public; and
- Carry out fifty asset inspections throughout the country per annum in order to safeguard national assets.

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 of N\$28,323,000 for the Office of the Auditor-General, as set out in the Appropriation Bill. The requested amount is broken down into the following activities:

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HON DR AMATHILA**

Performance Audit - an amount of N\$4,912,000 is required to fund the following activities under this programme:

Conducting Performance Audits:	N\$4,172,000
Carry out follow-up audits:	N\$ 620,000
Develop a new office building:	<u>N\$ 120,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>N\$4,912,000</u>

Financial Audit - an amount of N\$23,411,000 is required to fund the following activities under this programme:

Auditing of Municipalities	N\$ 1,232,000
Auditing of Town Councils	N\$ 909,000
Auditing of Statutory Bodies	N\$ 820,000
Auditing of Funds	N\$ 70,000
Auditing of Village Councils	N\$ 800,000
Auditing of Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies	N\$18,950,000
Erect new office building	<u>N\$ 630,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>N\$23,411,000</u>

With these few remarks, I humbly request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$28,323,000 in respect of the Office of the Auditor-General. I so Move and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

Vote 30 – “**ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**”, N\$14,144,000 put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, thank you for granting me this opportunity to introduce the Budget of the Anti-Corruption Commission for the Financial Year 2008/09 to this august House.

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As the Honourable Members would recall, the Anti-Corruption Commission has a separate Vote, which is in line with statutory requirements that their operations should be independent.

By virtue of it being a statutory institution, the Anti-Corruption Commission's functions are set out in its empowering statute, namely, the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act 8 of 2003). These functions are then also encapsulated in the two main objectives listed in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, which reads as follows:

- Ensure that allegations of corrupt practices are properly investigated; and
- Prevention of corruption.

The Anti-Corruption Commission should thus, in the first instance, be placed in a position to effectively and efficiently investigate allegations of corruption. In order to achieve its second objective, the Commission would have to conduct public educational campaigns on corruption. By doing so the Commission would enlist the public confidence and support to combat corruption in Namibia. We are of the view that the funds earmarked for the Commission's activities over the next Medium Term Plan period will go a long way towards achieving the aforementioned outcomes.

For the Medium Term 2008/09 to 2010/11 (that is, for a period of three Financial Years), a total amount of N\$59,872,000 is allocated to the Anti-Corruption Commission. As a newly established entity the Commission is facing numerous challenges and needs the Government's support to become an effective and efficient entity able to fight the scourge of corruption. The increase of N\$25,200,000 over the last Financial Year's allocation clearly underlines the Government's political will to fight corruption.

Acting within the constraints of the last Financial Year's allocation, the Commission managed to secure the recruitment of its senior investigators and effectively investigate a substantial number of the approximately 900 reports of alleged corrupt practices received by the Commission.

The allocation for the 2008/09 Financial Year would enable the Commission -

- To proceed with restructuring of its organisational component and the recruitment of additional investigators.

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- To acquire additional office space to house the additional investigators;
- To provide for specialised training to improve the skills of its investigating officers so as to enable them to better discharge their statutory duties;
- To conduct more forensic investigations requiring the appointment of special investigators;
- To be more proactive and conduct through its public education and corruption prevention officials various educational activities in an effort to effectively curb corruption;
- To establish offices in the Regions;
- To proceed with a feasibility study with regard to the construction of a building that would cater for the special needs of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Honourable Members, the Anti-Corruption Commission is also recognised both domestically and internationally as the leading Authority in the fight against corruption in Namibia.

On the domestic front, the Commission is a fully-fledged partner of the Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID) in Namibia's Zero Tolerance for Corruption Campaign, a campaign which His Excellency, President Pohamba launched during March 2006.

Furthermore the Commission, in compliance with the requirement in its empowering legislation that it should educate the public on corruption and on its functions, held various workshops and addressed various organisations and institutions such as –

- A workshop at the Hans Seidel Foundation. The aim of the workshop was to update civil society and the donor community on the Namibian efforts to tackle corruption.
- A presentation to the British Council Management Forum on Anti-corruption and governance.

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- A presentation to the Ongwediva College of Education on the Danger of Corruption for Educational Development in Namibia.
- A seminar for the business community aimed at soliciting their support in the fight against corruption.
- A commemoration function held at the UN Plaza in Katutura. The purpose of this function was to commemorate the International Day against Corruption and encourage all to take a common stand against corruption.
- A workshop for the media to exchange ideas on how to better fight corruption and improve the communication between the Commission and the Media in general.
- A presentation to the 10th Annual Meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders on the mandate of the Commission and the role of traditional leaders in fighting corruption.
- A presentation to the Teachers Annual Conference: Omuthiya and Oshivelo Circuit in Tsumeb. The topic was Corruption with Reference to School Management
- A workshop for the Namibian Defence Force at Luipaard's Valley Military Base.
- Workshops were also held at various educational institutions such as UNAM, Polytechnic of Namibia, the National Health Training Centre, Windhoek Vocational Training College, and the Neudamm Agricultural College.

With regard to the international support received during the 2007/2008 Financial Year, it is worthwhile mentioning that -

- Three investigators Anti-Corruption Commission were sponsored by the United States Department of Homeland Security to attend a Financial Forensic Techniques Training Course in Gaborone, Botswana.

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- Four investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission were sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat to attend a training workshop for anti-corruption investigators and prosecutors in Windhoek, Namibia.
- One investigator of the Anti-Corruption Commission was sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat to attend a Human Rights Training Workshop in Windhoek, Namibia.
- Four investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission were sponsored by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to attend a Money Laundering Workshop in Windhoek, Namibia.
- Two investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission did a post-graduate certificate in corruption studies in Hong Kong which was funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF).
- One investigator of the Anti-Corruption Commission was sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to attend a Financial Crime and International Investigation Course in London.
- One investigator of the Anti-Corruption Commission was sponsored by the Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa to attend a Trainer Workshop: Public Campaigns on Anti-Corruption in Pretoria, South Africa,
- A grant was also awarded by the United Nations Democracy Fund for a project that is to be executed by the United Nations Development Program in partnership with the Anti-Corruption Commission. The duration of the program is two years and the 2008/09 Financial Year is the second and final year of the programme. The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the newly established Anti-Corruption Commission so as to enable it to fulfil its mandate as per the Anti-Corruption Act of 2003, and to support the Government of Namibia's objective to ensure good governance, accountability and service delivery in line with the national development objectives.

Furthermore on the international front, invitations were extended to the Commission to attend –

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- The Global Forum V in Johannesburg, South Africa. This is an inter-Governmental forum that deals with corruption on a global scale. It provides the opportunity to discuss anti-corruption best practices and exchange information on policies, best practices and prevention measures.
- The International Cooperation Workshop on Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on Corruption in Montevideo, Uruguay. The aim of the workshop was to, *inter alia*, develop a guide on the United Nations Convention on Corruption to practitioners.
- The 7th Global Forum on Re-inventing Government in Vienna, Austria. The Global Forum aims to contribute directly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals with the over-arching goal of cutting extreme poverty and hunger in half by 2015.
- The Southern African Forum Against Corruption (SAFAC) Annual General Meeting at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen regional cooperation to ensure the effective implementation of the SADC Protocol on Corruption.
- The Second Annual Conference and General Meeting of International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) in Bali, Indonesia. The key objective of the meeting was to formulate a further development plan for IAACA on the basis of discussions on best practices with regard to preventative measures in the fight against corruption.
- The Second Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Bali, Indonesia. This Conference of State Parties focused on key issues such as the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Asset Recovery and Technical Assistance.

To conclude, there are two programmes in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, namely –

- Investigation of allegations of corrupt practices; and
- Establish and implement measures to prevent corruption.

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HON KAURA**

In respect of the first programme an amount of N\$8,487 000 is allocated in respect of the 2008/09 Financial Year and in respect of the second programme an amount of N\$5,657,000 is allocated.

Honourable Members, in view of this Motivation on Vote 30, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$14,144,000 as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2008/9 in respect of the Anti-Corruption Commission. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IN THE CAPRIVI, KAVANGO, OKAOKO AND THE FOUR-O REGIONS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 on Wednesday, 9 April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Any further discussions? If there are no further discussions, I now call on Honourable Kaura to respond.

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**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
HON KAURA**

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I listened attentively to the contributions made by the various Honourable Members to this Motion and let me start out, Honourable Deputy Speaker, by telling a small story.

A villager was walking through the bush and he stumbled upon a human skull and he turned around and he was talking to himself, saying, "*How did this skull land here?*" And the skull answered: "*Talking brought me here.*" He said: "*What did you say?*" "*Talking brought me here.*" So he ran all the way up to the village, went to his chief and said, "*Chief, I saw something wonderful here in the bush, I saw a talking skull.*"

The chief said, "*Please do not make jokes with me.*" "*Honestly, I saw a talking skull there deep in the bush.*" He said: "*If I walk over there to see that skull and it does not talk, you are not going to come back.*" He said: "*I can put my head on a chopping block, the skull is talking.*" The Chief therefore called all his Indunas and they walked into the bush. He said: "*There is the skull, it is talking.*" He said: "*Skull, please tell the chief how you got here.*" Dead silence. "*Please Skull, talk, and tell the chief how you landed here.*" Dead silence. The Chief turned around and said, "*Chop his head off.*" His head was therefore chopped off and they walked away. When they walked away the skull turned around and said: "*Oh, talking also brought you here.*"

Honourable Members, talking brought me to this Chamber, so I shall continue talking and try to articulate those things I think are crucial and important bread-and-butter issues to our people.

The first person who contributed was ***Dr Nickey Iyambo*** and he said that tractors will be provided for all food producing areas and there is a programme to construct 5 silos at Rundu, Katima Mulilo, Ohangwena, Oshana, etcetera, and pedigree bulls are already provided. I mentioned in my speech that I saw Honourable Nickey Iyambo providing bulls and rams in the area of Omusati.

The ***Prime Minister*** said the Regions are involved in a mixed economy – agronomy and animal husbandry. There is a need for public education on how to use fertilisers. Ploughing services are too expensive and the payments are too high and private tractors will not be able to serve the purpose. He went on to say quarantines are far from people and transport is very costly and we must assist our people to restock, especially after this drought. We need a comprehensive

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HON KAURA**

programme how to assist subsistence farmers. That was the position of the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Honourable Moongo and Honourable Riruako supported the Motion. Honourable Chief Riruako talked about the cattle sold in the Mangetti Block. *Honourable Helmut Angula* was extremely scholarly and he talked of the Doha Round, WTO and the two or three Maputo Summits, the upscale of Budgetary Assistance by 10% to agriculture and so forth and so on. He talked of the Sirte AU Summit, provision of fertilisers and he said Namibia is providing fertilisers. I think the problem which came out in the contribution of the Right Honourable Prime Minister is that the people are not taught how to use fertilisers and then at the end of the day it does not bring the expected results.

He said that tractors are provided for by the SWAPO Party Government. The Government withdrew the tractor services and then the tractors were privatised.

That was my problem, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that the tractors were privatised and based on what the Right Honourable Prime Minister was saying, they are too expensive and the ordinary people cannot afford those tractors and that is why the people have resorted back to hoeing and using draught animals.

Then, of course, there came *Dr Abraham Iyambo* and he was saying that I was politicising the issue and I must recognise that a lot of things are being done and he was unhappy that I referred to the railway to the North, that it was a white elephant and 38,000 tons rail transport is taken away from road transport. Well and good, congratulations.

Honourable Venaani supported the Motion and my Son, *Honourable Ilonga*, said the “*Motion is diluted by my Honourable Father because he attacked SWAPO*”. Of course, that was echoed by *Dr Tjiriange*. He said the Motion is trying to prove that SWAPO is bad and SWAPO is not a DTA puppet and so forth and so on. That was by Dr Tjiriange.

Honourable Nambahu said assistance to farmers is a noble idea. The *Honourable Attorney-General* talked about the issue of land ownership in communal areas and that the people do not have title deeds and the Attorney-General stood strongly on that point, that it is important that the people in communal areas get title deeds to the land.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, all I can say, is that I agree and I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for being so positive in dealing with this Motion, that we must do something to educate our people in communal areas, provide tractors and educate them in the utilisation of fertilisers, otherwise all the efforts would be useless.

Therefore if people are offended by the white elephant railway and whatever the case may be, I tender my humble apology to Dr Iyambo.

I think we must consider it as a categorical imperative, that it is very important for us to think of providing those facilities so that in the era of people using grain for fuel and maize, which is heavily produced in the United States of America, is bought to produce bio-fuel and it is getting more expensive, if we cannot produce our own maize and wheat and mahangu, our people will go hungry because these products are going to become so expensive that they would be out of the reach of any ordinary person, including us, the Members of Parliament.

Therefore, all the other things notwithstanding, let us look at this issue as it confronts us in view of the fact that the globalising world, whatever happens anywhere, on Wall Street, affects us here in Namibia. Forget about whether the Motion came from Kaura and/or he is trying to score political points, let us think of our people and the future and the provision of tractors. The credit will go to the SWAPO-Party Government, not to Kaura. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now put the Question.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. Please, I do not want us to be put in a very difficult situation. I would seriously suggest that if there is no other problem, for the Question to be put another day so that we can consult, because if you put the Question now, it may be that we are forced to do certain things that we were not supposed to be doing. Let us consult because there are certain insurmountable problems that may cause us not to do what we want to do. We need consultations before you put the Question.

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: First of all, let me ask the concurrence of the House, because this situation has never arisen after somebody has replied. When I asked for further discussions the Honourable Minister should have risen and given his point of view, saying that he postpones the Motion. Now the Honourable Member has already replied. What advice can we get from the former Deputy Speaker? Has it ever happened, because it is a new situation to me?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I think it is possible to postpone the Question and then put it tomorrow. It is possible, in my view.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, the Question will stand over to tomorrow if we happen to have time for that, because tomorrow we are going to extend the time. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: NATIONAL INTEGRATED
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare Move that the Policy be considered?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. I rise to motivate the Policy on Early Childhood Development.

The future of any country or any society depends on its young children, because today's children are tomorrow's citizens, workers, parents and even future leaders. If we therefore do not prepare our children by investing in their

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON MUHARUKUA**

education, development, health and productive lives, we are putting our future generation at great risk.

Soon after Independence in 1990 our Government, with support from development partners, notably the United Nations Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations with stakes in Early Childhood Development, developed the first cross-sectoral national Early Childhood Development Policy which was approved by Cabinet in 1996.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this Policy served as a legal framework that guided the operation and implementation of the Early Childhood Development Programme throughout the country. Almost a decade later it became necessary to review the first National Early Childhood Development Policy with a view to amend it. The policy review became necessary in order to recognise the profound socio-economic changes that have impacted on our society.

Among these changes is the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has negatively affected the lives of young children, their families and their communities, leaving a number of orphans and vulnerable children.

The first National Early Childhood Development Policy was also reviewed to take into account other existing national policies, plans and programmes that have an impact on the Early Childhood Development. Such policies and plans include the NDP2 and NDP3, National Development Framework, Vision 2030 and the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP).

Furthermore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the first National Early Childhood Development Policy of 1996 was amended to allow the transfer of children aged 5 to 6 from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to the Ministry of Education as these children enter pre-primary education. This, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, is in line with the provisions in ETSIP. The review and the subsequent Amendment of this first Early Childhood Development Policy were approved by Cabinet Decision No 20/07.1106/010 in 2006.

Honourable Members of this august House, in November 2007 the Amendment of the National Early Childhood Development Policy was tabled in Cabinet and

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by its Decision No 19/06.1107/010, the amended Policy was approved and Cabinet directed that it be tabled in this august House.

Honourable Members, against this background I recommend to this august House that the amended National Early Childhood Development Policy be endorsed by you and supported. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister. Any further discussion? Honourable Kaura?

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I only want to congratulate the Honourable Deputy Minister Muharukua. Knowing Honourable Deputy Minister Muharukua's background as a typical Himba woman from the Kaoko area, to have improved her to this extent is absolutely admirable and I want to advise her from now only to read and not to speak without reading. Thank you.

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

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I pray for your indulgence to adjourn this Debate until tomorrow afternoon.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned until tomorrow afternoon. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL
FUNDING FOR BY-ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion

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by the Honourable Moongo. The Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. Honourable Dr Kawana?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Motion before this august House.

In my humble opinion the Motion could have made sense if the Honourable Mover suggested that there should be some overall increment in the funding of Political Parties as opposed to funding by-elections.

However before I address this issue, allow me, Comrade Deputy Speaker, to affirm the saying that “*democracy is expensive.*”

Fundamental principles of democracy, which are universally recognised, will always enjoy my support.

When the new political outfit arrived on the Namibian political calendar there was euphoria amongst some Minority Parties because they thought that the SWAPO Party’s power base is no more. These hopes were quickly dashed following the SWAPO Party’s landslide election victory at Eenhana. Allow me, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to take this opportunity to congratulate the mighty SWAPO Party for their election victory.

The election results show that the SWAPO Party still commands the trust of our Nation and I have no doubt that we are more than ready at Omuthiya, even more readier than at Eenhana.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, principles of democracy go hand-in-hand with transparency. Transparency requires that the public should know or is entitled to know what goes on in a country and more so if there is an establishment of a Political Party, and this issue has perturbed some of us. Namibia, being a democracy, I move that Political Parties must debate this issue. I believe that before a new Political Party is registered, it should not be registered in secrecy because the hallmark of democracy is about transparency and, therefore, I suggest that the Electoral Act of 1992...(Intervention)

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HON GURIRAB: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Speaker, in terms of existing legislation Political Parties are registered with the Electoral Commission and I do not know whether the Minister is referring to that process or a similar process. I would have thought that that process is hardly a secretive process. It is legislation passed by this Chamber and it is a transparent process. It sets out how the process of registration goes. Is the Minister saying that this is a secretive process and we need something different from that?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member jumped the gun, I was about to address that particular issue.

In my view, as I always held this view that democracy means transparency, it goes hand-in-hand with transparency, what should have happened is that whoever wants to register a Political Party in Namibia must first hold a press conference, informing the Nation about the intentions of the group, collect the names and those names must first be published in the *Government Gazette*, so that everybody must inform himself or herself whether that name is a name of a person who is still alive or it is a name of a deceased person. At the moment there is no way one can verify that prior to the registration of a Political Party and that is not democracy.

I believe that before a Political Party is registered, when the application is filed with the Directorate of Elections, the Directorate of Elections must be compelled by law to publish the whole list, so that whoever wants to object can have that opportunity to object, because what has transpired of late is that some of those names were put on the list against the will of the people who found themselves on the list and without their knowledge. To me that is not democracy.
(Intervention)

HON GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. The principles of democracy and the right of freedom association in our Constitution, even the requirement of whether it is five hundred, six hundred already goes against the very principle of freedom of association. If one person wishes to form a Political Party, let him do

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so. Whether the person has support comes later at elections. However, the nature of our democracy is that if two persons wish to form whatever association, they should freely do so. For Political Parties the test comes later. If you are alone, the elections will show that indeed you are one or two. So, we should not support the two processes. Whether you have any support that process comes later and that is determined through the vote.

That Namibians can associate, whether they are two, three, four or whatever number, is something that is so fundamental and is prescribed in the Constitution. You should not take that right away from Namibians.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I think the Honourable Member is confused, because as a State we also have the right to protect the rights of individuals, because some of these names were obtained through fraudulent means and it is not fair to those individuals to be associated with an entity which they have nothing to do with. Therefore, that is why I am saying it is proper for the Directorate of Elections to publish the names. (Intervention)

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Order. Fraud is something which is criminal and if there are fraudulent activities, we have recourse to courts of law. If fraud is committed, you go to the courts of law. You do not come and protest here. However the right for Namibians to associate in whatever number is a fundamental right which you cannot prescribe.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Honourable Member is even more confused now. In terms of the Electoral Act of 1992 there is a requirement that the names of those who register during the registration process of voters must be published before they are allowed on the final voters' list, in order to enable other citizens to object if they have reason to believe a voter who is on the list does not qualify. What is now the difference? That does not violate the law, which does not violate the Constitution. That is why the Honourable Member is confused. (Intervention)

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HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. I shall not refer to the Honourable Member as confused, but I think he is drifting in that direction. Article 21 – you are corrupting the process. I am not talking about electoral register, I am talking about fundamental rights to form any association. Let me read Article 21 on Fundamental Freedoms, Sub-clause (1) which reads: “*All persons shall have the right to freedom of association, which shall include freedom to form and join associations or unions, including trade unions and Political Parties.*” What I am saying is that it is fundamental, you should not intrude on that right. You should not co-opt the requirements of the electoral lists or whether people have support or not. Those can be tested elsewhere, but the people have the right to form associations, it is fundamental and we must protect that right. Whether they are only two people, that can be tested later and we should not worry about that.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is even more confused now. Freedom of association does not mean you must put people on the list against their will. It does not say that and in terms of fraud and to go to court, I want to remind the Honourable Member that some of our citizens do not have the means and that is why the State must always protect their interests.

In this regard I say that transparency is also in terms of registration of Parties. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Minister, do you agree with me that the manner in which the registration of certain Parties was done, in the fashion that you are describing, was really meant to achieve a certain purpose and that purpose was to arrive at the benchmark required by the Electoral law, that of five hundred members.

Having achieved that number fraudulently and in secrecy, they could get registered. Do you agree with me that that was the whole purpose why individuals’ rights were violated by being included on a list without their consent?

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Secretary-General, you are right, that was precisely the purpose. That is why Parties of that nature will never win elections in this country because they do not have support. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask my Colleague a question? Comrade Kawana, given the background of what you have just described, do you not think that our law should also put in place a mechanism of deregistering Parties so registered?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Definitely, Comrade, but I think for now, as you are aware, the Ruling Party is just too strong, we are not even worried about those things. We will crush them democratically through the secret ballot. We do not worry about those things. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Dr Kawana, the question about the funding of Political Parties, there are some Parties who get less than twelve or exactly twelve votes, how would you calculate their share of the funding?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Comrade Iyambo, I was in fact coming to that. I was saying the Motion could have received support if the Mover moved that the votes obtained by Members of the National Council must also be considered and in fact, during the course of the Debate I am going to Move an Amendment to the Motion, to Move that the Members of Parliament and of the National Council must also be considered or be taken into account when calculation for the allocation of resources to Political Parties is done.

At the moment the current formula is definitely discriminatory, because it excludes Members of Parliament who are in the Second Chamber, that of the National Council.

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Comrade Deputy Speaker, let me say this: Sometimes Minority Parties have themselves to blame. They only appear in certain places...(Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? For example, during the election of Rundu Rural West I drove my Toyota over there, but the next day His Excellency President Pohamba flew over there with all the Government machinery available. Given a person who has to travel by road and the President going with his entourage and all the Government machinery at his disposal, do you think that in that situation the playing field is level and is it not necessary to assist us to level the playing field by also giving me a helicopter to fly over there?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I think the Senior Honourable Member is more experienced in politics than me, but then I think he knows the attributes of being a Head of State. You do not cease being a Head of State because it is a weekend or because it is night-time or because it is a holiday. That title is twenty-four hours, seven days a week for five years in terms of the Constitution. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask the Minister a question? Honourable Minister, it looks like the Honourable Members are so concerned about Minority Parties getting support to one day maybe get some votes. If they are concerned about democracy and the other day I went to a funeral where SWANU, one of the Founding Parties who are outside, put their flag there at least to show sympathy, which I never saw any other Minority Party here do. Now is it fair that those minorities who are here do not want us as SWAPO majority to get more under the formula? They are however not thinking about those who are outside who want to come in. If they were honest they would have said, "*give money to SWANU too.*"

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Exactly, Comrade Vice-President, I was coming to that, but you put it even better than I would have put it myself.

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Reverting now to the question by Honourable Kaura, firstly, the President of the Republic was never in Rundu Rural West. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask my Senior Comrade a question? Comrade Kawana, do you believe that even if we fly Honourable Kaura to Kavango with a helicopter or with the Falcon it would make a difference? (Laughter)

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is true, in Rundu Rural West it was not His Excellency President Pohamba, it was the Father of the Nation.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: In response to the question put by my dear Comrade Mushelenga, that is precisely why they did not take part in Eenhana by-election, because history shows that particularly in that part of our country they always get zero votes. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I am terribly sorry to disturb my senior Minister, but may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Comrade Minister Kawana, are you aware that the other day His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, drove to Omuthiya-Gwiipundi for a SWAPO rally, but at the next meeting that followed, one of the candidates of an Opposition Party has withdrawn his membership from that particular Party and changed his membership back to the SWAPO Party, because he felt he was betrayed. It is just a question of making it clear that people do not follow the means of transport that you are using, but they follow the principles of the Party.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, dear Comrade, I fully agree with you. I should however not be quoted on what I

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am going to say because it is not my views, it is the views of the public, our Nation, particularly in the rural areas.

During the 2004 election campaign ...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Minister a small question? Comrade Minister, is it not maybe the title of "*Opposition*" which also makes the people afraid to vote for the Opposition Parties, especially the people in the rural areas, only to hear people oppose?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: My dear Sister, it is not that they are afraid of the word "*Opposition*", they just do not know them. They only go there during elections. That is why I am saying I should not be quoted on what I am going to say because I heard it from the masses who were complaining in 2004.

They were saying the Minority Parties are like mosquitoes, and frogs. When you see a frog you know the rain is coming, when you see a mosquito you know the rain is coming, when you see a Member of the Opposition Party you know the elections are coming. That is what they are saying, you are not known. You only go to the North during election time... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Minister of Presidential Affairs, the question is, I am trying to understand your argument, my understanding of the Motion is to try and empower not the Opposition Parties, not the Minority Parties, but to empower the Ruling Party, SWAPO, not to misuse Government properties, but to use funds that have been allocated to the Party for that purpose. That is my understanding. Do you not think that your argument is based on something else rather than the actual Motion on the Order Paper?

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Honourable Member is really confused because I am following the Order Paper. I invite him to consult the Order Paper.

What I am saying is that I want to amend this Motion to say that for many years now the SWAPO Party has been discriminated against, denied its fair share of the contribution and, therefore, the Members of Parliament who belong to the Second House, namely the National Council, must also be considered for purposes of funding to Political Parties. I so Move, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Table the Motion, Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Comrade Deputy Speaker, in view of the lateness of the hour, may I now adjourn the Debate until tomorrow?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until tomorrow. The First Notice of a Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion or the Deputy Minister?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the indulgence of this House to postpone this Motion until the 23rd of April?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands adjourned to the 23rd of April 2008. The second Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I wish to adjourn the introduction of the Motion until next week, Thursday.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands adjourned until next week, Thursday. I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow 14:30.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I thank the Honourable Members for their efficiency, I move that we adjourn until tomorrow 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:35 UNTIL 2008.04.16 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
16 APRIL 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we start our business I have an announcement to make. I have been informed that the Honourable Peya Mushelenga has been elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration. Honourable Clara Bohitile has been elected as the Deputy Chairperson of the said Committee.

I now, in terms of Rule 38(6) declare Honourable Peya Mushelenga and Honourable Clara Bohitile as duly appointed Members of this Standing Committee with immediate effect.

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

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of Namibia Press Agency for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON SIOKA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report, Honourable Minister. Further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without notice, that leave of absence, due to his illness, be granted to the Honourable Peter Tsheehama until the 30th of April 2008. I so Move.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: I further Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker, without notice, that the proceedings on Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 11, 28, 29 and 30 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motions, Honourable Member. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON SIOKA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Booyis, to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 30 had been introduced.

Vote 03 – “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**”, **N\$90,053,000** put for Introduction.

HON SIOKA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, much has been said about the 2008/2009 Appropriation Bill by numerous speakers in this august House during the past few weeks. However, I have decided not to bore you with unnecessary details but rather to get straight to the point.

Firstly, allow me the opportunity to highlight some of the activities, which were carried out during the 2007/2008 Financial Year.

We requested funding for the upgrading of the Parliament Website, which has been achieved and is in the final stages of commissioning.

The National Assembly successfully hosted the SADC Parliamentary Forum’s 22nd Plenary Assembly from 31 May – 9 June 2007 at the NamPower Convention Centre. In total, 150 delegates, consisting of Presiding Officers, Members of Parliament and staff attended the Conference.

The Namibia Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association hosted the first ever Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference (Africa Region) from 17 to 20 October 2007 at the Windhoek Country Club Resort which was well attended by delegates from the Commonwealth Africa Region.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON SIOKA**

The first Children's Parliament was held from 14 to 18 May 2007 and was a whopping success. Allow me to thank the Line Ministries who took part in this exercise. You will agree with me that the first session of the first Children's Parliament exceeded our expectations.

In the same vein I want to commend the Members on the excellent and qualitative work that the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees had undertaken in terms of their respective oversight functions and activities, which incidentally, significantly increased during the previous Financial Year.

In this regard, I wish to refer you to the Speaker's speech for the 2006/2007 Budget Debate, in which he mentioned that the National Assembly was faced with a situation where resources voted for turned out to be inadequate, as a result of the ever increasing requirements of Parliamentary oversight, electoral observer missions and voter education in the Region, which naturally, put all role-players under pressure and has historically led to a situation where financial resources were exhausted before the end of the Financial Year.

I am, however, pleased to report that this scenario has now been reversed and that for the first time the requests of Standing Committees have been allocated as requested. There would, therefore, be no excuse for not honouring Committee activities as planned. I consequently urge Members of Parliamentary Portfolio Committees to make hay while the sun shines and to facilitate their activities in such a manner that all activities be carried out as planned during this Financial Year.

We are also active participants in the international arena, so much so that the Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly, has been nominated as the sole candidate for Africa for the Presidency of the International Parliamentary Union, for which elections are to be held in October 2008. This will be another challenge for the National Assembly for this Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

For the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period ending 31 March 2008 the National Assembly had two targets, namely to:

- *“Improve knowledge of Parliamentarians to 96% by March 2008”*
- *“Increase the level of media coverage to at least 60% by March 2008”*

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON SIOKA**

Honourable Members, you will agree with me that both these targets are difficult to measure. The contributions made by Members can only be evaluated by you, since only you can determine whether we have reached our target or missed our goal. However, if the latter is applicable, you only have yourselves to blame. Can you honestly say that the knowledge of Parliamentarians have improved to the level predicted in the Medium Term Plan? If not, let us change the *status quo*.

We have mentioned it before, and I want to reiterate it again. Since the opening of the fourth Parliament, we have seen efforts being made by both new and old Members to improve their capabilities and become effective.

However, if we want Members, particularly the newcomers, to be on top of the contemporary Parliamentary issues, whether they are local, regional or international, they need continuous exposure through training and/or missions abroad. Learning is a continuous process. It is also necessary to ensure that cooperation between regional and international Parliaments expand in the best interest of Namibia and its people. Visiting other Parliaments and/or hosting counterparts from other Parliaments, as well as participation in other kinds of encounters, will greatly enhance the fostering of contacts, exchange of experiences and best practices, given the opportunities and uncertainties associated with globalisation.

With regard to the second target, I believe that the coverage of activities of the House has increased tremendously, but I will leave that to you and the members of the media and the public at large, to comment thereon.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the National Assembly requested an amount of N\$90,053,000 for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. This amount represents N\$88,053,000 for the Operational Budget; and N\$2,000,000 for the Development Budget.

The Budget of the National Assembly, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, consists of two programmes, namely:

- Enhancement of the Parliamentary Process; and
- Consolidation of Democracy

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON SIOKA**

Programme 1: Enhancement of the Parliamentary Process: An amount of N\$30,220,000 has been earmarked. The purpose of this programme is:

- To oversee and administer the House and to represent the National Assembly at national, regional and international levels;
- To ensure the enactment of legislation, oversee the work of Portfolio Parliamentary Committees; promote consultation between Parliament and other branches of State and intensify Parliament's outreach throughout the country.

Main activities:

The Parliamentary process will be enhanced through:

- Capacity building for Members of the National Assembly through workshops and seminars regarding "*Best Parliamentary Practices*", to improve interpretation of Standing Rules and Orders, how committees function and its powers. The services of resource persons to share experiences of other Parliaments. An amount of N\$11,008,000 has been requested for this activity.
- Strengthening and promotion of cooperation between national Parliaments and regional and community outreach programmes to raise awareness on e-governance and the role of Information Communication Technology in development and civic education. The Mobile Training Unit would be used to conduct training to communities in basic skills and competencies of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) to familiarise them with the Parliament Website and how they can interact with Members of Parliament through this facility, and N\$7,805,000 has been allocated to this activity.
- Developing and initiating implementation of National Assembly's communication strategy. Enhance the procurement of goods and services for the National Assembly in a fair and competitive process that will result in best value for money (HANSARD, printing of bills, photocopying, and production of Committee Minutes, etcetera). An amount of N\$10,972,000 has been estimated for this purpose.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON SIOKA**

- Overseeing the recruitment of staff and training for staff to develop specific workplace skills in accordance with the Public Service Staff Rules. Expenditure has been estimated at N\$ 4,385,000.

Programme 2: Consolidation of Democracy: An amount of N\$55,833,000 has been allocated to this programme.

The overall goal of this programme is to facilitate the work of Members when they consider questions of national interest and concern. This is primarily done by organising and coordinating all activities relating to the parliamentary sessions of the National Assembly and its Standing Committees, and other special events, making sure that Members are well informed of the activities of the National Assembly, facilitating their participation in the National Assembly events, promoting implementation and follow-up on resolutions, assisting in the preparation of corresponding reports, and maintaining the institutional memory of the National Assembly.

Main Activities:

- Consolidation of the Parliamentary democracy by undertaking familiarisation visits to the Regions to interact with traditional leaders, business people and civil society on the democratic and legislative structures to facilitate interaction and feedback between the National Assembly and the public. Expenditure for this activity has been estimated at N\$9,948,000.
- Providing of professional services such as legal and research by scrutinising Bills submitted to the National Assembly for tabling and summarising complex and lengthy Bills referred to Parliamentary Committees. This activity at a cost of N\$5,194,000.
- Facilitating deliberations and decision-making on financial issues and ensuring effective financial management including planning, reporting and internal control for the National Assembly estimated at N\$6,134,000.
- Ensuring effective human resource management policies to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competency and integrity in the Secretariat, increasing employee productivity and contributing to the long-term career development of the National Assembly staff at a cost of N\$4,969,000.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON SIOKA**

- Operating and maintaining the Parliament Building and grounds and managing the use of the conference facilities. Furthermore, also providing fully functional office accommodation with appropriate furniture, office equipment and supplies and with up-to-date communication facilities and information technology. An amount of N\$3,238,000 has been allocated for this purpose.
- The provision of funding for Political Parties to improve the democratic process for which an amount of N\$17,688,000 has been earmarked.
- Organising Parliamentary events for school-going children (Children’s Model Parliament) to promote awareness of the role of Parliament, to familiarise themselves with issues pertaining to all Regions and to attend Parliamentary Debates, Committee Hearings and to interact with individual Members of Parliament and key officials of the three Branches of State. N\$3,008,000 has been earmarked for this purpose.
- To provide and maintain an effective ICT infrastructure and knowledge management estimated at N\$4,520,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now call upon you to approve your request for Vote 03: National Assembly for the 2008/2009 Financial Year and before I conclude I would like to urge Members of this House not to query too much the funding for Political Parties. Let us quickly approve it and not delay it. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL”, N\$39,909,000 put for Introduction.

HON SIOKA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is with profound gratitude that I once again present before you the Budget Estimates of Vote 11 of the National Council for the Financial Year 2008/2009.

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The National Council succeeded in meeting most of its targets for the previous Financial Year. Funds received were utilised for the two programmes as planned, namely: To improve Parliamentary Process in the National Council and to improve citizens' understanding of and participation in the democratic process.

The National Council did not make any switches between the programmes, and did not overspend on any programme during 2007/2008 Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, for the National Council to continue effectively carrying out the two programmes effectively as outlined above, it is requesting N\$39,989,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

Programme 1 – Enhancing Parliamentary Process:

The purpose of this programme is to enhance the Parliamentary Process, to strive for quality input from the public into the law-making process as well as to improve the quality of Parliamentary Debates in the Chamber.

The central theme under this Programme is to ensure the availability of effective support throughout the law-making process at the National Council. Such support ranges from staffing, financing, investing in information technology systems and acquisition of recording equipment appropriate for the timely production of HANSARD, Parliamentary Reports, Minutes of the proceedings in the Chamber and ultimately for the timely passage of Bills that are brought before the National Council for review.

Similarly, the Programme entails the provision of technical support, such as research, information, and reliable advice to all Members of the National Council to enable them to carry out their duties and functions.

In order to carry out this Programme, the National Council is requesting an amount of N\$19,853,000 for 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Main Activities:

The main activities under this programme include the provision of research, information and other technical support to Members of the National Council; to

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ensure that they debate from an informed point of view and to revise the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Council when necessary.

To improve the quality and reliability of the advice given to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Members of Parliament and staff to enable the National Council to exercise and perform its constitutional powers and functions effectively. To ensure that Rulings of the Presiding Officer are properly recorded and a prepared booklet containing those Rulings is printed. This will require an amount of N\$11,798,000.

To ensure that the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members attend to their international and regional obligations at forums such as Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Pan African Parliament (PAP), Global Parliamentary Forum, African Parliamentary Union etc. This will require an amount of N\$6,700,000.

With regards to training for Members of Parliament and staff on the understanding, analysis and application of all practices relating to the legislative process, an amount of N\$94,000 is required.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, with regards to comparative research on Parliamentary Processes between the National Council and other Parliaments, an amount of N\$1,266,000 is required.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is the wish of the National Council to communicate to the electorate in all possible ways. Hence, National Council wants to avail all its Debates in sign language, provide interpretation and printing of the HANSARDS in Braille. Therefore an amount of N\$45,000 is needed.

Programme 2 – Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, we have observed and noted with concern the general lack of interest in the law-making process by most of the members of the public.

Thus the purpose of this programme is to create awareness and generate public interest in the National Council's activities.

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This programme will focus on facilitating public participation in the law-making process through the referral of Bills to the relevant Standing/*Ad hoc* Committees in order to solicit public input and to investigate and make recommendations to the House.

Other activities include educating the public on the work of the National Council and to raise awareness as part of its contribution to total national responses to the danger posed by the HIV and AIDS pandemic to our society.

In this respect Honourable Members, the National Council is requesting an amount of N\$20,136,000. This will allow the National Council to meet expenditure arising from the implementation of this programme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, for the National Council to create awareness and generate public interest in the National Council activities as well as to improve the Chamber by introducing electronic equipment in order to reduce the average time of producing accurate Minutes and Reports, the National Council requires an amount of N\$307,000.

The distribution of Parliamentary publications, conducting Parliamentary Outreach Programmes with the use of the Mobile Training Unit (MTU), facilitating Parliamentary tours, participating in trade fair shows as a way of marketing the services provided by the National Council will require an amount of N\$579, 000.

To facilitate public participation in the law-making process through the referral of Bills to the National Council's Standing Committees for investigation and report back to the House, an amount of N\$3,113,000 is requested for this purposes.

In order to educate the public on the work of the National Council and its Standing Committees through the distribution of pamphlets, brochures, magazines, radio and television broadcasts and to make more Parliamentary publications available in indigenous languages and Braille, reviewing and updating the Draft of Witness Guide that will explain what is expected of persons or institutions that wish to make submissions before the National Council Standing Committees, liaise with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to allow live broadcasts for both television and radio for the coverage of National Council Debates. The amount requested for this purpose is N\$15,967,000.

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For the National Council to raise awareness and understanding amongst staff members and Parliamentarians on human rights based responses to HIV and AIDS through training and information-sharing, it will ensure that HIV and AIDS is an agenda item on all management structures. Ensure that the National Council holds special annual sessions on HIV and AIDS based on the Medium Term Plan III. Therefore, an amount of N\$170,000 is requested.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion, based on the Motivation provided above, I hereby request this august House to approve the total Budget of N\$39,989,000 for Vote 11, as requested by the National Council for its operations during the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Before I conclude, as you know, the Chairman is not a Member of this House, therefore do not pose questions to me. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 28 – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION**”, **N\$78,191,000** put for Introduction.

HON SIOKA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Budget for Vote 28, Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

I am pleased to note that the Electoral Commission has recently conducted a successful by-election which was held on the 28th of March 2008 to determine a new Regional Councillor for the Eenhana Constituency in the Ohangwena Region.

The Electoral Commission is continuously making efforts to enhance cost effectiveness and operational efficiency through the training of staff members with specific emphasis on competency, professionalism, accountability and transparency. Due to the financial constraints and the austerity measures being implemented by Government, the Electoral Commission has submitted a rather conservative Budget to take it through its planned activities for the Financial Year 2008/2009.

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A total amount of N\$78,191,000 is being requested for consideration and approval by Parliament.

The two programmes under the Electoral Commission Budget: **(1) Holding of Election, (2) Voter Education** include a portion for administration, since this item is no longer regarded as a separate programme.

The breakdown of the two programmes of the Electoral Commission is as follows:

Holding of Elections:

The purpose of this programme is for holding of regular elections as per the Electoral Act, 1992 (Act 24 of 1992) as amended, to ensure good governance and the consolidation of democracy. Capacity building in electoral activities is regarded an important part of the Electoral Commission's activities and would receive attention during off-peak periods.

By-elections:

An amount of N\$2,241,000 is earmarked for by-election in the event of the resignation or death of a member of a Regional Council. Such vacancy should be filled within 90 days of occurrence. A supplementary registration of voters is held prior to the election process in which a new candidate in that particular constituency is elected for the remainder of the five years period.

Continuous Registration of Voters:

In terms of the Electoral Act, 1992 (Act 24 of 1992), continuous registration of voters should be carried out to include persons who have turned 18, changed their names and/or addresses due to relocation from one Constituency/Region to another on the national voter's register.

This is done by engaging persons in every constituency of a Region to issue any voter with a new or revised voter's registration card on the presentation of the required documentation and after verification (in case of change of address/name) of such documentation. An amount of N\$5,035,000 has been allocated for this activity.

Update of Voters' Register:

The cleaning and verification of the voter's register is a priority for the Electoral Commission as the voters' register is at the heart of each and every election. An amount of N\$656,000 has been allocated in order to amongst other things:

- Ensure that both National and Local Authorities Voters Registers are clean of “ghost voters” by removing the names of those who died, those who have taken up citizenship of other countries;
- Continuously improve the voters register including but not limited to the use of electronic voters register at polling stations and;
- Continuously improve the functionality of the electronic voters register to provide all necessary electoral data.

Computerisation of Electoral Commission Logistics:

An amount of N\$618,000 has been earmarked for the computerisation of the Electoral Commission logistics. The implementation of a computerised system for the Electoral Commission Logistic stores would not only put the Electoral Commission in a position where it can keep track of all election material, but would also give an indication as to when and which items need replacement. Ongoing training of staff members is a priority and maintenance and update of the system ensures optimum performance and utilisation of such system to the benefit of the institution.

Elections of Newly Proclaimed Local Authority Areas:

A number of towns and villages have been earmarked for proclamation by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development in the year under discussion. It is the mandate of the Electoral Commission to facilitate the election of Local Authority Councillors in newly proclaimed towns and villages as provided for in the Electoral Act, 1992 (Act 24 of 1992) as amended. This is in line with the Government's stated intention to develop urban communities through infrastructure development and improved service delivery. An amount of N\$4,745,000 has been allocated for this Elections.

Electronic Voting Machine

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An amount of N\$12,200,000 has been allocated for the purchase of Electronic Voting Machines.

The Cabinet has in principle approved the purchase and introduction of Electronic Voting Machines in the Namibian electoral system. The Electronic Voting Machine concept has been introduced to His Excellency the President as well as to both Houses of Parliament. I am pleased to note that the Electronic Voting Machine concept was well received by all.

The Electoral Commission is planning to purchase the Electronic Voting Machines in two phases, with the first phase beginning in 2008/09 and phase two in the following Financial Year. It is envisaged that the introduction and use of Electronic Voting Machines will efficiently and effectively speed up the voting process and determination of results.

Mock Elections:

The introduction of the Electronic Voting Machines into the Namibian electoral system will be preceded by a meticulous and thorough preparation phase. Such a preparation phase would include nationwide consultations with all stakeholders, including the Political Parties, civil society organisations and most importantly, the general electorate.

One of the most effective methods to introduce and teach the electorate about the Electronic Voting Machines is through the conduct of Mock Elections which will provide an opportunity for practical use of the Electronic Voting Machines.

To achieve this objective, an amount of N\$200,000 has been allocated for the Mock Elections that would serve as a trail run for the Electronic Voting Machines before the full implementation.

Construction of the Electoral Commission of Namibia Head Quarters:

The Electoral Commission of Namibia is currently housed in the NDC building following its ejection from the old Bank of Namibia building during mid-2007, which was transferred to the Development Bank of Namibia. The Electoral Commission is facing a problem of severe office and storage space, which makes it difficult to achieve operational efficiency and maximum utilisation of human capital. An amount of N\$40 million has been allocated for the construction of

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the Electoral Commission of Namibia Head Quarters.

Research, Human Resources and Infrastructure Development:

Since the formation of the Electoral Commission in 1992, foreign institutions having interest in elections, the general public, the academic sector, local and foreign researchers, etc have visited the Electoral Commission seeking for different kinds of information on electoral matters. The process requires a better organised and equipped resource centre with trained staff.

Hence, data compilation, verification and production are obtained from various electoral sources. Apart from general and global electoral information, these include votes cast per polling station, gender participation on polling day, analysis and review of the electoral data before and after elections in relation to planning and organisation and personnel, public opinion.

In order to keep pace with current developments, the Electoral Commission shall continue to review and improve the electoral law and practice by engaging legal and socio-cultural experts. In order to achieve this objective, an amount of N\$ 806,000 has been allocated to Research, Human Resources and Infrastructure Development.

Legal Challenges:

Legal action in respect of electoral disputes or against electoral management bodies are commonplace and a fresh election or recount of votes may be the result of such legal actions. The Electoral Commission has faced post-election legal challenges arising from electoral disputes observed during past elections. A case in point is the DTA alliances in 2004, when the Republican Party, CoD, SWANU and Namibia-MDC launched an urgent application with the High Court; the 2005 RP Court Case - Protest against the 2004 National Assembly votes' recount, which is still pending.

There is absolutely no guarantee that the Electoral Commission would not encounter such challenges in the future. In the light of the above, and in order to cater for such unforeseen eventualities, an amount of N\$200,000 have been allocated for legal challenges.

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Programme 2: Voter Education:

An amount of N\$11,490,000 has been allocated for voter education. The purpose of conducting voter education and sharing of voter information is to increase citizens' level of understanding of electoral processes and ensure participation in these processes. The voter education function is thus geared towards increasing voters' understanding of electoral processes and eradicates voter apathy. Voter education is further imperative in order to increase participation of eligible voters in the election processes. The conducting of countrywide voter education is in line with the SADC election requirements to which Namibia also subscribes.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, this presentation makes a case for the activities and programmes that the Electoral Commission wishes to undertake this year, I now wish to entreat this august House to approve the Budget for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. I thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Vote 29 – “**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**”,
N\$225,298,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to introduce Vote 29 of the erstwhile Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, now Information and Communication Technology.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology was created on the 8th of April 2008 to spearhead the ICT revolution in Namibia. The new Ministry would strive to leapfrog Namibia into the information society in terms of ICT development. This new institutional arrangement brought an end to the fragmentation of ICT activities in the Government. ICT-related activities have now been consolidated under one Ministry, namely that of Information and

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Communication Technology. This is in line with best practices in the SADC Region and beyond. A focused approach is a prerequisite to move forward with ICTs.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are reshaping the way in which individuals, companies and Nations around the world are conducting business.

The new technologies are recognised as the most appropriate tools to stimulate growth, address health issues and reduce poverty.

This development, therefore, require a paradigm shift from "*business as usual*". This transformation calls for the availability of infrastructure, local content and skilled human resources. Africa, already in 2006, resolved that the continent cannot effectively fight poverty if Nations continue to invest heavily in social sectors at the expense of economic sectors, including ICTs.

Honourable Members of the National Assembly, information is the most democratic source of power. However, the electorate would not know what we are doing, had it not been for the work of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation and other public and private media institutions. This includes what we are discussing in this House. Through the provision of information, we create knowledge. Knowledge, in turn, empowers our citizens to fully participate in the country's democratic processes, harnessing their energies for national development.

During the last Budget Debate, this august House approved N\$1 million for a service delivery survey to establish the efficiency and effectiveness with which we reach out to citizens. The outcome of the survey has served the Ministry very well in collecting, processing and disseminating information as per the preferences of our people. The results of the survey, which we shall be sharing with this august House in due course, have clearly provided the direction for the future of information processing and dissemination.

Forward-looking and investor-friendly policies are important cornerstones for the development of the ICT sector in Namibia. Presently a policy review exercise is underway to address the issue of convergence and it will be ready by September to be in accordance with the latest regional and international trends. The policy review and development will include a costed short-, medium- and long-term

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implementation strategy to guide the development of the sector to meet its goals as contained in Vision 2030.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, in order to give the Nation access to ICTs, the Ministry supported six Multipurpose Community Centres (MPCCs) in the past Financial Year through its Education, Audiovisual Network Consolidation programme. These centres are located at Eiseb and Du Plessis Farm in the Omaheke region, Mukekete and Rundu in the Kavango region and Queen Sofia and Okanguati in the Kunene Region.

All these centres were equipped with television sets, video recorders, DVD players/recorders, computers, printers, photocopiers, projectors, screens, generators and small public address systems. Community members were also trained in the use and maintenance of the equipment.

In the current Financial Year, support will be provided to multipurpose community centres in the Hardap, Otjozondjupa and Omusati Regions.

To promote the film industry, a tender was awarded to a local production company to produce a Namibian soap opera. Script writing has been done and the actual shooting of the series, called "*The Tie that Binds*" is in progress. The Namibia Film Commission furthermore, made a financial contribution towards the production of the drama, "*I am my Father's Son*". Post-production work on the drama is underway.

To educate the public and improve the understanding of Government programmes and policies, eight editions of the official Government mouthpiece, the *Government Information Bulletin* were published. This publication is distributed free of charge to all corners of the country to enhance public access to information.

The Ministry is also tasked with the production and dissemination of information through targeted campaigns that are addressing HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. During the reporting period, blind people assisted with the development of campaign material in Braille to ensure that they too are benefiting from health-related campaign information.

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At the 2005 Cabinet Retreat in Swakopmund, the Ministry was entrusted to launch a campaign against vandalism.

This decision resulted in the conceptualisation of the Nationhood and National Pride campaign, which aims at instilling national pride and patriotism in Namibians. It will, furthermore, address pertinent issues such as hygiene, sanitation, violence, especially against women and children, and vandalism. This campaign will kick off during the current Financial Year.

The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation made progress with its capital projects, resulting in 95% radio coverage of the country, and 65% television coverage, compared to 94% radio coverage and 64% television coverage in the previous Financial Year.

The NBC improved its financial situation through TV licensing, transmitter fees, and advertising. The Corporation also embarked on other income generating activities, such as the SMS competitions *Win-A-House* and *Gardener's Daughter*.

Meanwhile, the two other State-Owned Enterprises, namely the New Era Publications Corporation and the Namibia Press Agency continued to streamline their operations to achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the Information and Communication Bill was subjected to an elaborate process of stakeholder consultations and is now ready to be submitted to this august House for adoption.

Under the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology system, a further 25 base stations were added to the network to provide limited mobility at affordable prices. The mobile telecommunication sector is growing fast and the latest world offerings in this vibrant market are available in Namibia. The previous Financial Year witnessed the introduction of Internet access through mobile phones and mobile television.

Namibia's 100% digital state-of-the-art backbone transmission network provides the ideal conduit for rapid broadband penetration.

The introduction of ADSL lines and WiMAX connectivity make broadband access readily available throughout the country.

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Namibia is currently considering three options to access global ICT networks. The first is tri-lateral negotiations between Namibia, Botswana and Angola to secure an alternative connecting route to the SAT-3. This option will allow connection to the Angolan Domestic Sub-marine Cable (ADONES), instead of going through Cape Town. Option two is to join a consortium of countries that are planning to build an additional sub-marine cable called WAFS along the west coast of Africa to connect to SAT-3. The third and preferred option is to cooperate with South Africa to build a new sub-marine cable along the west coast called the AWCC System.

In the postal services sector, Internet, SMS, MMS, e-mails and other technologies displaced traditional mail services. To ensure that the postal sub-sector meaningfully contributes to the National Development Plan and to counteract the aforementioned threat, the Namibian postal services sector embraced ICTs by automating service counters of 120 post offices country-wide and also introduced Smart Card technology.

The creation of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology dictates a review of the existing structure and functions of the former Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The new functions must be determined and a complementary Ministerial structure be developed according to the Ministry's new mandate to reposition Namibia to assume its rightful place in the information society.

The new Ministry came into being at a stage when the Budget process was already complete. No financial provision was made to address the new challenges that come with the envisaged restructuring programme. It is, therefore, likely that this Ministry will have to approach the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to make funds available to implement its new mandate.

The funds that are allocated for Vote 29 in this Financial Year only provide for the implementation of the programmes of the former Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Directorate Communication in the former Works, Transport and Communication Ministry. The allocated funds will be used to address the following programmes:

Programme 1: To Enhance Free Flow of Information and to ensure the Accessibility of Media to all Namibians:

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For this programme I request an allocation of N\$56,173,000 to ensure that Namibians have access to electronic, printed and other media to enhance and strengthen their participation in development plans and to preserve Namibian history through archiving of media material and photography.

Programme 2: Improving the Understanding of Government Programmes and Policies:

I request this august House to approve an allocation of N\$12,975,000 for this programme that is aimed at enhancing understanding of Government priorities, policies and activities to allow citizens to appreciate the Government's efforts at improving their standard of living.

Programme 3: Ensure Access to Information, Education and Communication through Targeted Campaigns:

An allocation of N\$11,700,000 is requested for this programme to ensure the extension of social mobilisation programmes and to equip the society with diverse information to be able to make informed decisions on population and reproductive health issues.

Programme 4: Ensure that the Media Sector Benefits the Namibian Economy:

A total of N\$133,487,000 is requested for this programme to enhance the ability of the media sector to contribute to the cultural and economic development of the country.

The programme will also help to promote Namibia regionally and internationally as a film location, while strengthening the local film industry. The programme is also aimed at protecting intellectual property.

Programme 5: Increase Beneficial use of Information Communication Technology:

I request this House to approve the allocation of N\$700,000 for this programme for the establishment of an ICT unit and to promote awareness of the role and use of ICT in Namibia's development.

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HON VILJOEN/HON T GURIRAB**

Programme 6: Ensuring Adequate Access to World-Class Communication Services:

An amount of N\$10,263,000 is requested for the implementation of this programme that is aimed at the review and implementation of communication policies, institutional frameworks and laws in order to liberalise the sector, encourage private sector participation, introduce competition, ensure the independent regulation of services, and promote rural access to the information society.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in light of the above outlined programmes, I humbly submit Vote 29 for the total amount of N\$225,298,000 for your endorsement and approval for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 01 – “OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT” put for Discussion.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I have a very small question. Somewhere along the line I read or heard that an amount of nearly half a million Namibia Dollar was allocated for geological experiments or investigations around the new State House. Can the Honourable Minister please shed light on this matter to indicate what exactly does it mean?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have two or three observations to make.

Firstly, to note that on the personnel side that the Office of the President is now fully funded as opposed to the previous Financial Year where out of 114 posts only 14 were funded. As I note from the Budget under consideration, all posts are now fully funded and we support that allocation and we look forward that His Excellency will get full support from the staff in carrying out his onerous functions.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson, in Economics there is this notion of *opportunity costs* that the cost of doing one thing means that you are not able to make funds available for others.

There is this country in our Region called Malawi, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. A couple of years ago, under the leadership of late President Banda, they decided on embarking on building a huge palace for the late President Banda and talking about opportunity cost, the cost of doing that, of course meant that funds were not available for other things. The palace has been built, money has been spent, and it is something which now exists in Malawi. You cannot break it down, it is an asset for Malawi, but it was built at the expense of Government.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am saying this, to say that we are on record of pointing out the opportunity cost of building the State House at the time we have been doing it. The State House has now been built, it does exist and we hope that we will put it to use of our President.

The Minister of Presidential Affairs was yesterday telling us about the cost of the still uncompleted State House project and yesterday he was sharing information with us and saying that so far it has cost us N\$383 million. If you add the balance of money that is being requested under this budget and in the next two Financial Years, it will be around N\$650 million. I suppose that will not be the final cost of the project, elsewhere in the media the Minister was quoted as saying that the project will be less than N\$400 million. If you add up what the Minister is sharing with us, the total cost is already in excess of N\$600 million.

It is important, for the reasons of transparency, which we support...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is putting emphasis on the cost of State House as if State House is the most expensive project the Government of the Republic of Namibia has ever undertaken. For his information, the Rundu-Siku Nkurenkuru-Elundu road, which covers 307 kilometres, is over N\$800 million, almost a billion. I do not want the public out there to be misled that we have only spent a lot of money on

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State House. There are more costly projects we are undertaking at the moment which costs double than the State House. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Members, let us right from the beginning try to stick to the detail of the Vote instead of bringing up history. Let us just stick to the details so that the answers would also be clear.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I do not know, I presume that you warned the Minister, Honourable Kaapanda, against history. As for my part, I am talking about the figures that are contained on page 10 of the Budget. The figures that are provided are that in the current Fiscal Year the money that we are being asked to approve is N\$ 95,4 million. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, how many people are going to use the road which the Honourable Minister Kaapanda just referred to? How many people are going to use that road and how many people are going to use the State House?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think we are dealing with State House now and that question is out of order. Proceed, Honourable Gurirab, Office of the President.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I was making reference to figures provided to us on page 10 of the Capital Budget. I asked my grand-daughter this morning to add up these figures and the total she came up with plus the N\$383 million provided by the Minister and the N\$268,671,000 which will be requested in this year and the next two years add up to N\$651,982,000. (Interjection). Outside the House I will explain the notion of opportunity cost to Deputy Minister Katali.

As I was saying, the State House is now created, it is there, just like the palace the former President Banda has created in Malawi. (Intervention)

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HON T GURIRAB**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask Honourable Gurirab a question? Honourable Gurirab, do you agree that your sitting there is an opportunity cost? Somebody else could have sat there or you could have been doing something else elsewhere. Do you not think the opportunity cost that you are mentioning is something that is everywhere and that it also applies to you? And why are you worried about the opportunity cost of the State House and not the opportunity cost of all other incidents?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, as for the roads, I will have a lot to say when we discuss the Vote of Works and Transport, because our roads infrastructure has collapsed. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want the Honourable Member to learn to speak the truth. You cannot say our roads have collapsed. It is not true. Have you not seen that the road to Usakos is under construction and from Windhoek to Okahandja. Why do you want to misinform the youngsters? Learn to speak to the truth so that you can go to Heaven.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, in Committee Stage the Honourable Members are only allowed ten minutes and we are supposed to stick to the detail. I do not want to force you in a direction, you are experienced Members of Parliament, you are supposed to know in the Committee Stage you have only ten minutes. Please continue, Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I was about to say that N\$20 million are provided for building offices for the Father of the Nation. We support this provision, but only to observe that

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HON MUDGE**

when the buildings of the offices are completed, in terms of the Budget, in the year 2010/11, the Father of the Nation will be at the ripe age of 82. I look forward to be invited to the inauguration of the offices as well as to the birthday party. After all, the Father of the Nation and me are family through inter-marriage.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am not going to talk about the merits of the State House project, I think enough has been said about that. I have requested this on two occasions already and I am going to do it again today.

I think one of the problems that we have regarding the cost of the project is the fact that we see nothing but totals. This is not supposed to be a secret project, I suppose it is not a secret project. The Honourable Minister said that we have a transparent Government, nothing to hide in this matter, so I suppose there are no secrets regarding this project. Any project of this magnitude is properly planned beforehand and they do cost estimates to decide what we can spend on the project. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I get irritated when Members of the Opposition in this House tell the public that the building cost of the State House has been a secret. Members of the Opposition requested the President to go and have a look at State House. All Members of this House were taken there and an opportunity was given for questions. I have not heard Members raising any questions in that regard. Now they come here and make insinuations and giving misleading information to the public as if this Government has not been transparent about this project.

I get irritated, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON MUDGE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I will just quickly refer to that interjection to say that I do not want to look at State House, I want to... (Intervention)

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HON MUDGE**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Mudge, I asked you to continue and to stick to the detail.

HON MUDGE: No, I assume that the previous Member was not out of Order, so all I want to say is that I do not want to look at State House, I want to look at ... (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Mudge, I asked you to continue and stick to the detail.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, as I said, if you do a project like that, then you must have done your estimates and your projections beforehand to know exactly what it is going to cost. This is what we wanted to know in the beginning, what was the estimate of this project and what is the final projection what this project will cost, because in any terms it seems like an extremely expensive project. As somebody who is also involved in the building industry, I know more or less what it costs to build a house or an office.

The reason why I am saying this is, there should have been a quantity surveyor appointed, there should have been an architect, there should have been all these people, civil engineers. They all should have calculated their costs, they should have calculated everything that was built into that house. All we say is, when are we going to get those calculations? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: On a Point of Order. It is not allowed to talk about the State House all the time, because if each and every Member of the Opposition wants to be a president, where will he stay then? Your President will be in that house when you win the elections, what are you now complaining about? You are not supposed to complain.

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HON NAMBAHU**

HON MUDGE: As I said, what worried me when the Honourable Minister said that the final cost of the project will only be known when all issues pertaining to the project have been sorted out. In any project, if you have quantity surveyors who can do the job, they can do forecasts. If you deviate from the original project, they work out the additional costs and the financial implications and that should be approved. Somebody must approve it. In other words, at any given moment anybody must be able to stand up and say this project at this moment costs exactly this much and we project that the final cost will be that much, and this is our problem. We have been asking this for how many years to know what it is going to cost. We had a figure and we did not believe those figures. Every year – like Air Namibia – we put in more money, more money and in the end we are faced with the fact that we have invested this money. I am not saying that we should not invest this money, let us finish the State House project because we cannot stop it, but just be transparent and give those figures to us, then we will be happy. Thank you.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to express my support for this important Vote of the Highest Office in the land and obviously, I notice much improvement in the allocation and also in the feedback report.

On page 15 it is indicated that “*the monitoring and implementation of Cabinet Decisions have improved due to the filling of a Policy Analyst position.*” I am very happy that this has been done. However, I am still of the opinion that the money allocated to this Division is not enough and I am premising my observation and stance on the fact that policy analysis, as far as I am concerned, is one area where we really have to improve.

Many a time you visit areas, Regions of our country ...(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Detail, detail, detail.

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HON DR KAWANA**

HON NAMBAHU: I am trying to substantiate my argument why I am saying what I am saying. You find that we are all in agreement that a certain policy is probably not the way it is supposed to be, but the time that lapses for it actually to be changed is so long. I have been talking about this several times.

I have even gone onto the internet to survey and actually find out what is meant by policy analysis, monitoring, surveillance and things like that. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Honourable Nambahu, just go to the detail of the Vote. We are discussing the details of the Vote of the Office of the President.

HON NAMBAHU: I should probably just say that the Policy Analysis Section should be strengthened, more money should be allocated to it and the practitioners should be invited to do more research in order to revamp this Section to what it is supposed to be. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Let us hear from the Minister of Presidential Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me take this opportunity to thank Honourable Members who have shown interest in the Vote of the Office of the President.

I would like to thank *Honourable Viljoen*. I think maybe the Honourable Member did not read properly. That amount is part of what we call landscaping, not geographical analysis. It is for landscaping. As the Honourable Member is aware, the topography of the area needs some work so that it could comply with certain standards and part of the allocation is meant for that purpose.

Honourable Gurirab, I want to express my thanks, I note your political views on this issue, but one thing I would like to inform the Honourable Member is that Namibia is not Malawi. Malawi is a sovereign country which has its own laws,

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different from the laws of Namibia. The history of Malawi differs from the history of Namibia. As I understand from what I have read, that palace has three hundred bedrooms and you can never compare such a structure with the structure you have seen several times.

Indeed, for your information, you may recall that this project has now been ongoing for five years, which means the amount that we have been talking about has been allocated to the project for a number of years and in this current Financial Year it will be the sixth year in which we allocate financial resources to the project.

As we always say, because of our historical background that project is a symbol of our sovereignty, it is a symbol of our history, it is a symbol of our struggle and, therefore, it is very important to us. That is why we took that decision to build the State House to express what we call "*people's house*", to express our history, to express our struggle, to honour those who died for the struggle for the Independence of Namibia, to honour our heroes and heroines including our forebearers. We can today proudly say we are a free and independent country and the sign for that is our State House. To me and to most patriotic Namibians, this is a worthy project which is to be supported by patriotic Namibians.

To those who are saying the Opposition may one day occupy that State House, the Opposition will only be able to visit that place upon invitation. I do not think people who get twelve votes and in some places, zero votes, will ever hope to enter that place in the capacity of a president. Some of the Honourable Members here can only add to their CVs as people who participated in the Vote of the Presidency as presidential candidates and it will only end there, because for a considerable number of years to come we say "*SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO*".

If the people of Namibia are sympathetic in the coming elections, there is likely to be only one seat for the members of the Opposition. SWAPO is likely to get 71 seats in the coming elections. Therefore this is our house, the people's house, every State Banquet will from now on be held there and the Honourable Members will be invited to go there. We are going to save money, because presently we are holding State Banquets in private hotels and from now on all State Banquets will be held at the new State House. All our guests, including Heads of State, will from now on be accommodated at the complex instead of booking hotels for them.

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You must therefore, understand that the Namibian people view that State House as a symbol of our sovereignty, as a symbol of our struggle. Namibia shall ever be free and they appreciate when they see that symbol because it relates to them, it relates to the struggle of our fore-bearers. In this regard I would say that project is definitely worthy of support by each and every patriotic Namibian.

Honourable Mudge, you are saying we were supposed to engage quantity surveyors so that we could know the actual cost of the project. I agree with you to some extent, but the world is unpredictable, Honourable Member. You will remember that before the invasion of Iraq oil cost less than US\$20 per barrel. Today it is more than US\$107 per barrel. (Interjection). Today it is US\$111 I am told by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

You may recall that the cost of some minerals has more than tripled. You will recall the cost of food. In fact, I was watching the news yesterday and I saw that in one month the price of rice in Asia rose by more than 130%. So, even if we engaged quantity surveyors, they could not have given us the final figures up to the last cent because even the cost of building materials have gone up. That is something we have to take into account. To me that State House is a symbol of our sovereignty, it is a symbol of our struggle and it has to be supported, because it is a public house and we will be able to go there.

As you know, Honourable Mudge, our President has an open-door policy. Every time I see you there at the State House, you are phoning me to make appointments, including all the other Leaders of the minority Parties. It is also your house and you must be proud of it. If anything you must be proud, we have an open-door policy that is why we call State House the people's house.

Honourable Nambahu, my dear Brother and Comrade, thank you very much, we take note of your concern about the policy analysis and also the money allocated to that Vote. Next time we are going to see what we can do to improve in that field.

However, otherwise, Honourable Members who have supported this Vote, including the minority Parties, I say thank you very much.

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HON T GURIRAB**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Honourable //Garob.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, mine is only a question to the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member says *SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO*. Does this mean that if SWAPO loses the forthcoming elections, the people will still remain SWAPO? Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I want us to stick to the detail of the Vote – Office of the President. Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: I appreciate what the Minister has said in respect of our security concerns and how much we can discuss in this Chamber on the scope of activities of the National Intelligence. However from our side we observe that there has been a steep and healthy increase in this Vote. I do not know whether it means we should be concerned about threats to our country.

About the State House and the figures referred to, I must assure the Minister that I know of nobody, at least in my Party, who has spoken against the building of the State House – none, not a single person. The issue has always been about opportunity cost, about timing, never about whether or not we should build a State House. It is a question of, do we do it today or tomorrow?

Nonetheless it is done, it is a national asset, it is there. (Interjections). Do not appropriate things to us which have not been said. Nobody has spoken against the building of a State House.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I gave the Minister a nice opportunity to make a political speech, but that was not what I was after. I was a little bit worried and what makes me more worried is that he said there could be a need for a quantity surveyor. Now, Honourable Minister that is the first person

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HON MUDGE**

that you appoint on any project and that is the most important person to be on that project right up to the end. It does not matter whether the price goes up....
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Honourable Member is insinuating and also ridiculing the Government that when the construction of State House was conceived and planned, there was no quantity surveyor engaged, nor an architect, nor any other professional. Do you think the Government should come and inform you of all these activities? Why should you be informed? You were not a Member of Parliament, not a Member of Cabinet when all these things were discussed. This question is irrelevant, just designed to ridicule the Government for no reason at all. I think the Honourable Member is Out of Order.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Mudge, just continue.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me say this: I have never said that the Government should come to us for anything, but because the Government should be transparent and because they are using taxpayers' money to build it, they should be able to produce the facts that we are talking about.

This is the point and if you do not understand it and this is what is normally happening in any country. And it is not us who said it is a secret project, it is the Ruling Party or the Government who did not want to reveal those figures that made it a secret project. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Mudge must know that he did not pay tax, he only collected. We pay tax. You even used to claim it. You cheat the Government, you do not pay anything, you add 15% before you make the real

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HON MUDGE**

price and you add another 15%. We know how your companies are working, Honourable Mudge.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Mudge, I am trying to protect you.

HON MUDGE: You do not have to protect me. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I insist that the Deputy Minister withdraws what he said just now.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Just continue.

HON MUDGE: No, he said I cheated the Government and he said he knows how my business is operating.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Mudge, I wanted to advise you, but you refused to be advised by the Chair. I am saying, just continue.

HON MUDGE: I insist, I am asking the Chair to ask the Deputy Minister to withdraw what he said just now. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Mudge, please continue.

HON MUDGE: I rest my case.

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HON MOONGO / HON DR KAWANA**

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I would only like....(Interjection)

HON MUDGE: Say that outside!

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Order! Order! Honourable Mudge, Honourable Moongo has the Floor. When you had the Floor he did not interfere. He has the Floor now.

HON MOONGO: Some of us have a concern on the situation of Zimbabwe and I expected the Presidential Minister to inform the House what is the stand of the Government and why is SADC so quiet while the people are being killed day and night. We want to be informed. Thank you. (Interjections).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Members, the Chair is not responsible to educate how to run the Parliamentary Affairs. The Parliament has done what it had to do, they have run workshops for us to perform in such a way. As Members of Parliament we know what Committee Stage means. What we are trying to do today is something new and the Chair has to assist the Members to find each other on those grounds. If you ask silly questions, you will get silly answers. Sometimes the Ministers, by answering some of these questions, prolong the discussion. Some of these points are not even relevant to the topic. Let me call on the Minister to respond to the questions.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Let me thank the *Honourable Chief //Garoëb* for his remark and since it was not ruled Out of Order and it is on record, I am obliged to respond to the remark.

For now the Nation has full faith in the SWAPO Party. In every household in Namibia you will find a member of the SWAPO Party. In every household in Namibia you will find a sympathiser and supporter of the SWAPO Party. That is why we are more than confident and whether it is the minority Parties

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HON DR KAWANA**

represented in this House or those which have been registered, even those to be registered before the next elections, the SWAPO Party is ready to face any Political Party in Namibia and we are more than confident that we will score more than a two-thirds majority. If not all 72 seats, at least 71 seats.

Honourable Gurirab, regarding Intelligence, the Intelligence is one of those most important institutions of Government in a democratic State like Namibia. It plays a very significant role. Sometimes you may query why this amount, but I am sure the Honourable Member will know that sometimes you need to replenish your equipment and you do not know the price of the equipment or the type of equipment. That is as far as I can go to answer your queries in this regard. It is not maybe to pay some people who must provide information, but in the 21st century you have to be up-to-date even with your equipment. You cannot sleep on duty, not the Intelligence, they have to be alert 24 hours seven days a week.

Honourable Mudge, for your information, Washington DC has a statue of George Washington. There is a law in America which says no building in Washington may be higher than the statue of George Washington. That is their pride. Inasmuch as that statue of George Washington is the pride of America, it is the history of America, the American struggle for their Independence, our State House is a symbol of our struggle for our Independence.

Although the Deputy Chair has not overruled the question by Honourable Moongo, I feel obliged to decline because His Excellency the President was here and those questions were asked and His Excellency the President answered. I have nothing to add to what His Excellency the President said. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 02 – “OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER” put for Discussion.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON GORESEB**

HON GORESEB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. Let me thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for the well-intended Motivation of Appropriation of Vote 02 – Office of the Prime Minister and their good endeavours to deliver to the Nation.

I will be very brief in my comments and questions. What I mean is that I am going to make a couple of comments, observations and thereafter I am going to ask questions.

I welcome the establishment of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management for the human capital development, in the very first place, which is very much needed for a decent public service delivery and for enhanced customer service oriented ethics.

On pages 9 and 10 it is pleasantly noted that the Right Honourable Prime Minister, as the Chairperson of the State-Owned Enterprises Council, has put in motion benchmark exercises on performance contracts with, and performance evaluation of the State-Owned Enterprises. On that paragraph I have the following to ask:

What will be the reward for the non-compliance or failure to satisfy the set benchmark? Who will deal with the defaulters with no fear or favour knowing the culture of non-accountability in our Public Service arena?

Would it be possible for the Right Honourable Prime Minister just to elaborate a little bit for clarity on that very paragraph I am quoting from?

On page 11 the Office of the Prime Minister is preparing for the bargaining process with NAFAU and NANTU, to consider further proposals on salary increments for more than 84,000 staff members, civil servants over the next three-year period. This move is very positive for timely inclusion in the budgetary process.

Now my question is: Except the previously promised 5% three years back to the Civil Servants, is there any increment for this budgetary period for the civil servants?

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HON MOONGO**

I am asking this question, noting the economic turmoil which is roaming nationally, internationally and regionally, the increase in food prices, oil prices. I am asking these questions, bearing in mind that only just a very few of the lucky ones in our country are employed and are carrying the burden of the thousands of the unemployed. Or is it just another gimmick, another election game plan? I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all I would like to thank the Office of the Prime Minister for assisting the people affected by the floods in Caprivi and also in the North. They are doing their best. I also appreciate the N\$200 million which was allocated in the Budget to further assist the people affected by the flood.

To my understanding the municipality is intending to vacate people from that area and the municipality cannot afford to compensate the people. Will the Office of the Prime Minister also assist the Local Government? With this I support the Vote.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member will recall that the State-Owned Enterprises Act was passed by this House and it makes certain demands.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister, is it not your Vote?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am providing information on the question. I am not answering, I am providing information. I am not responsible for the Vote now, I am just providing information.

The State-Owned Enterprises Act provides for a Council. The responsibility of the Council is an oversight function to make sure that the State-Owned Enterprises are functioning properly. Otherwise the State-Owned Enterprises

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RT HON N ANGULA**

have their boards, their chief executive officers and also a Line Minister responsible for them. However the Council is just an oversight body. Of course, it will be required that each State-Owned Enterprise will enter into a performance agreement with the Council. If they do not meet what they set out to achieve, obviously there will be penalties, for sure, but for now I will not tell you what type of penalty, it depends on how a State-Owned Enterprise performs. However, the whole idea of a performance agreement is actually to hold them responsible to what they have promised to achieve, because the performance agreement is determined by them, not by the Council. They will tell the Council, "*we are going to achieve a, b, c, d*", and like Telecom Namibia is saying that they are working for how many billions by the year 2010. Come 2010, we say, "Have you made your billion?" If they say no...(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Where are we now? I want you to go to the detail of the Vote.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It is the detail, he asked a question about the performance agreement and I am assisting my Colleague, because she does not deal with these things on a day-to-day basis.

The negotiations on the Public Service, you know that we have been implementing an agreement with the Unions representing the public servants for 3 years.

That agreement is coming to an end during this Financial Year and this 5% we are talking about will be implemented this Financial Year. However for the last two years we have been implementing things like housing and transport allowances.

Besides that, you will recall that the Minister of Finance moved in this House last year that the threshold for taxation for everybody is N\$36,000 per year. If you earn N\$36,000 per year, you will not be taxed, you will not pay personal tax. That is going to be implemented this year, which means that they will also gain, not only the 5% but also from this threshold. There is therefore no gimmick. Thank you.

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HON T GURIRAB/HON //GAROEB**

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to say that we support this Vote and I have only one minor question on the Main Division 1 and the Deputy Prime Minister dealt with it during her Motivation. This is only N\$800,000 that has been provisioned for the support of what is called here the San Rescue and Development.

The short question I want to ask is; why is there a special programme for the San Rescue and Development to the exclusion of other equally vulnerable groups and communities and whether we do not think that this N\$800,000 will not go very far? You are budgeting less than a million for a Financial Year and we are calling it a programme for San Rescue and Development. Should we not be looking at setting more money aside?

I thank you.

HON //GAROEB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

After I have perused the San Development Programme and visited some of the sites where these projects are being run, I came to realise that this is one of the liveliest and pro-poor and truly human-centred programmes our Government has ever undertaken. I, therefore, wish to thank and congratulate the Ministry, more specifically the Right Honourable Deputy Prime Minister for the job well done.

Some of the San communities have already surpassed some communities which are classified under the poorest of the poor by surveys and census which were already conducted. For instance, I think of specifically the Namidama community around Uis and on the banks of the Ugab River who are really the poorest of the poor. They were only surviving by selling their tin to the Uis Mine, but since the Uis Mine is now closed, they do not have anything to live on. They are just living from the veldt.

My humble request to His Excellency the President is to also think about these communities and also put them in the able hands of the Right Honourable Deputy Prime Minister who has shown the world that she is really a caring mother. I thank you.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister to respond to some of these queries.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Just a little clarification. When we joined the Prime Minister's Office we have divided our responsibilities between me and the Prime Minister and what he was responding on is his baby. He was answering to his part and this is now my part.

I would like to thank *Honourable Moongo* who discussed the flood victims. Yes, what we are trying to do is to assist in relocation of the communities who cannot go back to their original places.

For example, when I was in Caprivi, there are schools that have been moved from the flooded area to higher ground at Schuckmansburg and this is the practice every flood year in Caprivi.

Now the Government is losing a lot of money doing this. The schools are flooded, we have to buy new books again and create facilities. This time we want to move such schools which are always flooded to high ground permanently and for that I think this money will assist our communities to be able to move and put up proper structures. We will be assisting the municipalities which do not have Budgets for these things with that money. I think that is the answer.

Honourable Gurirab, thank you very much for your support. N\$800,000 is better than the N\$400,000 we started off with. This is a big project, we have now moved 106 San people, consisting of 38 families, to a new farm which we were given by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. To provide housing to these people will cost us something in the range of N\$3 million. Right now they are in tents and we will have to campaign to try and find funding from our international partners to assist us in order to house these people in proper houses. Of course, we are thankful for the N\$800,000, but as you correctly said, it cannot cover the things we want to cover. It is however better than what we had, it is an almost 50% increase from the previous year and we are grateful for that.

Honourable //Garoëb, thank you very much for your support and thank you very much for what you have said about what the Office is trying to do. The other day I was jokingly saying that if people see a dying elephant, I will be called to go

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HON DR AMATHILA**

and rescue that elephant and I will be very happy to do that. I originally explained in this House that the San communities were the most marginalised communities in Namibia. That is also known by the Honourable Chief, but I had to work hard to bring them wherever they are now and I am also very much aware that we have poor communities. When I was asked to remove people from the mountains, I found that our country has very poor people that we do not know anything about.

I asked them: "*How do you drink water*", because they did not have a cup, not a pot, nothing, they do not even know what a cup looks like and they were telling me that they just get into the river, do this and then they drink. I have also housed them now and bought them what they needed.

I remember Honourable Clara Bohitile, during the visit of the Members of the Parliament, told me one day that people are starving and please sent some food and we did that to that particular community you are talking about at Sorris-Sorris. Therefore, the Government is ready to assist all our poor people, it is only that we need more funding so that we can really bring up our people. We have to go to the poorest of the poor and uplift the communities one by one and not wait for a long time. I am sure the President also has that in mind and if we are given the Budgetary Allocations we will try our best to uplift some of the very, very poor communities. Thank you very much for your support.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Any further discussion? Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 04- "**OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**", put for Discussion.

16 April 2008

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 04
HON T GURIRAB**

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Auditor-General who does an important oversight function and he and his Office produce annually important work in terms of that oversight function, indeed in terms of money we appropriate, like we are in the process of doing in this House.

I said this last year and I want to repeat it again, that the purpose of the audit function is to point out things which have been done contrary to how they should have been done and that is the Auditor-General's function.

What the Offices and Ministries are therefore expected to do is to correct those things which the Auditor-General has spelled out. One of the Parliamentary Committees which I serve on, the Public Accounts Committee, is working with the Auditor-General annually and produces Reports and brings them here. What we see is that very little action is taken on the recommendations of the Auditor-General. I want us to take this seriously, we need to do that.

The second issue which I want to point out is that in terms of Article 127(2) of the Constitution and I have also pointed this out a number of times, requires the Parliament or Government to bring an Act to Parliament which will spell out the functions of the Auditor-General. I hope that before elections an Act will be brought here, that I can also participate in the discussion before I go and farm with my goats. We support this Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Any further discussion? Does the Minister wish to respond?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I would like to thank the Honourable Members, including *Honourable Gurirab*, for his remarks. I would like to assure my Colleague that this issue is receiving the attention of our Government. Indeed, it is not correct to say there is no law at the moment as per the requirements of Article 127(2) of the Namibian Constitution, because the functions of the Auditor-General are elaborated in the State Finance Act of 1991. And for the information of the Honourable Member, the Government is in the process of

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 04
HON DR KAWANA**

coming up with a new law which will specifically address the functions of the Auditor-General and that law will also provide some enforcement mechanisms regarding the recommendations of the Auditor-General and also to work hand-in-hand with the Public Accounts Committee.

As I said, in any democratic State the taxpayers' money must be accounted for by the Government of the day and I hope, although regrettably I do not think the Honourable Member will be in the next Parliament because his Party will be history by then, that at least some of us who will still be retained in Parliament will be able to finalise this law.

The Honourable Member was also an accounting officer before he came to this office and I am aware of certain recommendations that were made then by the Auditor-General, but I do not want to embarrass my Colleague, so I appreciate his remarks. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES:

Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 30 – “**ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**” for Discussion.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I rise to support this Vote. We have received the first Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission a couple of weeks ago and maybe in the next Session there will be a Motion for the discussion of that Report. What I however wanted to say for now is that in the future reports we would like to see that it does not simply say that 600 cases were reported, but that the cases are itemised, that we say we had 20 cases of whatever, that more informative Reports be tabled. However as I said, we will be bringing a Motion for the discussion of that Report during the next Session. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much. I think this is a good idea to itemise the Report and I will take it to the Commission so that we really know what the cases are, because they are saying that they have completed

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 30
HON DR AMATHILA**

most of the 900 cases brought to them and it will be interesting to see what kind of cases these were.

I agree with you and I am going to inform them. Thank you very much for the support.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON MUDGE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, during the Committee Stage the Honourable Ilonga made some derogatory remarks. I have requested the Honourable Member to withdraw that and it was not granted and I am now asking you to ask that Member to withdraw by having said that I have cheated the Government with taxes and that they know how I do my business. I want him to withdraw what he said. It is not allowed in the Rules, it was said maliciously and I want him to withdraw.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I withdraw.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for solving that problem amicably. In terms of Rule 90 the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:59 UNTIL 2008.04.17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
17 APRIL 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT: VACANCY IN ASSEMBLY

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, a vacancy has occurred in the National Assembly as a result of the passing away of late Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable Comrade Pandeni.

In terms of Article 48(2) of the Constitution, SWAPO has nominated Ms Juliet Kavetuna to fill in the vacancy in the Assembly. I now call upon the Chief Justice to administer the Oath or Affirmation to Ms Kavetuna. I call on the Chief Whip of SWAPO Party to bring in Honourable Madam Kavetuna.

HON CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the oath to Ms Juliet Kavetuna.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now declare Ms Juliet as duly elected Member of the National Assembly. Congratulations. On that pleasing note, I would like to thank the Honourable Chief Justice, Peter Shivute, on behalf of Parliament for once again adhering to the call of duty in the Chamber. Being aware of your busy schedule, we now excuse you to attend to other business.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will escort the Chief Justice.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Mushelenga.

17 April 2008

**TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORT
HON P MUSHELENGA**

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to table a Report on the two Motions which were referred to the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration.

The first Motion is on the Modernisation of Property Rights in Communal Areas:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this Motion was tabled by Honourable McHenry Venaani and it was widely discussed during meetings of the Committee. Stakeholders who were consulted included the Law Society of Namibia. They prepared a document with proposals on possible Amendments to legislation regulating property rights.

It was also felt that wider consultations with other stakeholders were necessary to get a proper perspective on the magnitude of the impact of this Motion. The Committee conducted Public Hearings from the 7th to the 16th of February 2008 in all 13 Regions with the aim of soliciting public views and opinions on the Motion.

The Committee was divided into four groups of five to six Members each. Group 1 covered Kavango, Caprivi, Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto Regions. Group 2 covered Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Kunene Regions. Group 3 covered Karas, Hardap and Omaheke Regions, whereas Group 4 covered Erongo Region and the whole Committee covered the Khomas Region.

On average the Hearings were well attended by community members, traditional leaders, activists and public servants. Different views and opinions on the Motion were expressed, with some calling for the Motion on Property Rights to be scrapped, whereas others were in favour but called for more research on the Motion before recommendations are made.

Upon conclusion of the Hearings the Committee invited the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement on the 8th of April 2008 to obtain their position on the prospects of having such a Motion in communal areas. The meeting was very fruitful and informative. The Ministry recommended a thorough comparative study and research be undertaken by the Committee in collaboration with the Ministry to determine the economic and social viability of the proposed Motion.

The Ministry recommended the conducting of study visits to countries such as Botswana, the Republic of Tanzania and Scotland. The Committee is now in the

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**TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORT
HON P MUSHELENGA**

process of drawing up a programme to visit Botswana and Tanzania during the May/June recess period and it is only until then that the Committee will be in a position to make its final recommendation to the House on the way forward regarding the Motion.

The second Motion is on Service rendering of the insurance industry in Namibia: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this Motion was tabled by Honourable Elma Dienda and after discussions it was referred to this Committee for investigation and report back to this House.

Several consultations took place with role players in the insurance industry, such as the Brokers Association, the Long-term Insurance Industry and the Short-term Insurance Industry. From these consultations it dawned upon the Committee that it is of utmost importance that the public at large should also be consulted to solicit information on the problems experienced.

Public hearings were conducted simultaneously with that of the Motion on Property Rights. It was obvious that the clients of this industry were unhappy with services which were rendered to them. It also transpired that there is a big need for an awareness campaign on the way this industry operates and what clients are entitled to.

A further meeting was called with stakeholders from the other side of the industry to inform them on the outcome of the public hearings and the difficulties cited by clients.

The Legal Assistance Centre requested an audience with the Committee to share the experience of their clients with insurance companies and in particular those who have tested positive with HIV.

The insurance industry watchdog NAMFISA, was invited to a consultative meeting with the Committee to discuss their role and solicit solutions for problems identified by the stakeholders as well as the public. As soon as this meeting takes place a report will be prepared and tabled in this House.

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, due to the impact of both these subjects on the lives of Namibians, the Committee would like to request the indulgence of the House for an extension in time to come to a conclusion and make recommendations on these Motions. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON T GURIRAB**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report. Further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of the Namibian Police for the year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I table the Motion, let me welcome and congratulate Honourable Kavetuna for joining us. I also note that the other side of the House has been reorganised and that all the factions have now been appropriately slotted into their positions.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice, that leave of absence, due to official business, be granted to the Honourable Jurie Viljoen until the 30th of April 2008.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Motions?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 03, 05, 06, 11, 14, 22, 28 and 29 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 05
HON NGHIDINWA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motion, Honourable Member. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION
OF COMMITTEE STAGE APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the House now goes into Committee?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Comrade Hans Booys, to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 03, 11, 28 and 29 had been introduced.

Vote 05 – **“HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”**, N\$151,741,000 put for Introduction.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 05
HON NGHIDINWA**

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, at the outset I would like to once again join my Colleagues who presented their Budget Statements before me in congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance and her team for improving and diversifying revenue sources which has resulted in Budget surpluses which now allow Government to tackle the needs of our society, despite the fact that the external environment was adverse and has put pressure on many economies. This proves her commitment to fulfilling the promises made by the SWAPO Party Government to its electorate.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, during this Medium Term Expenditure Framework my Ministry intends to take bold steps to move towards the realisation of its sub-sector, sub-vision of Vision 2030 which is “*All Namibians to have national documents, and there is a smooth and efficient regulative and controlling mechanism for refugees and immigrants into Namibia as well as their residence in the country, supported by a well-developed criminal justice system*”. Honourable Members, our programmes and all the efforts are linked to achieving that vision and the following programmes for this Medium Term Expenditure Framework period are equally highlighted in NDP3. The following programmes are the key to the achievement of that long-term vision:

- Civil Registration (Maintenance of Population Register),
- Immigration Control (Smooth efficient Controlling Mechanism for Immigrants),
- Refugee Administration (Protection and Caring of Refugees/Asylum seekers)
- National Forensic Science Institute (Support to Criminal Justice).

Honourable Chairperson, may I now take this opportunity to share the summary of achievements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and introduce the requested allocations for each of the programmes under the Ministry’s Vote:

Civil Registration:

The mandate of the programme is the provision of national documents which include birth certificates, identity cards, marriage certificates, death certificates

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 05
HON NGHIDINWA**

and the management of records thereof. The activities under this programme are aimed at ensuring that Government has the necessary demographic information it needs for planning purposes and for the identification of nationals.

It is the intention of my Ministry to fast track the issuance of national documents to ensure that every Namibian can be positively identified. We have maintained the promise that we made to the public to issue national identity cards within 24 days from the previous 724 days. In order to improve the service delivery and bring the services closer to the people in the spirit of the policy of decentralisation, the Ministry has adopted a two-pronged approach, the establishment of sub-regional offices and the acquisition of mobile registration offices.

During the course of last year, the Ministry convened a consultative meeting with all Regional Governors at Otjiwarongo to seek advice and opinion on the possibility of identifying places in their Regions where to establish sub-regional offices for the Ministry.

Based on the availability of resources and office space, the following sub-regional offices were opened: Ruacana, Okongo, Kahenge, Mukwe, while Tsumkwe, Grootfontein, Karasburg, Omungwelume, Okahao, Sibinda, Khomasdal and Okuryangava will open soon. The afore-mentioned sub-regional offices are part of Phase 1 and Phase 2 which will include the following: Omuthiya, Okankolo, Okakarara, Okahandja, Aminuis, Otjombinde, Kamanjab, Khorixas, Bukalo and Uukwiyuushona will follow as soon as Phase 1 is completed.

Namibia is a vast land and is sparsely populated. It will not be economically possible to erect sub-regional offices in every community or constituency, therefore it was found feasible to serve communities in the remote areas with mobile offices.

In this regard, the Ministry has acquired suitable vehicles fitted with advanced technology for mobile registration offices to reach communities that are living too far from the established offices. These mobile offices had added advantage to download data to the central database and will thus speed-up the production process of IDs and reduce long queues at our offices.

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HON NGHIDINWA**

Furthermore, the current manual records of birth, marriage and death do not allow easy accessibility for planning purposes. We are therefore in the process of recruiting 100 temporary data typists for a period of 1 year.

To this effect, I thank the Office of the Prime Minister for their support in designing the new National Population Register System that will allow inter-linkages between birth, marriage and death records.

Once this automation is completed, we will be able to positively identify each and every Namibian and trace their family tree.

A pilot project is underway with the help of UNICEF to issue birth certificate to newborn babies at maternity wards. This initiative, once successful, will be rolled out throughout the country at major hospitals, thus reducing late registration and will provide real time statistical data and this is still under discussion with the Ministry of Health and Social Services

During the last Financial Year, my Ministry has constructed three Regional Offices at Swakopmund, Rundu and Ondangwa. Tenders were invited for the construction of Gobabis, Opuwo and Mariental Regional Offices.

For the smooth production process, resources will be needed for acquisition and maintenance of the production equipment. During the last Financial Year we have produced 93,848 identity documents, as compared to 189,748 identity cards of the preceding year. This reduction can be attributed to the fact that backlog was cleared.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$90,504,000 for this programme.

Immigration Control (Entry/Exit) and Citizenship:

This programme ensures efficient, smooth and regulated movement of persons entering and exiting the country. In this regard, the programme coordinates the operations of ports of entry/exit and the issuance of permits to facilitate investment flow for economic growth, employment creation and to fill skills gap whilst ensuring skills transfer.

Border Control:

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HON NGHIDINWA**

In a bid to improve records of persons entering into and exiting from Namibia, we purchased a Border Control Management System in 2001 and it is slowly but surely becoming obsolete. We are now in the process of purchasing a new system which is capable to read electronic passports and respond to other security related threats. Equally, the same system will play a vital role to manage movement of persons during the upcoming 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and the African Cup of Nations to be hosted by South Africa and Angola, respectively.

During the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period this programme will also pursue the construction of the following new border posts: Kashamane in Omusati Region, Nkurenkuru in Kavango Region, Dobe in the Otjozondjupa Region and Singalamwe in Caprivi Region. The feasibility study of these border posts was already completed during the last Financial Year. My Ministry is also constructing staff houses at Ariamsvlei, Oranjemund and Lüderitz in the Karas Region.

Namibia and Angola have signed an agreement on the opening of additional border posts and crossing points. To this effect thirty-three border posts and crossing points were identified of which nineteen are to be opened in the first phase and the remaining fourteen to be opened in the second phase.

To enable the smooth crossing of border residents between Angola and Namibia, border residents from either party will be registered and be issued with a border resident card/border pass. The registration will exclusively be for people that reside within the border area "*which is 20 kilometre radius,*" that will enable them to enter the territory of either party with that pass for a distance of 60 kilometre radius.

At the same time, 2,225 illegal immigrants were deported. In an effort to fast track the deportation process, the Ministry is in the process of establishing Regional Immigration Tribunals as provided for under Article 11(4) of the Namibian Constitution.

The programme is also investigating to introduce a migration policy as the issue of migration is becoming more complex in the globalised world.

Alien Control:

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 05
HON NGHIDINWA**

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration plays a central role in the facilitation of economic activities. The programme would require resources to ensure the provision of these permits on time. Permit Control System remains manual, which is causing delays in the processing of employment permits. We have successfully piloted Document Management Information System last year with the help of the Chamber of Mines. We are now going for full-scale implementation of this system that will also allow the issuance of electronic visa.

Our visa fees were last reviewed in 1996 and as such we have received numerous complaints from our Embassies/High Commissions abroad that the fees were not covering their handling cost. We made our own comparative study in this regard and found that we charge the lowest fees within SADC. Based on the above, a new fees structure has been *gazetted*.

During the year under review, the following permits were issued:

Employment Permits:	Approved:	Deferred	Rejected
	8,596	276	232

Permanent Residence Permits	Approved	Deferred	Rejected
	26	24	21

Citizenship:

During the year under review, we have granted a total of 1,640 citizenship through descent, marriage, naturalisation and registration.

Passports:

Last year I announced in this august House that we are planning to procure a new but secure passport issuance system capable of producing electronic passports. I am pleased to inform this august House that the procurement of the system is at an advance stage and will be operational during this Financial Year.

During the year under review, the following numbers of passports were issued:

Brown passports	189
Diplomatic passports	136

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HON NGHIDINWA**

Maxi passports	461
Official passports	292
Ordinary passports	<u>36,282</u>
TOTAL	<u>37,341</u>

For the programme to achieve the above, the training and development of human resources is also receiving priority. In this regard, the programme would undertake activities aimed at human resources development. The development of an Immigration Officers' Course Curriculum would also receive attention during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$55,396,000 for this programme.

Programme Refugee Administration:

This programme is mandated with responsibility to provide protection and care to refugees and asylum seekers. This is done in terms of the Refugees Recognition and Control Act, the 1951 Geneva Convention, its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 AU Convention relating to the status of refugees. The mandate of the programme is further derived from Article 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. The challenge with this programme is that the programme has no control over factors influencing the influx of refugees.

As part of the protection agenda, a number of steps have been taken over the past years to support the search for durable solutions for the refugees and asylum population. These include the registration and verification of all asylum seekers/refugees and the issuance of certificates to asylum seekers and issuance of refugee ID cards. These exercises have ensured that the Government has accurate information in the database.

The camp base population now stands at 6,300, while 1,400 live outside the camp. Of this number, 75% are from Angola; while the remainder consist of refugees and asylum seekers from DRC, Burundi and Rwanda.

I have been reliably informed that UNHCR is scaling down its activities in Namibia by 2009 and when this happens, resources will be limited, hence a need for a clear strategy to be in place as remedial measure.

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HON NGHIDINWA**

This will pose a big challenge to my Ministry, because UNHCR together with its implementing partners have been supporting capacity building to Refugee Administration Directorate, for which we greatly appreciate and we thank them for their support.

Let me use this opportunity to inform the august House that from the estimated 2,000 Namibians who fled to Botswana resulting from 1999 Muyongo-led secessionist uprising, 1,163 have returned from Dukwe Refugee Camp in Botswana and have been integrated with their families.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$1,832,000 for this programme.

Programme Forensic Science Service (NFSI):

The National Forensic Science Service is a highly specialised multi-disciplinary scientific programme that applies all the aspects of natural science to solving crimes as well as finding scientific solutions in supporting criminal justice system. This covers a range of complex scientific skills, like human generics, document examination, analytical chemistry, arson investigation, explosives analyses, blood stain pattern analyses, ballistics, fraud investigation and economic crimes investigation.

During the past few years, the demand for Forensic Science Services has drastically increased, to the extent that service delivery by the Criminal Justice System may be adversely affected should the National Forensic Science Institute not be enabled to keep up with the stated demand.

Since 1999 the Ministry had hoped to construct a new custom designed National Forensic Science Institute facility according to the approved project plan. The said custom designed facility would not only allow for increased capacity for exhibit storage but also commissioning of essential forensic science equipment designed to enhance capacity as well as capabilities. In order to address the existing space problem, the Ministry would renovate the purchased former Continental Hotel building to accommodate the whole Ministry, including the National Forensic Science Institute.

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

Another means of enhancing case work turnover is in decentralising forensic services to the Regions. This will address the adverse effect attributable to a lack of forensic services in the Regions. We have purchased one mobile Forensic Laboratory, in order to enhance the response capacity wherever it is needed. Attracting qualified scientists in this field remains a challenge to overcome.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$3,081,000.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my team, the Honourable Theopolina Mushelenga, my Permanent Secretary and all staff members who have teamed together and worked hard for this Ministry.

It is now my distinct honour and privilege to request this august House to approve the allocation of my Ministry in the amount of N\$110,198,000 only for Operational Budget and N\$41,543,000 only for Capital Budget, thus totalling N\$151,741,000 only for 2008/2009 Financial Year.

May your usual sympathy and support prevail and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 06, “**POLICE**”, **N\$1,289,985,000** put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I take this opportunity to introduce to this august House Vote 06 of the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Department of Police, for the Financial Year 2008/09.

My Ministry is asking the total Budget of N\$1,289,985,000 of which N\$1,220,016,000 are for the Operational Budget and N\$69,969,000 is for development purposes.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, before I introduce Vote 06 of my Ministry, I wish to reflect before this august House on the statutory functions of the Namibian Police, which are as follows:

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

- To preserve the internal security of Namibia;
- To maintain law and order;
- To investigate any offence or alleged offence;
- To prevent crime; and
- To protect life and property.

Furthermore, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, let me brief this august House on some of the major successes and challenges of the Namibian Police during the Financial Year 2007/08.

General Crime Situation:

During the previous Financial Year 2006/07, we reported a total of 84,497 cases, compared to 87,729 cases reported in 2007. There is a worrisome situation there because of the increase of crime. That represents an increase of 3.8%.

During the same period, the Namibian Police successfully arrested 32,677 suspected offenders. The overcrowding of Police Holding Cells still remains a big problem for the Ministry. During the period under review, 73,364 persons became victims of crime. This is 1,944 victims more compared to the previous year, 2006 – a worrisome development there too.

In 2007, the most reported crime was theft. A total of 18,403 cases were reported, which represents 20.9% of the total number of crime cases reported, compared to 18,649 cases reported in 2006. There is a slight decrease, but still not so much that one should be happy.

On serious crimes, in 2006, 12,725 cases were recorded, while in 2007, 13,337 cases were recorded – again a worrisome development.

Housebreaking at residential premises still remains the most committed serious crime in the country. The 13 337 serious cases were reported in Khomas, Erongo, Oshana and Karas Regions. In other words, those are the Regions where serious crimes are being committed.

Commercial Crime Investigation:

During the period under review, ten high profile commercial cases were investigated, in which twenty persons were arrested as suspects. The total value

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

involved is N\$20 million. The crimes committed were fraud, contravention of the Bank of Namibia Act, 1998 (Act No. 2 of 1998). The crimes trends and *modus operandi* relate mainly to VAT fraud, ATM fraud, passport fraud and electronic transfer of funds. Success achieved is that of the total ten cases reported, twenty arrests were made.

Drug and Related Substances:

Apart from our nationals, 53 foreigners were arrested for dealing or being in possession of cocaine, cannabis or other related drugs, valued at N\$20,506,747.

Protected Resources:

This Unit has recorded a considerable number of successes during the period under review. 65 Cases of illegal possession of unpolished diamonds were investigated and 887 unpolished diamonds were seized, valued at N\$413,557,378.64. Seventy-five persons were arrested. Thirty cases of illegal hunting of 15 protected game products valued at N\$352,895.82 were also recorded and 34 persons were arrested.

Motor Vehicle Theft:

The Namibian Police uncovered syndicates operating between Namibia and Angola. These syndicates mainly focus on motor vehicles that are left unattended or parked for some time. Most of the routes through which the stolen vehicles are smuggled out have been identified. Unfortunately I cannot reveal these to you as we still use them and you will understand, Honourable Members.

The Namibian Police also participated in a cross-border operation, code-named Tabana Ntlenyana, targeting motor vehicles stolen either from Angola, Botswana or Namibia. Three Namibian vehicles were recovered and have since been repatriated from Angola.

During 2006, 592 cases of theft of motor vehicles were dealt with, while in 2007, a total of 485 cases were recorded. This represents a decrease of 18%.

Out of the 485 theft of motor vehicle cases reported, 321 cases were recorded in Khomas Region alone. One 151 vehicles were recovered and 55 suspects arrested.

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

The Ministry of Safety and Security recognises that, for the Force to fight all forms of serious crimes, it must have the capacity to do so. However, trained and experienced detectives, in particular, are still leaving the Force in large numbers for greener pastures elsewhere as was indicated last year in this august House. With the current salary structure, it is difficult for the Force to retain the personnel. I think that message must be loud and clear in this House.

In addition, because of inadequate funds, The Force finds it difficult to realise its envisaged intention to recruit 1,000 cadets per annum. This again contributed to the shortage of manpower. This Honourable Members must understand, we are not moaning and complaining, we have many competing needs, but we have been discussing with our sister Ministry, the Ministry of Defence, that perhaps the next Financial Year is our year for more, if possible.

We will only be able to train 380 personnel per year as opposed to the proper envisaged number of 1,000 every year. That is the message I am sending to you, Honourable Members.

Criminals and organised criminal syndicates are constantly changing their ways of operating. Therefore, to confront today's law enforcement challenges, there is a need for continuous improvements in training and allocation of sufficient funds for this purpose. I must state before this House that, indeed, the Ministry of Finance has done what it could to allocate to the Ministry. The problem is adequate resources available in the country.

Combating of Crime:

My Ministry gives high priority to this programme. This is the programme that represents the primary functions of the police in any country, to combat crime. Before you do that, you must have developed your human resources first. Secondly is then to combat crime effectively and linked to that is the logistic and other social requirements that the police need. We will continue talking about this as we go during the course of the year to see what we can do collectively.

Therefore to the combating of crime the Ministry is allocating N\$744,978,000. This, indeed, would assist the Police with what they are tasked to do.

Border Control:

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 06
HON DR N IYAMBO**

Border control is important in the life of any Nation, otherwise we may be caught asleep and that is not what we want to happen in Namibia and, therefore, the borders of Namibia must be protected in all cases. This programme is allocated N\$305,958,000.

Protection services: This is to protect your very important persons, including the Minister and other functionaries. It is a very important programme and you Ministers and others will definitely inform me that very often at your houses there is nobody. I am sure you will agree, there is nobody.

It is not because of the will of the Police but because resources are dictating. To this, N\$,159,525,000 are allocated.

For Road Traffic Control a total amount of N\$9,555,000 has been allocated.

To sum up this Budget Programme allocation:

Combating of Crime	N\$ 744 989 000
Border Control	N\$ 305 958 000
Protection Services	N\$ 159 525 000
Road Traffic Control	N\$ 9 555 000
Capital Projects	N\$ 69 985 000
Total:	N\$ 1 289 985 000

Honourable Members, this is the small figure of the Budget of the Police that I am kindly requesting you Honourable Members to approve and with an increase next year. Thank you very much.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:50
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:16 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 22
HON DR A IYAMBO**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 22 – “**FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES**”, N\$168,081,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and all Honourable Members in this noble Chamber,

Allow me to Motivate Vote 22: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

For the Financial Year 2008/2009, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is allocated an amount of N\$168,081,000. This amount will be used for the prudent management of Namibia’s Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture.

During the previous motivation for Vote 22, I lamented that the fishing sector was engulfed by a myriad of difficult external forces. Today, a year later, the sector still faces the most unstable and soaring crude oil prices of significant record. The volatility and turmoil of international oil prices have resulted into huge costs to the fishing industry internationally and Namibia is not an exception. Oil is a single world commodity that distresses more economies and causes misery across the globe. Namibia, with a relatively small economy, is severely hit. As of now, the price of diesel has skyrocketed to N\$9.04 per litre in Walvis Bay and N\$9.33 per litre in Lüderitz.

On a positive note, the final value of the Namibian fish has increased to about N\$3.9 billion in 2007 and it is predicted to increase to N\$4.2 billion in 2008. This is attributed to good prices and high demand of fish products globally. I would like to report that during 2007, we witnessed many fishing companies who heavily invested in the future by building new fish factories and purchasing new fishing vessels. All these efforts are contributing to job creation.

For any developmental journey, it is a necessity to pause for a moment, reflect and take stock at different intervals in order to assess progress and identify impediments to prescribe appropriate remedies. As such, we will be hosting an International Fisheries Conference this year. The objective is to recap on the central plank of our Fisheries Management since 1990. The Conference will

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HON DR A IYAMBO**

afford us a unique opportunity to review the fibre of the Policy as well as the vitality and responsiveness of our legal framework.

We will incisively interrogate the trend in the fish stocks rebuilding efforts, the attractiveness of our investment climate, the impact, apex and ebb of the Namibianisation of the fishing industry, product, market research as well as diversification, surveillance capabilities, human resource development and our international standing as a fishing nation.

The SADC Ministers responsible for Marine Fisheries, at their meeting in 2002, resolved to find a concrete regional solution to the growing plague of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. In the meanwhile, a robust International High Seas Task Force comprising of Australia, Chile, Namibia, Norway, New Zealand and the UK was formed to spearhead the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. In order to play our role, Namibia has agreed to host a SADC Ministers Conference that will take place in Windhoek from the 20 to 22 May, 2008 to deliberate on the issue of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

We have embarked on activities to promote the consumption of fish locally. This is a direct response to the incessant public outcry. Our motto this year is **“EAT MORE NAMIBIAN FISH FOR LIFE”**. This campaign was recently kick-started. I am glad it has picked up exceptional momentum. Since the campaign started in January 2008, more fish has been distributed and prices were deliberately lowered for the fish channelled through the Fish Promotion Trust.

The Namibia Fish Promotion Trust is currently busy preparing a Road Map, which is a Strategic Plan, to map out long-term mechanisms to make a variety of fish products available at affordable prices. The Ministry has, in the meantime, allocated 11,000 metric tonnes of horse mackerel to the Trust in order to maximise the distribution of fish locally. Equally, the Minister of Finance, for the purpose of purchasing refrigerated containers, graciously made an amount of N\$2,5 million available. A few of these containers have arrived from South Africa and are currently in Walvis-Bay waiting for distribution to Regions. The containers are still not enough at this stage for all the 13 Regions. We have also put in an order to acquire a refrigerated truck that will be used to transport fish from the coast to different destinations in the country.

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Since the start of the campaign in January 2008, the Trust has distributed 369 tonnes of fish to the available distribution centres.

Considerable investments continue to be put on onshore fish processing facilities by different investors. These investments are mainly on value addition. Jobs are being created and value is added prior to export. There is a need for Government to continue facilitating, encouraging and assisting value addition efforts in the fishery sector in order to create jobs. Let us continue to be innovative and responsive. Opportunities to create the needed jobs are there.

The Ministry of Fisheries is, by large, a technical Ministry. It requires highly qualified people. The Ministry requires tremendous financial support for us to retain the required technical personnel and ensure fast developmental pace. The Ministry has been facing an unprecedented exodus of highly qualified and experienced scientific personnel. These highly motivated young men and women are being poached by comparatively high paying entities, the main culprits being mining and fishing companies. The non-retention of institutional memory is hampering the quality and throughput of the activities of the Ministry. This issue should not escape our attention.

Motivation of Programmes:

Of the N\$168,081,000 allocated to Vote 22, an amount of N\$137,365,000 is earmarked for Operational Activities, while N\$30,716,000 will go to Capital Projects. We are indeed thankful, but hopeful that more funds will be allocated to our Development Budget in the future. We have a lot to offer with a bigger Budget.

Programme 1: Survey and Stock Assessments

The main purpose of this Programme (Surveys and Stock Assessments) is to conduct surveys in order to determine the state of commercial fish stocks. The outcome of surveys is used to inform Government on appropriate utilisation levels of the several fish stocks.

In order to achieve the desired outcome, a number of surveys such as; for Hake, Orange Roughy, Crab, Rock Lobster, Horse Mackerel, Pilchard and Monk will be conducted during 2008/2009 Financial Year. In addition to the above activities, field and area surveys for recreational fishing and seals will be executed.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wish to report that, the first phase of the construction of a new research vessel, which involved the design, detailed drawings and costing, has been completed. The current research vessel, the *Welwitschia*, has nearly reached her lifespan. In view of this, we need to urgently acquire a new research vessel to continue to ensure the required safety and capacity to accommodate research personnel.

A joint survey between Namibian and Spanish scientists was conducted in February 2007 and in February 2008, respectively. The specific emphasis has been on vulnerable habitats and deep-sea mountains in the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation area.

During 2007, there were no major anomalies in wind-patterns, sea surface temperature, dissolved oxygen and nutrient concentration observed. However, gradual global rise in temperature is being experienced as a consequence of the climate change and this seems to affect our coastal water temperature as well.

In February and March this year, the shores around Henties Bay, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay experienced dead and washed away rock lobster in abundance and other inshore fish species. This was a consequence of a very low dissolved oxygen concentration caused by red tide. The gravity of the rock lobster walkout has been the largest since human memory along our coast. Scientists from the Ministry have managed to rescue approximately 10 tonnes of crayfish by temporarily keeping them in the Aquarium at Swakopmund at the Ministry premises. Since the situation has normalised we have started to return the rock lobster back to sea.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, deliberate conservation measures (including closed areas, closed season and reduced Total Allowable Catches), that we introduced two years ago for the management of hake stock, seem to have yielded positive results. Collected data point to an improvement in catch rates as well as in the sizes of fish landed.

With the recent floods, Namibia has experienced an influx of water in the northern parts of the country through the Cuvelai System. The influx of freshwater into coastal waters has the effect of reducing salt concentration (salinity) of seawater. This can have bearing on sea organisms not accustomed to these reduced salinities. There was no visible impact on the creatures from the sea.

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A sustainable level of fish stock is crucial in order to protect and grow investment, ensure job sustainability, generate needed revenue and accelerate economic growth. Deliberate research is directed toward each target stock as will be explained below.

With respect to horse mackerel, the Ministry's scientists and the industry have conducted joint experiments within the 200 metre depths. This was done during the past two years, and its aim was to determine the proportion of adult horse mackerel in that area. Findings have confirmed that the larger portion of the horse mackerel stock, within the 200 metre depth zone, consists, mainly, of the juvenile component. To ensure responsible management, it is therefore important that such juveniles are protected and afforded an opportunity to grow to the fishable size and later to produce healthy and many eggs in order to replenish the stock.

With reference to the state of the pilchard stock, the last survey conducted during February and March this year, indicates that the biomass for pilchard is still very low and still largely dependent on recruitment success. Measures specifically geared towards the rebuilding are continually being refined.

With respect to Orange Roughy, indications are that we should continue with stringent management measures. The closure of specific fishing grounds will be pursued in order to get a complete overview of the aggregation and disturbance concepts.

Monkfish and Crab stocks represent one of the healthiest stocks. However, there have been reports of a high incident of juvenile Monkfish being landed during 2007. Rock Lobster stock on the other hand has been stable over the past three years, however, catches were low due to migration of this fish stock into deep waters in search of oxygenated environment.

The number of jellyfish in the Namibian waters has increased significantly. The jellyfish does not only create an operational problem for fishing vessels but it is also a nuisance for commercial species. Jellyfish is an avid destroyer of fish eggs and larvae.

To fulfil our responsibilities under this programme, we are requesting an amount of N\$42,063,000 of which N\$25,520,000 are geared for Marine Survey and Stock

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Assessment of fisheries. While N\$7,631,000 is budgeted to kickstart the construction of a new research vessel, an amount of N\$8,911,000 is for Inland Fisheries Surveys and Stock Assessment.

Programme 2: Human Resources Development:

This Programme caters for specific skills required by the Ministry.

Sustained development and efficient service delivery depend on continually enriched, enlightened and prepared workforce. The reverse stagnates efficient and effective delivery of services.

The Ministry has during the year under review funded 22 staff members to pursue full and part time degree and diploma studies at domestic institutions and abroad. The Ministry also funds short-term skill development courses. These are critical in the daily task executions. We dream for excellence in our work and are just working towards that.

The Ministry, through the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute, trains sea-going personnel in various fields including, navigation, engineering and basic safety. Equipping participants at Namibian Maritime Fisheries Institute with this knowledge entails that we comply with the International Convention of Standard Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, as acceded to by the Republic of Namibia.

The Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute has largely since its establishment been heavily depended on the goodwill of our Development Partners. Donor funds have gradually been discontinued. The Government should assume full responsibility to financially cater for the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute. There is need to inject more capital into the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute operations in order to sustain the existence of this very important centre. As such, the level of Budget Allocations needs to be seriously re-looked at.

Overall, an amount of N\$1,913,000 is allocated to Programme 2: Human Resources Development. The money will be invested in the training of, among others, marine engineers, pilots, inspectors, scientists, observers and others.

Programme 3: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fishing Activities

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The main objective of this programme is to ensure compliance and to enforce fisheries legislation. Compliance with fisheries legislation is enforced through the systematic deployment of inspectors onboard the fisheries patrol vessels and aircraft, monitoring of the harbour and fish processing factories, coastal patrols and the inspection of inland water bodies. Inspection is supplemented by the fisheries observation programme through the placement of observers onboard the licensed fishing vessels.

I am glad to announce that Namibia has fully implemented the Vessel Monitoring System in the fishing sector during 2007.

Today, all the Namibian licensed fishing vessels, except those exempted, are fitted with Automatic Location Communicators. The installed devices onboard the fishing vessels transmit, with speed, at required intervals data and information to the Vessel Monitoring System Operation Centre in Walvis Bay. The transmitted information includes the vessel identification number, course and speed, latitude, longitude plus the date and time. That enables the Ministry to monitor and control the activities of fishing vessels at sea.

In November 2007, the Ministry acquired a new fisheries patrol aircraft. This plane is fitted with modern and long-range navigation and surveillance equipment. The arrival of this surveillance plane has further strengthened our aerial surveillance capacity.

The Ministry continues to fight transgressions of significant magnitude, perpetrated by some operators. Some offenders have attempted to use loopholes in the law to circumvent it. This matter is receiving our firm attention. We are therefore busy with the drafting of Amendments to the Marine Resources Act and its Regulations to enable the Ministry to consolidate and facilitate the monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing activities in Namibia. Amendments are also essential to ensure the harmonisation of our fisheries legislation with SADC Protocol on Fisheries, 2001. These Amendments will be tabled in this august House after Cabinet had an opportunity to deliberate on them. I encourage the experts in the Ministries of Justice and Fisheries to expedite the finalisation of the Amendments. The Amendments will have bearing on the well being of those who work at sea and report dumping, but are now being victimised.

For this Programme; the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance the Ministry is requesting N\$81,244,000 for the Marine and Inland fisheries activities.

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Programme 4: Promotion of Marine & Inland Aquaculture:

The purpose of this programme is to develop fish farming for both marine and fresh water species. Excellent achievement was registered with Namibian oysters penetrating the lucrative Asian market, particularly Singapore, last year. We are happy to also announce that the recent promotion of Namibian fish in Singapore has been a resounding success. According to an article published on the 2nd of March 2008 in the “**Singaporean Sunday Times**”, it points out how the demand of Namibian fish has reached new height in Singapore. During 2007, oyster and abalone production in Namibia increased drastically and steadily as predicted. We have to work hard in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and Industry for our shellfish products to penetrate the EU and USA markets. Growth rate and yield of our oyster have been uniquely excellent and have exceeded our expectation.

The recent low dissolved oxygen (red tide) in shallower waters, at the coast around Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, severely negated the breakthrough achieved on production of oyster, clam and scallops. This has resulted in massive losses to aquaculture practitioners. For example, the oyster farmers lost an estimated 13 million oysters in the Walvis Bay oyster farms. I advise those affected to remain put and continue with investment undeterred. There is a need for all stakeholders to work on mitigation measures. As with any significant shellfish investment, I advocate that deliberate funds be sourced through the Namibia Development Bank to assist those with plans to enter aquaculture sub-sector.

Abalone development, particularly in Lüderitz, is showing great promise. Production has increased monumentally. One company is already planning to establish a cannery in Lüderitz to can abalone for export. This means value addition locally. At the moment our abalone is transported from Lüderitz to South Africa for canning there. Simply put, this is export of jobs. What is required is a complete shift in our approach on new investments and industries. Those who continue to invest in the country should be embraced.

Let the Town Councils and Central Government support job-creating ventures by facilitating and making funds available. Let us make capital available.

Epalela fish farm was inaugurated on the 10th of November 2007 and the first harvest took place on the same date. Epalela fish farm is currently stocked to full

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capacity. At the moment, we are working out a method to ensure that harvesting at Epalela can take place on a monthly basis.

The planned construction of the Onavivi-Omahenene fish feed mill plant will commence during the 2008/2009 Financial Year. An expert study has been conducted and completed. It has ascertained that Namibia has the necessary raw materials such as sorghum, maize, fish-meal etc. We plan to use these local materials to manufacture fish feed at Onavivi. It is from this centre that we plan to supply the whole country with feed. We expect to buy raw materials from both commercial and communal farmers. When we are ready to purchase the raw materials, the public will be informed accordingly. The Fish Feed Plant at Onavivi will be built, thanks to a generous contribution of about N\$6 million from the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Xunta de Galicia.

The fish farms in Caprivi and Kavango did not perform to my satisfaction during 2007/2008 Financial Year. During the 2006/2007 Financial Year, we commissioned studies and came up with a Turn-around Strategy. The Strategy was to focus on the improvement of farm management including, the enhancement of fish production, horticulture production, marketing, financial governance, technical capacity and flood mitigation measures.

Due to the most cumbersome and rigid tender intricacies not much was done. This is a disappointment. The tender process should be refined, training is needed for all personnel involved, certain activities should be centralised to Ministries, some contractors are allocated too many tenders at one time and this hinders on their timely delivery. Another reason for low production at farms in the Caprivi and Kavango regions is the lack of a hatchery and nursery to produce a substantial number of fingerlings that may be seeded at all farms to ensure enough stock density.

In order to overcome this deficit, we have budgeted for the construction of a hatchery at Kamutjonga Fisheries Institute. The construction of the hatchery will commence during the course of the implementation of the Budget under discussion.

Phase II of the majestic Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute in Kavango Region will be completed by the end of April 2008. His Excellency the President is scheduled to inaugurate this Institute on the 10th of May 2008. The objective of this Institute is to conduct research and training.

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During 2007, the Ministry commissioned a study on the viability of aquaculture development in Omaheke region. The study has been completed at the cost of N\$170,000 and has identified specific areas with sufficient underground water and great potential to develop fresh water aquaculture. We will start building a fish farm at Leonardville, in Omaheke, at a total cost of N\$8.5 million. This will be carried out in three phases starting this Financial Year.

In Karas, the Regional Council has started a pilot fish farm using the underground water from the Fonteintjie. This water has been found to be of high quality for fish production. The Fonteintjie Project is a community project running under the sponsorship from the Karas Regional Council and a contribution from the German Embassy. This project has now been registered with the National Planning Commission and funding will be requested during the next Financial Year. It is vital that Government funds this community project, as it is meant to address poverty and food insecurity.

With respect to floods, our farms in the North were not affected, but those in the Caprivi and Kavango were affected.

For **Programme 4: Promotion of Marine and Inland Aquaculture**, an amount of N\$42,861,000 is required to carry out the activities as enumerated.

Funding of Aquaculture is crucial if this sub-sector is to meaningfully contribute to prosperity, poverty reduction areas and overall economic development in rural. Funding from institutions such as the Development Bank of Namibia, AgriBank and commercial banks is crucial to enable exponential growth and expansion of this sector. A study conducted by the Norwegian Authorities concluded that N\$50 million would be required to kick-start the aquaculture development.

I wish to conclude by saying that, we at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources have been mandated to sustainably manage and conserve our aquatic living resources and to develop aquaculture. We thus look forward to implementing national programmes that are aimed at the realisation of our mandate successfully during the course of 2008/2009 Financial Year and beyond.

Permit me, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to submit Vote 22 to this august House, which is N\$168,081,000, for consideration and approval. I thank you!

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 14
HON NGATJIZEKO**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES:

Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Vote 14 – “**LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE**”, N\$996,336,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

It is with all humility and genuineness that I am rising today to submit as the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare for the favourable consideration of this august House, the Motivation of the Appropriation request for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare derives its mandate from the following policy, legal and regulatory frameworks:

Labour Act (Act 6 of 1992),
Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007),
Affirmative Action Act (Act 29 of 1998),
National Pensions Act (Act 10 of 1992)
Workmen’s Compensation Act (Act 30 of 1941) (as amended)
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations;
Social Security Act (Act 34 of 1994) and the
State Finance Act, (Act 31 of 1991).

Under the auspices of the aforementioned framework, the Ministry administers several programmes in order to meet the expectations of the Namibian people. These programmes contribute towards addressing the issues of poverty, unemployment and discrimination. The harsh reality of Namibia today is an unemployment rate of almost 37% under the broad definition of unemployment, while many who work, and indeed, work very hard, is nonetheless poor. Discrimination on the basis of race, gender and disability continues to infest itself in our companies and other employing institutions, both at the higher and lower echelons of our society.

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The Ministry has the responsibility, through its inspectors, to implement and enforce labour and employment legislation and agreements throughout the country to ensure minimum conditions of employment that are geared towards providing decent lives for Namibian workers and their families.

It also has the critical responsibility to provide social protection for elderly and disabled citizens, through social grants. Needless to say, these social grants, as modest as they are, are a lifeline for many families and communities.

Two important statutory institutions, for which the Minister is accountable, play key roles in fulfilling the Ministry's mandate:

The Employment Equity Commission, by overseeing the implementation and enforcement of Affirmative Action requirements, strives to fulfil the objective and promise set by our Nation's founders, namely to eliminate discrimination in employment in its many forms.

The Social Security Commission, the guardian of the hard-earned funds that are contributed by our working people and their employers, provides sick leave, disability, maternity, accident and death benefits that ease the economic burdens of workers, self-employed persons and their families in times of need. It also administers the Development Fund, which has as a principal purpose to conduct training and employment schemes for socially-disadvantaged and unemployed persons. The Ministry and the Social Security Commission made tremendous progress in establishing the National Pension Fund, which will improve the security and quality of life of Namibia's workers in their old age.

In addition, the Ministry also has the responsibility to promote sound labour relations in an economically-fragile and sometimes volatile environment. This is carried out primarily through the Office of the Labour Commissioner, to prevent and resolve industrial disputes and through the efforts of Inspectors to investigate complaints and resolve disputes at the enterprise level.

Let me just highlight some of the main achievements during the 2007-2008 Financial Year.

Before presenting the Ministry's funding requirements to fulfil its mandate during 2008-2009, I wish to report briefly on some of the achievements of the Ministry during the 2007-2008 Financial Year.

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The 1992, labour relations were characterized by a servant-master relationship, and I am immensely honoured to inform this august House that in December 2007, a new Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007) was signed into law which, once it becomes operational replaces both the 1992 and 2004 Acts.

This Act is a product enriched by international best practices and influenced by today's realities that are unfolding in the world of labour and employment.

The 2007 Labour Act will not only introduce an effective and proactive system of alternative dispute resolution, that is, conciliation and arbitration, but will also revolutionalise and refocus our labour relations in Namibia which will ultimately encourage social dialogue and enhance productivity.

Despite some isolated and pessimistic views, the Act reinforces the principles of collective bargaining, freedoms and protections of employees and foster social cohesion in our quest for national socio-political development and economic growth.

The statistical data collected from relevant employers over the years of affirmative action implementation at the workplace has showed a steady improvement in the representation of persons in designated groups at the management and supervisory levels in some sectors. However, some sectors have shown either no progress at all, or in worse cases, have shown a decline in the percentage of blacks and women at management and supervisory levels.

The threshold requiring companies to submit reports to the Commission was lowered to 25 employees per company with effect from 1 July 2006. Through this exercise the number of relevant employers covered by the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act is increased, resulting in a broader base of companies being assessed. A response of over 200 companies were received, however, the Ministry is of the opinion that not all companies have responded and concerted efforts are put in place to address the situation.

The Ministry, following a Cabinet approval, has embarked on the establishment of a national productivity organisation with the main aim to enhance the level of productivity awareness as an advocacy function and to enable individuals and organisations to be productive.

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A team of consultants has been engaged to do a thorough situational analysis and prepare documentations for the launching of a national productivity movement and awareness campaigns.

An achievement, I am particularly happy to report on, is the increase of beneficiaries for Basic State Grants from 142,000 to 144,500 that are currently recorded on the database system and are being paid N\$370 per month.

The Ministry has also successfully registered over a 160,000 beneficiaries in conjunction with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

In addition, the benefits of the funeral benefit program for beneficiaries of Social Assistance cannot be over-emphasised. During the period of reporting the Ministry assisted families to bury over 5,000 members of our society.

In line with the national decentralisation policy, the Ministry has pleasure in reporting that the construction of the Regional Offices for the Kunene Region at Opuwo and Omusati Region at Outapi were completed and the Ministry is looking forward to the inauguration of these offices.

In addition, construction of the offices in the Kavango Region, at Rundu and Omaheke Region, at Gobabis is progressing according to schedule and completion is anticipated during the current Financial Year.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, having listed the main achievements for the Ministry, it merits to draw your attention to the fact that the Ministry, despite various shortcomings and setbacks, could manage to live up to the expectations of the targets as set out in our PEMP document in almost all the instances.

In lieu of the above, allow me to take time out to identify a few of the challenges the Ministry faced during the period under review.

In our quest to ensure harmonious labour relations through the promotion of social justice, occupational health and safety and enhanced labour market services the Ministry noted with great concern that compliance with basic conditions of employment, more so, the affirmative action law is not implemented fully. This state of affairs inflates the number of disputes in an already volatile labour market and exerts pressure on the already understaffed Ministry.

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The fact that the Ministry is not represented throughout all thirteen Regions as is desired, hampers our efforts to make timely interventions as the different labour and social welfare issues present them. These shortcomings, as experienced within the Ministry in terms of human capital where the current personnel structure is not even remotely in line with the added and reshaped responsibilities of the Ministry, is of grave concern, as it not only causes delays but at instances impedes the Ministry to properly execute its mandate.

Programmes of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2008/2009.

Allow me Honourable Deputy Chairperson, to outline the programmes for which the Ministry seeks funds for the 2008-2009 Financial Year.

Our request for 2008/2009 amounts to N\$996,336,000 as provided for in the Budget book.

Operational Budget

Social Welfare:

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare undertakes as one of its functions the payment of Social Grants to all Namibian citizens and holders of permanent residence permits who have attained the age of 60 years, and disability grants to disabled persons older than sixteen years as attested to by State Medical Practitioners.

Currently the Ministry effects payment of grants at a rate of N\$370 per month to 144,500 beneficiaries, a number which is anticipated to increase during this Financial Year to about 158,000. In addition, the Cabinet approved an increase of the grant with an additional N\$80, hence the new Grant amount will be N\$450. Provision has also been made to cater for the much-needed Funeral Benefit and the services rendered for the payment of benefits by the service providers.

In order to ensure greater coverage, the Ministry will furthermore embark upon an awareness campaign. In order to effect the aforementioned, the Ministry budgeted N\$937,322,000.

Labour Market Information:

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The Directorate is tasked with conducting regular surveys in order to update and maintain the Labour Market Information System.

Provision has also been made for the funding of the Office of the Employment Equity Commission. Although some progress has been made towards equity in employment, it has become evident that the progress in redressing the imbalances that characterises the workforce profile of many relevant employers in this country has been painfully slow. In addition, persons in designated groups are still under-represented, especially at the management, supervisory and skilled occupational levels. Coupled with the above is the fact that the Commission does not receive full cooperation from some employers, leading towards non-compliance in terms of the Act.

Needles to say, serious efforts are being made to ensure effective law enforcement with renewed vigour in order to ensure compliance. The Ministry lowered the current threshold in terms of a relevant employer from 50 to 25. This exercise will require additional human and financial resources that will ensure that the Office will be able to cope with the increased responsibilities. It is envisaged that an amount of N\$3,335,000 will be needed for this activity.

Comprehensive vocational and occupational guidance services are provided throughout the country and for that purpose an amount N\$5,272,000 will be required.

The Ministry is also tasked with the registration of jobseekers and to assist them to find suitable employment. This will require N\$3,299,000. Coupled with the afore-mentioned is the further development and implementation of the Integrated Communication System for which an amount of N\$3,625,000 will be needed.

Furthermore, emphasis is placed on assisting prospective employers to find suitable employees through job canvassing which will require N\$2,882,000.

The Ministry, as one of its contribution to the National Poverty Reduction Programme, promotes employment creation efforts. This Programme will require an amount of N\$3,984,000.

The Ministry contemplates to establish a National Productivity Unit which will work towards bringing together stakeholders in their diversity to share a common consciousness and commitment to promote productivity improvement at

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individual, organisational and national levels. This unit will require an amount of N\$400,000.

In addition, the Ministry commenced with the Government's Performance Management System. The Ministry was identified as a pilot entity and in line with the Performance Management System milestones the Strategic Plan was completed. The Ministry is currently revising its structure to correspond with the revised mandates and the Strategic Plan. As a result of the aforementioned, the implementation of the Performance Management System cannot be overemphasised. An amount of N\$1,000,000 is needed for this project.

Labour Services:

This programme covers the Ministry's enforcement of both occupational safety and health standards and of labour rights at the workplace, falling under the Directorate of Labour Services. The labour inspector plays a pivotal role in safeguarding industrial peace and protecting workers at the workplace by providing technical information and advice to social partners and other stakeholders concerning the most effective means of complying with legal obligations.

The labour inspectors are also involved in the national fight against HIV/AIDS, focusing on issues arising in employment. Most of the inspectors serve on Regional HIV/AIDS Committees.

The expansion of the inspectorate's staff and activities will continue during the current year, with additional inspectors to be recruited.

The promulgation of the new Labour Act has seen operations in a new dimension. This includes the installation and development of a national electronic register of workplaces, which will also assist the Ministry to monitor their level of compliance with the Labour Act.

The Ministry identified a greater need to engage in activities that promotes awareness among workers and employers of their rights and obligations in accordance with the new Labour Act.

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The Directorate of Labour Services will conduct a number of tripartite educational workshops on labour rights and workplace safety matters.

The urgent implementation of the new Labour Act is central to the activities of the Ministry this year and hence the labour inspectors will be tasked to carry out more vigorously, continuous general and follow-up inspections to confirm the compliance with the provisions of the Labour Act. In addition to the above, the labour inspectors would also be expected to investigate workplace complaints to enable conciliators and arbitrators to take informed decisions on these cases.

As part of the functions of the Directorate, labour inspectors are required to undertake visits to farms, industries, factories and retailers to informally conciliate and or interview both parties concerned where a dispute has arisen and to try as a first attempt to settle such disputes at the early stages.

Currently only 1,280 workplaces are registered while about 14,000 employers are registered. As a result, the Ministry is compelled to inspect, register and regulate as many as possible of these workplaces. Furthermore, a greater need has been identified to closely monitor and inspect the conditions and operations of boilers and elevators as well as to raise awareness and provide necessary training in our quest to cultivate a culture of health and safety in the workplace.

Finally, the Ministry in conjunction with the Social Security Commission has reviewed the current medical and hospital costs in respect of injuries sustained at workplaces and adjustment of these tariffs were made during last year.

A total amount of N\$ 8,387,000 is sought for this programme.

Promoting Harmonious Industrial Relations:

This Office is facing a reorganisation challenge in view of the new Labour Act that has been promulgated and will be implemented soon.

The heavy responsibility of conciliation and arbitration, *inter alia*, which has now been placed on this Office means that all labour disputes have to be registered and acted upon by the Labour Commissioner. This responsibility in fact underlines the importance of our labour relations in the country.

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For the new system and process to be successful, consistent and continuous awareness raising campaigns are necessary and an amount of N\$2,500,000 is required for this purpose.

Critical to the aforementioned is our relentless pursuit to enhance dispute prevention at workplaces and an amount of N\$2,754,000 will be required.

The Ministry commenced with establishing an electronic case management database on labour disputes which will be easily accessible to the researchers, arbitrators and conciliators. An amount of N\$1,662,000 will be required for this programme.

The Ministry is also developing a pro-active monitoring and controlling system that will assist the staff members in dealing with industrial actions.

A greater need has been identified to develop advisory and training materials for the social partners in respect of the Labour Law and subsequent issues thereto. In order to achieve the aforementioned, an amount of N\$525,000 is required.

In the national quest to bring Government closer to the people, the Ministry contemplates to expand dispute resolution mechanisms to all corners of the country. An amount of N\$1,044,000 is needed for this programme.

Development Budget:

This Budget provides for the construction of regional offices at Swakopmund, Rundu and Gobabis and retention fees for the offices at Outapi and Opuwo. Feasibility studies will be conducted at Rehoboth and Walvis Bay for possible satellite offices. Part of the funds will be used to conduct a Labour Force Survey. To accomplish the above, the amount of N\$9,745,000 is requested.

In conclusion, it would only be proper, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, to take liberty to extend on a very personal note accolades to my Principals for the honour and trust bestowed upon me, to my Colleagues and Comrades who demonstrated their full cooperation and have been supportive to me all the time.

I am thankful and most appreciative to my Principals for the new challenge that was bestowed upon me. It is my fervent prayer that you would continue to assist

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HON MOONGO**

me as you have done in the past when the going gets tough and the tough gets going.

Allow me, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, to also seize this opportunity to register my unconditional appreciation to the staff members of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for their tireless efforts in executing the objectives that the Ministry has set during the previous Financial Year. Finally, allow me to echo the sentiments of my Colleagues in congratulating the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her staff for the well thought-out 2008/2009 Budget, her achievement in bringing to light the Government's first Accountability Report.

To this end, I humbly present to this august House the expenditure of N\$996,336,000 for your kind consideration and approval. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much, Comrade Minister. When the going gets tough, the tough gets going.

Vote 03 – “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**” put for Discussion.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would only like to pose a question. It is unfair that the salaries of workers of Parliament, from drivers to cleaners and the Members of Parliament themselves are tampered with. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Which Division is that?

HON MOONGO: The salaries of Members of Parliament. That is the Main Division on salaries. The question is, this Budget is dealing with salaries of all the staff and every Member of Parliament. The point is, the Budget approves the

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salaries of the Members of Parliament, while it is prohibited by the Constitution to tamper with the salaries. How far is the Commission, which was set up to adjust the salaries of workers of Parliament and Members of Parliament? I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let us avoid being general and let us refer to a Main Division. Any discussion?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I just want to take you to page 6, bullet 3 of the Motivation, the question of providing professional services to the Members of Parliament.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Parliamentarians are not professional columnists and analysts and they are tasked with a huge responsibility of making laws. It is, therefore, very important for them to be provided with the necessary support services, people who are going to do research for them, people who can prepare papers so that we can have a sound and informed discussion in this House. I would, therefore, suggest that in the next Budget the Honourable Minister of Finance should seriously look at the possibility of putting something aside for employing professionals, whether one or two people to be shared by various offices, but we must have those professionals to help us. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: This is too general I want you to stick to the details. That is the Motivation. Stick to the detail. What does Committee Stage mean? Committee Stage means we stick to the detail of the Vote. (Interjections). Members should stop arguing with the Chair. Honourable Members, do not try to put intellectual arguments here. Committee Stage is on the detail of the Vote. What does “detail” mean?

HON TJIHUIKO: What does it mean?

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am not a Whip, ask the Whip what it means.

HON TJIHUIKO: I am not saying something which is not ... (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Do not argue, what I am saying is that Committee Stage means detail. If you ask a question from the Motivation, just do that but do not give a speech.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair. I propose that bullet no. 2, the amount of N\$5 million, should be considered in the next Budget in order for us to be able to get professional support services.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further Discussion? Honourable Gurirab, be an example, as usual.

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me at the outset say we support the appropriation for this Vote, also because I am a beneficiary of this Vote, we express gratitude to the Minister of Finance for more than fully providing for this Vote.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am on Main Division 2 which deals with Administration and Legislation and I notice under the Votes that the allocation to the Political Parties has been increased from the last Budget to this one. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is it allowed for an Official Opposition to have only one Member in the Chamber?

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Continue, Honourable Gurirab, you have been a very good example in the Committee Stage.

HON T GURIRAB: The rest of the Members are away on Parliament business. Honourable Deputy Chair, I notice that the amount has been increased. During my contribution during the Second Reading I was instructed by my Party to say, which I did, that we are looking forward to the Parliament having some system through which we can account for this money. There is quite an interest from the public whether we are using the money for purposes other than what it is allocated for and since we are discussing the Vote of the National Assembly, we look forward that during the reporting year, some reporting methods can be developed that all of us can report on how we spend the N\$27 million.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am under the Main Division, which deals with Administration and Legislation. We note also with concern that the Rules of the Committees for three or four years remain Draft Rules. Now that adequate funds have been allocated for our work, I hope that during this year we can develop the Draft Rules into final Rules of the Committees, so that we do not continue working with Draft Rules.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we are grateful for the assistance we receive in the form of computers, but the ones which we have received, like the one on which I am working, is more than five years old. I suppose that during the next year's Budget funds will be set aside for procuring computers on which we can do our work.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, finally, the Standing Rules and Orders are the ones which guide our work in this House. This is the only body, only organisation which represents all the people of Namibia. This is the place where laws are made, this is the only place from which order must come on how we should rule our country and if we do not do it here, we cannot expect it from the rest of the country. The Presiding Officers in this House are here to ensure that we run the House in terms of the Standing Orders and not to do things which take away from the very important responsibility for which we are here.

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HON DR A IYAMBO/HON NAMBAHU**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. There is a Standing Rules and Orders Committee and this Committee can be advised if there are some problems with those Rules. Any discussion? Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is on the money allocated to the Political Parties and I want to put it in the format of a question.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we have to fund Political Parties with this money. We have problems, I am getting to the details now that Members of the Opposition, particularly the DTA and the CoD and others, are always absent when we are discussing this amount, asking for this money.

My question is, can we not change the Rules for the Opposition to be in Parliament when we discuss the National Budget? Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

You are Out of Order. Any discussion? Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My comments are based on the Division of Administration and Support Services.

I just want to echo the sentiments expressed by my Colleagues with regard to the support services available to the Members of Parliament.

It is not premised on the wish to operate in a luxury manner, but it is simply to get the environment to be effective, to make the work to be effective. The Parliament is the only place, as far as I am concerned, where you go to your computer and wait for one hour to get access to the internet. I think it is time that someone really takes a backseat and assess what is it that a Member of Parliament is

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HON DR KAWANA**

expected to do when he enters this august House and for the resources to be allocated for those persons to execute exactly what is expected of them.

We are here to serve, that is what we thought we are coming here to do, and certainly the resources are not luxury, it is just really for us to serve and I am very happy that my Colleagues in the Executive are talking like someone who has come of age, where people are saying, "*now hard work, now service delivery.*" I think that is also what we want to do from this end but the environment must be created for us to do just that.

Even on the research or whatever, you have to supervise and exercise an oversight function when you are capacitated to do that, but if you are the typist, you are the self assistant, you are a typewriter, and you are your own researcher. How on earth are you going to do that? These are the things that we want the Colleagues to look at and probably lend us a sympathetic ear. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussion? Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I just want to help my Sister, the Honourable Deputy Speaker, on one of the questions asked by the Vice-President of the DTA concerning the Report of the Public Office-bearers Salaries and Benefits Commission. I think the Honourable Member's question is misdirected. In terms of that Act of 2005 the Report is submitted to His Excellency, the President and I do not think that the Honourable Deputy Speaker will be in a position to answer that question. That Report is submitted to the President and it is receiving the attention of His Excellency, the President.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I was reading the Budget Document and if you look at the current capital and equity participation on page 50, it appears that the National Assembly does not have a Capital Budget. Is it true that we do not have a Capital Budget for the National Assembly? Maybe I am looking at the wrong place. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is not the book which is wrong, so the question is also wrong and Out of Order. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Deputy Speaker wish to respond to queries?

HON SIOKA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much that you have ruled some of the questions Out of Order. The first question by *Honourable Moongo* was answered by Honourable Kawana. What I could maybe add is that the cleaners belong to the Ministry of Works. (Interjection). I have received a note from the Office of the Prime Minister.

On *Honourable Tjihuiko's* comments on page 6 on the appointment of professionals – point well taken. You are a Member of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee and most of the questions by the Members of the Opposition belong to the Standing Rules and Orders and they know them very well.

Honourable Gurirab, Main Division 2, Administration and Legislation and the Funding of Political Parties that should be accounted for. Let me tell you that last time when I was still Deputy Chief Whip of the SWAPO Party, when the late Comrade Tjitendero was still alive, Honourable Dinyando, Honourable Lempy Lucas and myself had to report every three months in the Standing Rules and Orders.

We were giving reports on the auditing of SWAPO's books. Therefore, all those questions belong to the Standing Rules and Orders, they do not belong there.

The Rules of Committees to be amended still remains in the hands of Political Parties. We have been struggling in the Political Parties to amend these Rules

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and there are still a lot of issues which are still outstanding from the Standing Rules and Orders whereby the Caucuses should amend those Rules and compile Reports and I will say it is a point well taken by the Rules and Orders.

Honourable Abraham Iyambo, Political Party Funding – Out of Order. We need to fund our Political Parties to enable them perform their duties.

Honourable Nambahu, thank you very much for your question on support services to Members of Parliament, but these points were raised in the last meeting of the Standing Rules and Orders. You are a Member of the Standing Rules and Orders and you take questions from there and come and push it into the Motivation of the Deputy Speaker. That is very unfair because most of you, apart from Honourable Moongo, are Members of the Standing Rules and Orders. Everything you have asked is dealt with in Standing Rules and Orders.

Honourable Kawana, thank you very much for your assistance and senior *Minister Tjiriange*, I do not want to comment. Thank you very much for your support, Honourable Members, our Budget is ours.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I wish to discuss the Budget of the National Assembly, the appropriations which are tabled here for approval and that is what we are doing.

There is no requirement, as far as I am aware, that we account for this N\$17 million, which has been appropriated for the Political Parties. That is money which should be approved here in Parliament and that is where I have to discuss, not in some secret Chamber. (Interjections). The point I am raising is not to the Minister of Finance, but to the person who is presenting this Vote. That is the person who is responsible and I am saying that since N\$17 million being appropriated for Political Parties and there is no mechanism of accounting, there is an outcry from those who have given us this money, the taxpayers. There

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is no requirement to account. I account to my Party, but let us account to the Speaker for this money, that it is transparent. There is a demand from the taxpayers, so let us do it. That is all I am asking. Let us do it this Financial Year, let us develop a mechanism. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, when are you going to account for the CoD cheque that went missing? Is it the function of this Chamber to account for the cheque which went missing from the CoD?

HON T GURIRAB: It is a mechanism of accounting which I am asking for. It will be in that Report and hopefully that Report when tabled here.

Let us therefore just account for the N\$17 million, let Vote 03, let the Speaker's Office make a mechanism and let us account for the money. That is all I am asking. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? I am trying to understand. Maybe it is logical if you are accounting for something that you were supposed to spend on something and you did not spend on that one. If we are given this money by the Parliament, are we in any way told to spend this money on something and not on something else or are you just given a blank cheque to go and spend the way that we want, as long as we spend on political activities? For example, if I am given money in the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to go and pay subvention, I may not use that money to go and buy cars and I must account because I was supposed to only use it for subvention. Are there any guidelines to the political parties that when we give this money, do not use it in this way or can we spend it the way we want?

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HON T GURIRAB**

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I understand that the N\$17 million in this Budget is to support Political Parties to do their political work. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Yes, how?

HON T GURIRAB: From our side, from where I stand, we would be prepared to assist and participate in that Debate. However, in this case the Honourable Speaker of the Parliament is saying, "*CoD, you got N\$2 million out of the N\$17 million, what did you do with it, did you have one big Party and spend the N\$2 million?*"

All that we are asking from our side is that it is money from taxpayers, let us account for the money. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. The question by Honourable Gurirab is very disturbing. These are public funds and all public funds must be accounted for and the Auditor-General is there to satisfy himself that the money was used for the purpose intended. For good administration it is expected that each Political Party will have a Budget and on the basis of that Budget the Political party will start to spend the money and on that basis the Political party will be able to account and give the necessary information to the Auditor-General to do the auditing.

To give the impression that this money is not accounted for is very unfortunate – if this is the impression you are giving to the public.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, when the Deputy Speaker answers on the queries, the Deputy Speaker answers as it was queried and during those queries there were issues raised of Standing Rules and Orders. No issue of auditing was raised and the Deputy Speaker only answers what was raised. It is also for the Honourable

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Members to take it up at Standing Rules because Parliament cannot take it up here. But this is a new point which was now raised on auditing of books. Let us separate the point which was previously raised and this one. This one is about auditing of the funds allocated to Political Parties. I would ask the Honourable Deputy Speaker to respond on this specific query.

HON SIOKA: All I have to say on is that we have our own Cabinet here with whom we share information. If the Honourable Member could have taken information to the Standing Rules and Orders, we could put it on our agenda for us to be accountable for what he is demanding us to be accountable for. Otherwise for now, I cannot say we are not accountable or we are accountable. He knows what he is talking about, it is better to take the matter up to the Standing Rules and Orders.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Prime Minister said that the books are audited by the Auditor-General's Office. If that is so, we should not complicate the discussions. We are trying to complicate the discussions and that is why there is a Rule that in the Committee Stage we stick to the detail of the Budget, not General Debate.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am speaking of the N\$17 million which is under Main Division 2 and all I am saying is that the books of Political Parties, to the extent that they exist, cannot be audited by the Auditor-General. Political Parties are not part of the State system, the Auditor-General cannot audit the books of SWAPO, CoD or NUDO. It is only the Parliament whose books are audited by the Auditor-General, not those of SWAPO or CoD.

The N\$17 million will go out during this Financial Year and there will be no account for it. N\$17 million will be paid out to Political Parties and what we are asking for is that we account for our share of that N\$17 million and that the National Assembly devises a system for us to report back on our share of that **N\$17 million**, how we have spent it or whether we have spent it for the purposes it was aimed at. That is all we are asking.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 11
HON P MUSHELENGA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further Discussion? I put Vote 03, any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 11 – “**NATIONAL COUNCIL**” put for Discussion.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. It is very difficult to raise some of the issues with the Deputy Speaker, as she said here yesterday that the Chairman of the National Council is not here. Be that as it may, I am more concerned about the money allocated to the Standing Committees of the National Council.

In the current Financial Year, according to page 6 of the Deputy Speaker’s speech as well as in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document on page 156, N\$3 million have been allocated for this purpose.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have had discussions with some Members of the Standing Committees of the National Council who have expressed concern regarding the money allocated to their Committees, that they are unable to perform their Parliamentary function as Committees of the National Council.

Now, even when I look at page 156 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, for this year it is N\$3,1 million and next year it is N\$2,8 million, which means that figure will decrease, as if we are to say the activities of the Committees will be less by next year.

Committees are very important structures of Parliament and for them to fulfil their functions they need to be adequately funded. I am not too sure whether these figures are enough if I have to make a proportional comparison with Committees of the National Assembly, for example. Therefore, that is my concern.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Minister of Finance.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 11
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA/HON SIOKA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wish to share information, not to contribute to the Debate because I think it is very important for me to share this information on page 156 on the point raised by Comrade Mushelenga, just to indicate that his concerns are addressed.

If you look at page 157, there is an indication on that page of the additional resources that are allocated on top of what was allocated in the last Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Therefore, what you have on page 156 are the allocations as initially made under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework that ended in the Financial Year 2009/10. Now this Medium Term Expenditure Framework starts 2008/09 and extends to 2010/11. On that page 157 you will find that under Enhancement of Parliamentary Process, there is an additional N\$3,072,000 the first year, an additional N\$3,104,000 the second year and an additional N\$3,104,000 the last year. Therefore, these figures are additional to what you cited on the previous page and that was because National Council put in a request for additional resources. I just think it is important to highlight that point.

Further, I want to state that when we allocate resources at the Ministry of Finance, we usually respond to programmes that are presented. It means that even if your programme is important, if nothing has been submitted we cannot allocate money for something that has not been presented for funding. We only allocate money to something for which that was requested. This is not in response to Comrade Mushelenga, because he did not raise that point, but I just wanted to share that information generally.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Deputy Speaker, do you have something to add?

HON SIOKA: I just thank the Minister of Finance for giving that information and if the National Council had a problem, maybe they could have raised it with the Secretary of the National Council. However to raise it with a private Member of the National Assembly will not augur well. They are supposed to raise that issue with the Secretary of the National Council. I thank everybody who has contributed to this Vote 03 of the National Council.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 28
HON MUTORWA

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am rising on a different issue and I request the patience of the Members to please listen to what I am going to say. It is nothing about what I said previously.

On the same page there is another programme that is allocated N\$ 15.9 million. I do not know how realistic this programme is because it also talks about live coverage on NBC, which I did not see in the National Assembly Budget. I am just expressing my concern whether this is realistic, whether it will be realised or whether we are just putting money there that will end up being under-spent. I am just expressing my concern.

HON SIOKA: Honourable Member, maybe the point is well taken, I will have to inform the Chairman of the National Council. He can call the Member and they can discuss.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 11. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 28 – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION**” for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising in support of this very, very important Vote. The Electoral Commission is a very important institution and my comments are related to page 690 of the Development Programme document, which page does make reference to the construction of a headquarter for the Electoral Commission of Namibia. I must right from the onset say that this is a very commendable step.

The Electoral Commission as an institution that is tasked with the responsibility to safeguard democracy in our country, needs a proper Headquarter. I see that N\$ 40 million is budgeted for this current Financial Year and I would like to state from this forum, that the leadership of the Electoral Commission should do

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everything possible to speed up this particular process of constructing a proper headquarter for the Electoral Commission, now that the budget is making provision for such a substantial amount of money. Because the current venue where the Electoral Commission is operating from, I may say, is completely unsuitable. That place is overcrowded and congested. They are operating from the NDC building. Quite a number of offices are operating from there, including the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture and NDC itself. I think they occupy two floors, but that place is also very notorious for regular break-ins. In the past three years that we have been operating from there as the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, we had been experiencing regular break-ins.

Therefore, I am pleased that money has been provided for the construction of a proper headquarter for the Electoral Commission. They should avoid all unnecessary bureaucratic delays, of taking years and years for feasibility studies, before the actual construction commences. Otherwise, I do support the Vote and I think we all should support that the Electoral Commission as an institution deserves proper Headquarters to operate from.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 28 and I only have a query on Main Division 1, point 6, the Electronic Voting Machine. It says that Cabinet approved in principle, but then it is already budgeted for in the Budget.

Then the other issue is still on the same Main Division where the Electoral Commission makes the statement that it will effectively and efficiently speed up the process of determination of results. How is it something to be determined? Is that right or not right?

The other issue on which I wanted information is how secured are those Electronic Voting Machines? It is good that it is going to be efficiently and effectively, but how secure will it be? Many of you have computers and you know how computers can be played with. How secure is that scenario of transfer of results? It happened in America, using the same Electronic Voting Machines. However, my major concern is, how can something be budgeted for which has only been approved in principle? If something is approved in principle, there are

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still some investigations to be finalised and then agreed upon and then budgeted for. This one however sounds as if it has already been agreed to and if so, then they need to rectify their statement. That is all I wanted to say.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Moongo, detail.

HON MOONGO: Why must I stick to detail while you others are allowed to elaborate? The Opposition also has a right to speak.

In the statement of the Electoral Commission they mentioned the pending court cases which really took many years. Is it due to lack of money or is it because of the lack of political will? What is really the cause? Or can I regard this as a tendency that happened in Zimbabwe to sit on the election result? Is that not the case?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just want to share information with the Honourable Members with regard to the Electronic Voting Machines.

This issue was brought to the Cabinet twice, first for the Electoral Commission to go to India and investigate the matter. Eventually the Electoral Commission went to India and investigated the matter and came back with samples. These samples were demonstrated to Cabinet and Cabinet agreed in principle that this system seems to have the potential to address some of the problems, especially when it comes to counting.

However, in order for the machines to be used, the Electoral Law must be amended and that is the catch in principle. Cabinet cannot anticipate that the Parliament is going to amend the Electoral Law. The Cabinet agrees in principle but Parliament has to amend the Electoral Law in order for these machines to be used. That is what "*in principle*" means. Thank you.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, you have the Floor to respond to the queries.

HON SIOKA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, let me, first of all, thank *Honourable Mutorwa*, the Minister of Agriculture, for the moral support which he has given the Electoral Commission of Namibia. We really need that office to be built.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister has answered *Honourable Ilonga* and the issue that the Cabinet has in principle approved and the delegation which was sent to India.

Honourable Moongo, maybe I will just refer you to the Political Party Liaison Committee. All Political Parties have Committees, which liaise with the Electoral Commission of Namibia. All information you need from them you can get there. The case which is pending is of the Republican Party of 2004. I think the Republican Party is getting feedback from that Committee which I talked about. It is only one case pending. Honourable Moongo said there are many cases pending, but it is not true, it is only one case of 2004. However the Republican Party is getting information from there and I am sure your Party will give you the information. I think those are the answers I could give.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 28, any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 29 – “**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**” for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Seeing that my dear Brother, Friend and Comrade is very new in this portfolio, I would politically intimidate him because I wanted to put forward some of my concerns since some of us are politically blacklisted by NBC, but for now I will not raise that issue.

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I just want to request my Honourable Senior Colleague to look at the issue of Base Stations particularly in Hardap, because both television and radio reception in that area is really very, very poor. May I request my Senior Colleague to look into that?

The other area where radio reception is very poor is in parts of Kunene, Omusati and the Ohangwena Regions. Otherwise I support the Vote and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I also rise to support Vote 29. I am speaking on Main Division: Media and Television, so that Honourable Moongo can see I am not generalising.

I just want to find out from the new Minister – and I will also not put him under pressure – now that I am no longer sitting at that place, whether these people will suffer again because of the blacklisting? I will check whether they now focus on that side.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Which Main Division? Honourable Deputy Minister, that question is Out of Order. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I only want to make a comment on the details, because some Political Parties in Namibia are so poor that they cannot afford to own radio and television. SWAPO is monopolising the television and the radio. This year they must buy their own television and their own radio and leave the national radio and national television stations for all. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That question is Out of Order. Honourable Goreseb.

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HON GORESEB: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I rise to support this very important Vote and to congratulate Honourable Comrade Joël Kaapanda, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, who is in charge of this Ministry from 8 April 2008, to spearhead the ICT revolution in Namibia, which is indeed a very tall order. I have just a couple of comments to make.

It is true, Honourable Minister, that information is the most democratic source of power and knowledge is power, it is true? Now on page 3 of your motivation is stated: "*The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation made progress with its capital projects.*" I am a little bit disappointed there. The percentage on this paper and the improvement of the projects which is made is just 1%. The Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs has already mentioned that there are certain areas which are not covered, in particular the Aus area in Hardap and in Kunene the Sesfontein area and the other areas in Omaheke which were mentioned by Honourable Kaura.

Now as you said information is power, these people have since Independence been isolated from the events that are happening inside our country and I already took up that issue with your predecessor and I will come up with proper questions just to enable the Honourable Minister so that he must catch up from where she has left regarding this issue.

Regarding the national broadcasting radio services which can reach all corners of our country and which is a very important source of information, however these radio services are in need of upgrading. They are using outdated equipment which is obsolete. The offices, which one can term as pigeon-hole offices, are not conducive for running these very important services. I can challenge the Honourable Members that there is no Honourable Member in this august House that is using a vehicle which is eighteen years old. Therefore, this equipment must be upgraded to serve the purpose which it is intended for.

Therefore, Honourable Members, the ICT revolution is a good idea, but it needs a lot of investments to reap the benefits it offers. Therefore, I will appeal to this august House to have another look at the allocation to that Ministry in order to render the services that are required to this Nation.

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

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HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Most of the things I want to talk about are listed on page 166 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document. I want to talk about the Government website. Yes, it is very good, we now have a new Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. I am talking about upgrading the Government website, its data and so on.

If you for example go to the website of the UN and you look for Resolutions or Decisions which were passed by the Heads of State of the AU and Resolutions passed by the General Assembly, Security Council of the UN, all those resolutions that were passed since the establishment of these institutions are put on their websites.

It is therefore important that our Cabinet Decisions be put on the website starting from 1990, so that if you are able to remember there was a Cabinet Decision on this, you should be able to trace it on the website.

Coming to NBC programmes, I said some years ago here that they must update their website, especially on news. Sometimes we go outside on an official mission and we want to check what is happening at home. We rely only on the print media. I said it here two years ago and I will continue saying it until NBC does something so that we should be able to trace what is happening at home. I really hope that NBC is going to take this issue very seriously, because if you check with other media institutions, you are able to read their news and you are able to follow what is happening.

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and next time please protect me from Honourable Moongo's interventions.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I will try to stick to the Statement by Honourable Kaapanda.

On page 3, I want to, first and foremost, congratulate the NBC because from the look of things they are really improving on their financial management. It is good news that they are at least talking about a turnaround. They are moving in the right direction. I think this is a clear indication that if you have the right person in the office, you will get results out of that office.

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There is something that I want to mention on that page. One is the fact that the NBC is a National Broadcaster, therefore they should serve the national interest. They should therefore be very careful not to allow the NBC to be manipulated, especially this time of the year where you are approaching the national elections.

As Honourable Moongo said, if at all one wants to use a television, they must use their time that they paid for or they should start their own television, but they should not be allowed to use the taxpayers' money for specific programmes that fit that Political Party. That is wrong.

Secondly, before I sit down, I only wanted to add that I have not seen a Report on ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. I do not understand why the Minority Parties are always making noise in this House, especially when we are approaching elections. It happened on many occasions that they were supposed to address political rallies and only they themselves come to the scene from Windhoek. How can NBC be effective? What do they have to cover when they do not have supporters themselves? The SWAPO Party has supporters that are why they are making news in the interest of the Nation.

HON TJIHUIKO: If I may answer that, the role of the television is not to cover ten or fifteen people, it has to cover the event. If our rally in Oshakati is only for two people from Windhoek, what is wrong with that? (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Information. It is true my Party may be seen on some programmes on the television. There are programmes that we as a Party pay for commercially. Sometimes you see congresses on NBC and those programmes were paid for. There are programmes, like the covering of news, like we had on Saturday and people say SWAPO is being covered, but it is because it is the only Party that was holding a rally on Saturday. Now you want to be covered when you do nothing. Put up activities, set your programmes, invite the media, they will come and cover you.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the objective of providing information is not the number of people, it is the message. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: He said something about a star rally and I want to provide information for the record.

I am rising on a Point of Order to provide information to this Chamber. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, during the elections in Rundu Rural West there was a programme where his president, the President of NUDO, was supposed to address a so-called star rally. He arrived there with people from Windhoek, there was not a single person who attended the so-called star rally. Even NBC was complaining – and I can even give him the tape – what kind of star rally is he talking about?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, there is confusion. What is a star rally? A star rally is how many people? Every Political Party has their own strategy, so our strategy at that particular moment, that was meant to be a star rally, not the SWAPO type of star rally. (Interjections).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, we are trying to derail the process of the Committee Stage. We are driven away and away from the Budget discussion. I do not know where this kind of culture comes from. Star rallies are not one of the issues in the Budget. The Chair has to give guidance to the House and I am now asking Honourable Tjiuiko who has the Floor to please stick to the Budget, otherwise I will rule you Out of Order. Stick to the Budget.

HON TJIHUIKO: Please protect me from the ...(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, you raise points which provoke other points and these other points become issues, not the Budget. NBC is here, they want to hear, they have nothing to do with

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your star rally of five or six people, and they want to know what you want them to do with these sums of money.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, before I conclude I would like to say that as a National Broadcaster it is indeed in the interest of the Nation, the people of Namibia want to hear what Political Parties are saying and therefore, whatever event has been organised by that specific Political Party must be covered. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Member a tiny question? I do not want to question the star rallies, I want to ask whether it is not corruption if the broadcaster and the television are only used by one Party? Can the Anti-Corruption Commission not intervene?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order.

HON NAMBAHU: On a Point of Order. I am really lost, because I was perusing here and trying to find a Main Division of NBC by the name "*General Remarks*" and I am unable to find it.

HON TJIHUIKO: In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson...(Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, do you not think there are times where it works in your favour if you are not covered at a particular moment? To give an example, there was one Political

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Party that was launched some years ago, it was reported on NBC, so the person that was launching the Political Party was put on the screen addressing, “*Mr Chairman, Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps*” and immediately the commentator went on saying that there were no members of the Diplomatic Corps, only teachers and journalists who came to cover the occasion. Now, this Political Party never got a crowd, it ended up dying a natural death. Do you not think that if at some of these activities NBC comes and say, here we saw a Political Party addressing a meeting but there was nobody, so many people came from Windhoek, that it would discourage potential members? Do you not think that sometimes it may work in your favour if you are not covered?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I just wanted to say that indeed the NBC has improved, they are doing quite a good job. I am also impressed that *New Era*... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Information, Deputy Chairperson. I find it very unfair to the NBC. Of recent when we had the Eenhana elections, all Parties were given specific time on television and radio. The Opposition, including maybe NUDO, never turned up and people have been waiting for them and they are still waiting just for them to be fair to the NBC, that they are always allocated time. When are they going to turn up? It is too late now.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: I was saying that I have also noticed that *New Era* as a company is also picking up. It is a good message, it is good information and therefore, I end here and I support the Vote.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my contribution is on page 466, Programme: Free Flow of Information and Access to the Media. This media referred to here is printed media, television and radio, so what I will say is within that context and I would move to the next programme which is to improve understanding of GRN activities and policies.

Listening to the Honourable Members on the other side, I want to remind them that this is the mandate of NBC, NAMPA and all the others. The SWAPO Party let Government policies must be promoted, it is their mandate, you cannot separate it and for your information...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Tweya, the question is: You are talking about NBC providing Government policies. Is that what you said? If that is what you are saying, you should make a distinction between SWAPO policies as a Party and for the information of the Deputy Minister, these are two distinct things. We are saying you should not use SWAPO in the cover of Government.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, if the Member does not have a book, I will read because I am...(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I ruled the Member Out of Order, just continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: *“To improve understanding of GRN activities”* and the purpose of this programme is to ensure all Namibians, including the Honourable Member, understand GRN priorities.

HON MOONGO: This insinuation was already made by Kapia and this is why Interpol went to arrest the man for corruption.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chair, these are the GRN policies, priorities and programmes to enable all Members, including the Honourable Member, to actively participate in the national development activities and this definitely includes...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tweya, does all that information given also include the SWAPO Party Manifesto? Is that the message you want to convey?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, the answer is indeed yes, the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto has been adopted as a Government document. That includes the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and NBC, as one of the media, is included in this mandate.

The next one is again on the programmes and that is the details: *“To ensure the media sector benefits the economy.”* Sorry, let me just finish with access to media. I want to ask the Honourable Minister, I know that eighteen years after Independence there are other areas in Namibia where we still do not have especially the national media, like NBC-Television and Radio. One specific area is where this Republic is collecting revenue, which is the border between Namibia and Botswana at Muhembo. Up to now this specific border post is completely excluded from the rest of Namibia. Are there perhaps any plans within the expansion of NBC? I am also aware of many other areas in the South, etcetera. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you have been talking about a SWAPO Election Manifesto that has been approved.

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Is the Honourable Minister saying that this area which has been excluded from the national programmes of the NBC, is that part of the SWAPO Election Manifesto to punish those areas because they did not vote for SWAPO?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The other programme is to ensure that the media sector benefits the economy of Namibia. The main activity of this programme is promoting GRN policies and programmes nationally and internationally through these various services. The Honourable Member is about to leave the House and he wants NBC to cover him for AWOL from work.

I want to conclude, that the Opposition in this country – and you can see for yourself, NBC can focus now, we are busy with a very serious discussion in the House and in the history of the country and there are only three Opposition Members. What must now be focused on the Opposition? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. I would like to say that the Opposition Parties are sick and tired to listen to the Kapia-style system which will cause all of you to end up in prison.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: It is no wonder and I really now want to challenge NBC as part of their mandate, when we say the Opposition are not serious, this is part of fraud, because you are stealing, you are not on duty and you claim that money which you do not deserve. Therefore, NBC must now focus on the empty chairs.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I rest my case and I support the Vote.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Members, let us stick to the Committee Stage of the Budget.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, on page 467: Access to Information, Education and Communication, ensuring that the media sector benefits the economy and also page 20 of the Information Ministry Report, with specific reference to *New Era*. *New Era* is doing well – not strictly in terms of reporting, but in terms of dissemination of information – but Comrade Minister, there was a time when *New Era* designed or devised a Strategic Plan of making sure that *New Era* has reporters in all thirteen Regions of this country.

When I read the Annual Report here, it looks as if *New Era* has a reporter in Oshakati and in Mariental. They are saying that the aim is to have correspondents in all 13 Regions by the 2009/10 Financial Year. I think it is important Comrade Minister to follow up and determine what the impediments are that are preventing *New Era* to make its presence felt in all the thirteen Regions. It is important that *New Era* has reporters in all the 13 Regions, because the mandate of *New Era*, first and foremost, is also to present regional news. If it is a question of money, then probably next time around, if they continue to do a good job, the Fiscus might be quite considerate.

However, it is bad that *New Era* does not have reporters in all the 13 Regions of this country. Therefore, the regional news does not feature sufficiently in the *New Era*.

Otherwise, I so support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I am on page 7, programme 3, programme 5 and I am sure there are others. I only want to ask a very simple question to the Honourable Minister and that is that part of the component of your Ministry has been part of Works, Transport and Communication. These figures that are here and probably others, I just want to ask you a question, whether you have already started with negotiations,

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particularly now before the conclusion of this Debate or the passing the Appropriation Bill, that the financial resources that have been otherwise allocated to the then Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication, that you are now engaging in the negotiations to have that money transferred to the Ministry where Communication Technology now rests. Otherwise, if you do not do that and we complete the activities of the Budget, then it will mean that you will probably not access that money.

I am just trying to find out whether you are already engaging in that exercise in order to make the Appropriation Bill to be amended accordingly. I thank you.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Chair of the Whole House Committee. Information is power. Comrade Chair, I would like to support Vote 29 – Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and I am happy to note on page 3 of the Minister’s speech that it is stated that NBC has improved. However I still think that NBC needs to be assisted with regard to equipment, transport and personnel.

Namibia is a very big country and with the existing equipment and transport the NBC is not able to cover the whole country. We need to support that. I support the Vote.

HON BASSON: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have already spoken in the General Debate but I want to thank Comrade Kawana who mentioned the poor communication in the Hardap Region.

Let me also request the Minister of Information and Communication Technology to buy a television camera for the Hardap Region from the current Budget, because as I have said, we are really suffering. We have six Cconstituencies and not all the programmes in our Region are covered and I appeal to the Honourable Minister...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please?

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Declined.

HON BASSON: I will again appeal to the Ministry to include the communities of Schlip, Klein Aub and Nawaseb in the current ... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I just want to provide information to the Colleague that her cry is understandable, but the problem is that it is a clear strategy of the Ruling Party, SWAPO, to ignore those areas. Therefore, it is not a coincidence, it is a strategy by the Ruling Party not to do anything about that area, not to provide information. That is the reason why and there is no need for you, Honourable Members, to plead because nothing will happen. Just sit down and relax, because nothing will happen.

HON BASSON: I am sorry, but your information is not welcome. Let me also remind the Minister of Information and Communication Technology to buy a television camera for the Hardap Region from the current Budget and please, include the communities of Schlip, Klein Aub and Nawaseb and connect them with the rest of Namibia and bring radio services to these communities. These are the only two things that I wanted to stress.

Then, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I want to say the following, these white papers on the other side is disturbing, because I cannot see most of the Ministers on that side. Will they please just put it down? With these few remarks I support Vote 29.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I was trying to look at the Budget, particularly the projects, and I only see something like education, radio national network consolidation, expansion of NBC transmitter network and by that understand they will expand the existing ones to cover more areas and then also upgrading the studios. I do however not see any new projects where NBC is intending to put new infrastructure to cover the whole country. This is the extension of existing ones, it is limited in scope and the other one is improvement of the studios, but I do not see a concrete building of new infrastructure all over

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the country within these projects. Is it an omission or is it something that I do not see?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As usual, NBC has generated a lot of discussions and this just underlines the importance of this institution.

I would like to thank my Honourable Colleagues for their sympathy and support as I am very new in this portfolio and I do not want to be presumptuous and pretend as if I am in full control and knowing exactly what is happening in NBC, but with the support of my Colleagues – and I believe they will not attempt to mislead me in order to give misleading responses, this is unethical, do not try to do that.

The first question by *Honourable Dr Kawana* was on the lack of adequate base stations to provide proper reception in a number of places, such as Omusati, Ohangwena both for television and radio and I must say this point is well taken. As it was indicated by the senior Minister, *Honourable Dr Tjiriange* that he could not see new projects indicated, but only the expansion of existing infrastructure, I think also in that regard the point is well taken.

Honourable Ilonga, you were ruled Out of Order with your sympathy and support, likewise Honourable Moongo. Thank you, Honourable Goreseb, for your support although you also pointed out certain limitations and shortcomings with regards to both television and radio in certain areas. He feels that we need to improve on our infrastructure as well as to upgrade our equipment. Honourable Member, the point is well taken, the Director General of NBC is sitting in the gallery, so he will take up this issue seriously.

Furthermore, *Honourable Peya Mushelenga* talked about the Government website not giving up-to-date information and supposedly is responsible for the updating the Government website. If that is the case, I think the point is well taken. The point to be negotiated is whether it is their responsibility or the

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responsibility of the Office of the Prime Minister. I do not know who is supposed to look after the current website to provide adequate information, up-to-date information. We will take up this issue and find out who should be responsible, whether it is NBC or the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. We will take up this issue and make sure that we provide current information on the Government website because we must convey current information and disseminate current information to the Namibian public.

Honourable Tjihuiko, I thank you for having congratulated NBC for the improvement and also the *New Era*. However, you had reservations on certain things, especially the coverage of the Opposition's star rally. I must say that when it comes to covering star rallies, whether it is a Mini star rally or it is a Jon Patrick star rally, NBC will be impartial in covering all the star rallies equally, unless there is an obstacle. Therefore, when it comes to covering star rallies there will be no partiality. Even if there are no people, we will just cover it.

Honourable Tweya, thank you for your support and for giving more clarity on the objectives of Government and media when it comes to disseminating of Government information to the general public. You did it eloquently with further emphasis and elaboration. Thank you for that. However, you mentioned something important, that there is no coverage by both television and radio at Muhembo. It is a point well taken.

Honourable John Mutorwa, thank you for your sympathy and thank you for recognising the good work by *New Era*. However, you expressed your concern due to the fact that *New Era* does not seem to have enough reporters in all our Regions. However, I am reliably informed that *New Era* has a reporter in Oshakati, Hardap, Swakopmund and Katima, but that still does not cover all the Regions.

I think the point is well taken, we need to have all the Regions covered so that regional news could also be disseminated for the whole country to know what is happening in all the Regions of the country. That would also provide equity in terms of news distribution throughout the country. Therefore, the point is well taken.

Honourable Dr Iyambo, you discovered and you want to find out whether the creation of the new Ministry including Communication Technology was crafted after the Budget formulation was completed. I would advise that we should

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negotiate immediately for the transfer of this money to our Ministry before it is too late, otherwise it might be very difficult to do that. Thank you for that important piece of advice.

Dr Amweelo, thank you for your support. However you advised us that we need to look for more cameras, equipment and transport to make NBC mobile and able to cover all the activities all over the country. That advice is well taken, the Director-General is up there.

Honourable Basson, thank you for your support. However, you just advised us that we should make a special arrangement to provide Hardap with a camera and we should also cover places such as Schlip, Klein Aub and Nawaseb. Your point is also well taken.

With this, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members for their constructive contributions. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 29, any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 90 the House will stand adjourned until tomorrow 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 19:30 UNTIL 2008.04.18 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
18 APRIL 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 05, 06, 10, 14, 17, 19 and 22 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Further Notices of Motions? None. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Agreed to. I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Honourable Hans Booyes.

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HON CHRISTIAN**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Members, I had a request from the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration and the Minister of Safety and Security to move their Votes forward as they have other urgent other assignments. They have visitors from one of the neighbouring countries and they have to meet their counterparts. Agreed? So decided.

When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 11, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 05, 06, 14 and 22 had been introduced.

Vote 05 – **“HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”** put for Discussion.

HON CHRISTIAN: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the august House, if I look at Vote 05 of Honourable Rosalia Nghidinwa, I see that the Minister has set tangible goals to her Ministry to achieve. That can be seen from visible improvements brought about in the civil registration programme through which national documents are produced, like birth certificates, identity cards, marriage certificates and death certificates, etcetera.

If we look page 5 of her Budget speech she mentions that the Office of the Prime Minister has designed a new national population register that will allow inter linkages birth, marriage and death records. If that is achieved, Honourable Member, we will have updated records of the population, an update on the growth or decline rate of our population. I would suggest that the Honourable Minister considers also including the voters’ roll of our population of Namibia. If the roll is linked to that integrated system, I think it can add relief those that have passed on or those that have reached the age of 18 years.

Currently if a young person has the age of 18 years maybe a month or two weeks before elections, registration would already have closed, denying that young person to exercise his constitutional right.

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Therefore, I support Vote 05 and urge this august House to support this Vote which is so important for us as a Nation. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would only like to thank the Honourable Minister for her understanding and I hope that she will find a remedy for the Police Cells which are always overcrowded. Money was allocated, but I wanted to know whether it would cater for those overcrowded police cells. I support Vote 05.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, the Police Vote is still coming, but right now you are out of order. Any discussion? Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I rise to comment on Vote 05 and I would like to find out from the Honourable Minister whether there is not a possibility that when a passport expires, especially the new one which has the photo on the left, that it be renewed, because it is really a waste of money. This passport has only two or three pages used and it is just thrown away. Is there no possibility that it can just be reactivated electronically? It is a waste of money, a full passport thrown away and you start again from scratch. I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I just want to thank the Comrade Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration for the improvement in the Ministry, but I only have one concern and that is the delay in obtaining work permits. Comrade Minister, what are the measures in place to speed up especially the work permits for doctors and pharmacists? Thank you, Comrade Minister.

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HON MBAI/HON DR TJIRIANGE**

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I just rise to express my appreciation to the Minister and the colleagues for the tremendous they have made in the Ministry. We have noted in the past people travelling long distances to queue in front of regional offices to obtain national documents, but nowadays one really notices the reduction in the queues. I think the Ministry deserves to be congratulated and appreciated for a job well done.

I also believe that the decision to open some sub-regional offices in the near future at Tsumkwe, Grootfontein, Karasburg, Omungwelume and the others will relieve a long overdue problems experienced by especially the Gam community which will be catered for with the opening of the sub-regional office at Tsumkwe and also by the mobile facilities that the Minister intends to introduce. I thank her with this short comment and once more would like to congratulate the Ministry for a job well done.

I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The Development Programme has a number of very important programmes. My experience, as I was travelling throughout the country, was that I found that Kunene Region is a very problematic region in terms of its vastness, its population distribution, and its facilities such as roads and so on. That makes it very difficult for services to reach the inhabitants of that Region in different areas. For example, to go and serve people from Opuwo to Huanda may take the whole day just because of the situation that prevails and the same when you come down to Sesfontein.

What I am seeing in these projects is that it is only about the extension of the Opuwo Regional Registration Office and that for the whole of Kunene, except maybe for what is written here, sub-regional registration offices at constituency level. That I suppose is all the 107 Constituencies. I would have thought that the peculiarity of Kunene could be taken into consideration when we are planning projects like this, because Kunene really lags behind in this regard and I do not know whether I am the only one noticing these problems. I would love to see it getting more attention in projects of this nature.

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HON MOONGO**

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Once again I would like to thank the Minister and not only that, but I would like to know why there is always a delay to obtain documents. People from neighbouring Angola have been living here before Independence, but it is very difficult to obtain national documents or to be registered. It takes too long and I would like to know whether it is the policy or a deliberate delay from the side of the officers, because the rumour is that if somebody pays, he gets a document within a short time. Is this the policy of the Government or is it an official delay? Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. I do not think there is a need to come and make propaganda here. We as lawmakers must first do our homework before talking about things. We are not ruling Angola, we are leaders of Namibia and Angola has its own laws. According to our law we cannot have dual citizenship. If you want to get citizenship of this country, you must renounce the citizenship of the country where you are coming from. The Angolan laws do not allow their citizens to renounce Angolan citizenship. You cannot – once an Angolan, always an Angolan, and forever. Therefore, ours do not accept dual citizenship, so how do we give them the documents? We have to learn these things and not just make propaganda.

HON MOONGO: I was fully informed and I had communication with the people and we will bring the case later on. I however just want information as to whether this delay is caused from the side by the Government or the side of the officers. That is what I want to know. We will come up with a case. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: I am rising on a Point of Order and clarity from the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member usually speaks on behalf of Traditional Authorities in this House. The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration is on record, saying that Traditional Authorities are kind of culprits in issuing certificates or documents that actually lead to foreigners being awarded Namibian citizenship and he is actually a very big member of that entity.

For him to come here and accuse us without telling us what is it that he is going to do, while we know charity starts at home, then I think it is something that we

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should not accept, unless he tells us what is it that he is going to do to curb that kind of avenue through which false assertions of people having been born in certain areas are given. Unless he clarifies that, I am having difficulties accepting what he is saying.

HON MOONGO: I hope the Minister understands my concern. I would only like to know what the cause of the delay is. Is it from the side of the Government or is it a deliberate delay in order for the officers to be paid money?

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I just rise to, first and foremost, congratulate the Minister and her team for a job well-done, particularly in acquiring mobile registration vans. I was privileged to get my San people in Uikoms registered on Tuesday by these two trucks. They came and did all the work and by Friday they received their documents. Congratulations. And really, the Minister and her team are doing whatever they can to really make life easier for our destitute communities. They were also in Kaoko to register Ovatue and Ovatjimba, those people who came from the mountains. They immediately went there and registered these people. I therefore think they are really doing their best and I support this very much and I support Vote 05 wholeheartedly. Minister, please continue with your good work. Thank you very much.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I just wanted to start by congratulating the Honourable Minister for a job well-done. One has really seen progress in that Ministry since she has taken over.

I just want to specifically mention the speed of the processing of documents and the arrangement between especially Namibia and Angola on the 60 kilometres.

Since we are now approaching the African Cup of Nations that will definitely allow our people to be able to freely and quickly move between the two countries for the benefit of the economy of both countries. You need to be congratulated for that.

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My little concern, Honourable Minister, is the fact that we have now started bringing in this mobile registration and issuing of documents. I just want to make sure that at the end of 2009 we are not going to be faced with a situation that we will again have the system where people who want to register as a voter will have to bring somebody to testify that yes, indeed I am a Namibian. We must make sure that these things should not happen. It is not proper, we have been doing it for all these years and I do not see the reason why, with the programme that we have in place now, people will still not have documents. Those who do not have documents, they must make sure that they are not going to vote because they do not want to vote in this country. We should not allow this.

However all in all, I do not know whether it is a good budget or a good budget statement, but I wish to congratulate you and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Allow me at the beginning to wholeheartedly thank the Minister for the very efficient way in which she is tackling her mandate in the Ministry. I want to single out one programme and that is the Forensic Science Service.

If you go to the HANSARD, my first question to the Minister when she assumed office was actually on Forensic Science and I am very, very happy that the Minister and her team has designed a programme, deepening the understanding of the difficulties and challenges that this programme actually pose in relation to the support system for the whole justice system.

When I look at your speech, I see that you are even looking at the possibility of decentralising this to the Region, I can find no words befitting what I feel. The word "*congratulations*" cannot be descriptive of what I feel. It is that understanding that this Forensic Service actually has other ramifications for the whole system. It actually has a capacity-building potential for the country in terms of explosive analysis, criminology, medical or legal medicine and the like, just like fingerprints. I would therefore really like to congratulate you and wish

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you well in these endeavours and just encourage you and your team to go ahead and for others to listen and actually to make good on some of the suggestions we make here. Congratulations, Honourable Minister.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now call on the Honourable Minister to respond to queries.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members. I would like to start with Honourable Christians. Thank you very much for your support. I could not really take all the information, but I will see you.

Honourable Moongo, the first question was Out of Order because that is the Vote of the Minister of Safety and Security. On the second one, the issue of Angolan nationals who have lived in Namibia since 1930's up to 1975 is under discussion between the two Governments, the Government of Angola and the Government of Namibia, not by DTA.

Honourable Ilonga, thank you very much for your advice, we take note. The technical team will look into the matter to address that issue and we will come back to you.

Honourable Haingura, thank you so much for your support. We are busy addressing this matter through the Alien Control Division. When we computerise that system, it will reduce the waiting period. We really want to address that problem as a matter of urgency.

Honourable Mbai, thank you very much for your support. *Honourable Dr Tjiriange*, thank you very much for your support. That is why we are planning to open sub-regional offices at Kamanjab, Khorixas and Okanguati which I mentioned in my motivation speech. In addition to that, we have allocated a mobile truck which the Kunene Region will share with the Omusati Region and I think it is going to cover all those villages which are far from the sub-regional and regional offices.

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HON DR AMATHILA**

Honourable Nambahu, thank you very much for your support. You are also assisting me to answer the allegations by Honourable Moongo on the issue of some Headmen giving wrong information on non-nationals of Namibia so that we can issue them with birth certificates and other national documents. I think you are right, Comrade Nambahu.

Secondly, thank you also very much for really recognising that the Forensic Science Programme will help with the backlog in the Regions which are always the complaints from the courts, etcetera.

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, thank you very much for your support. We rely on your advice so that we can make our programme successful.

Honourable Tjihuiko, thank you so much, but I would also like to inform you that young people are every day reaching the age of 18 years. I think that time you are talking about it is impossible for the Ministry to cover all those who are going to reach the age of 18 the day before election or the day of election and that they would not be accommodated in the process of election.

Otherwise, thank you very much for your support, all of you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: I put Vote 05, any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 06 – “**POLICE**” for Discussion.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. First and foremost I want to congratulate the new Minister, Dr Iyambo. I am not going to bother him too much, but I looked at his speech the other day and I do not see anything about housing for the Police. Maybe it is somewhere else, but in your speech I did not hear anything about how we are going to deal with the housing of our police officers.

We all know that they are living under very bad conditions. I was in Caprivi at one place in Kongola area and there is an old German fort, a big house there and the conditions are absolutely atrocious for our police officers. There was a tent

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allocated for the policewoman, because she is alone there among the men, and she was having a small bed and the whole thing was full of sand, so I was forced to give her a mattress and also a plastic thing to put on the floor. I think we must look into the conditions of our police officers, particularly housing. This is an old story when I was the Minister of Local Government and Housing. We were battling with how to house our police officers and I do not see it in your speech. I congratulate you, but please look into the conditions of how our police officers are living. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06, the very important vote and I rise to make my contribution to Main Division Protection Services.

I will not put a question to my namesake, I will only repeat what I have said and I do not know whether this year the officials have already prepared the answer before I have even put that question. My repetition is the call that we really need to look at the situation of our drivers and bodyguards whenever we go on a mission. It is very painful that sometimes you go with somebody and he does not have anything in his pocket.

I have been mentioning that S&T cannot be linked to salary. A calculation can be done, if the salary of the officer is low, it can be calculated. I however think it would be best if the S&T part has nothing to do with protection. S&T is a plan made by another Minister and for it to be given by another Minister is not really good. What is really the technical problem which prevents the S&T part to be with the Ministries, so that the Minister could apply for his S&T together with that of the driver and bodyguard. I think I have been repeating this question for almost eight years. Thank you, I support Vote 06.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Tjihuike.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Allow me, first and foremost, to congratulate the new Minister of Safety and Security, Dr Iyambo. Knowing his commitment, we all know that this Ministry is in good hands. There are one or two things I want to comment on.

The first issue I want to comment on is that I have realised that in the process of fighting crime, there is no link between the Police officers and the Traditional Police officers. I understand that the Traditional Authorities have their own legal system that they implement, arresting people, investigating cases and there is no link between the two. It is very important for us, if we want to fight crime, for the two police officers to have the same understanding of investigating cases, taking statements, so that at the end of the day, a case which has been handled by a Traditional Authority, can also eventually go to court and in that process it is always difficult for the two legal systems to marry. I think it is very important, Honourable Minister, for you to look at the possibility of also training traditional police officers, so that they will also understand the legal system of the country. That is the first one.

The second one is that I am a bit worried to note from the statistics presented here that the criminal cases are increasing and therefore, I feel that all of us are very much worried. The most reported cases are theft and we have to find out what is the problem. Is it an economic problem, is it irresponsibility, because we may require the police to act but we are not actually solving the problem by looking at the cause of the problem. Let us sit down and see what the core of the problem actually is, so that we can fight it from the roots.

Honourable Minister, if you look at some of those things and prepare yourself properly for the next Budget, you will have our support so that we can jointly fight crime rather than fight it bit and pieces.

With these few comments, I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you, Honourable Tjihuiko. Honourable Gurirab.

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HON T GURIRAB**

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise in support of this very important Vote. This is, as we say in the parlance of Parliament, our Vote.

Let me join others who have congratulated the Minister on his new responsibility. We believe that this responsibility could not have been placed in better hands than those of Honourable Iyambo.

I have two observations to make, one the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has already spoken about, the conditions of the Police. I see on page 25 of the Development Budget that provision is being made for building new police stations and accommodation, but our concern is two-fold: One is the accommodation of the police officers themselves, but we also need to look at the conditions under which we keep prisoners. I am not going to ask the question because the Minister is new on the job, but there was a report of the Ombudsman last year, raising issues under which prisoners are kept and asking us to look into that. I trust that the Minister will look into those issues which were raised by the Ombudsman.

The second broad issue I want to raise, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, is one of whether we are making adequate resources available to the Police to carry out this very important function. I am looking at the Main Divisions, starting with Main Division 1.

On the establishment there are 1,107 posts of Main Division 01 which is dealing with the administration and management of the Police function. There are only 360 posts funded in this Budget. That leaves a balance of 747. Therefore, two-thirds of the positions to manage the function of the Police are not funded. I am sure that you would agree that that is not a normal situation. Last year less than these posts were funded. Among the posts that are not funded, you would see, for example, there are 62 positions for the post of Deputy Commissioner, but only 14 are funded. Sixty six posts for Chief Inspector, only eight funded. We would all agree that that is not the situation that we would want to see and that we would want to reverse that kind of situation.

Look at the main function of the police, Main Division 2, Combating of Crime. That is the core function of the police to look after our property and our security. There are 6,385 posts on the establishment. Of the posts on the establishment,

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1,070 posts are not funded and this is the core function for which police are recruited.

I said this last year and I will say it again, the security division is doing an important job, but so are the police who are doing the regular and core function of combating of crime. However, the same as last year and the year before that one, the only one where you get hundred percent funding is the security. I am sure that is a situation which we do not want to continue. That is not what this Parliament wants to reflect, that the only people for whom we care are the Security and that two-thirds of the posts for combating of crime are not filled, but all these years the security division was always hundred percent funded. I am sure that when the Minister comes next year that we would want to see a difference in that division.

I also want to talk about Main Division 4 – Special Field Force. I said last year and the year before last that police officers under Main Division 2 who are doing the core function of combating crime are the police officials, in my understanding, trained and recruited in terms of the Police Act and that those police officials – if that is the correct terminology – under the Special Field Force do not necessarily meet the requirements of the Act. A year or two ago this ratio was very stark, but I see that the gap has narrowed in terms of numbers of those in the special field force and the police under Main Division 2. Our suggestion is that the ratio between Main Division 4 and Main Division 2 needs to change more and more in favour of Main Division 2, that we have more and more police officers trained in terms of the Police Act and that we have more officers under Main Division 2 as opposed to those under Main Division 4.

Training is a core function provided for under Main Division 3. We speak to police officials, I speak to constables and the constables are complaining about opportunities for training. As they say in computer language, (*GIGO*) “*if you put garbage in you get garbage out.*”

We need to put more into the training of our police officials if we want to improve success rates at the courts, but also simply, if we want to improve the work of the police officers.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this is a very important job, it is a core function of maintaining an orderly democratic state and we support this Vote.

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HON TJIRIANGE**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I support the Vote, there is no doubt about that, but I just want to congratulate the Ministry for trying to acquire aircraft and helicopters for beefing up the activities of the force. From what I can however see here, there is only provision for acquiring one helicopter which, to me, is surely not enough. I hope that this is a beginning and maybe you can buy a helicopter per year. I feel it should be an ongoing exercise until you have an effective air wing of the police. The little that we have put here needs support. You will get one each time. Maybe next time you will get one or two, so until you are satisfied that you have enough. Do however not wait until this one is old before you get another one.

Another issue that I want to address is that we have to make sure that we improve the skills of our investigating officers. I must appreciate the fact that the background from which we are coming is that we were not inundated with well-qualified people. However the fact is that if you do not have properly trained investigating officers, the results are that most of the time the cases are thrown out of the courts and I think the Patrick Iyambo College must be beefed up properly so that we train people there who will up to the task and that cases are investigated in such a way that the courts have no reason to throw these cases out. It is a difficult task, it is not of your own making, it is a historical problem, but I think we now have quite a few Grade 12 people leaving school. If we have proper training facilities like that, we may end up with having perfect investigating officers, so that we can improve upon the quality of our work.

The situation as it is now leaves a lot to be desired and sometimes it is just frustrating and I am speaking from experience which I can share with you. The other day somebody stole my cattle. It was discovered not through the help of the defence and the police, but up to now, after three, four years, nothing has been done. The investigation was in tatters just because the person who is investigating starts writing in Otjiherero, ending up in Afrikaans. I am referring to the practical problems which we are facing with our dockets and all these things. We are however at the point of improving because we have many people who have left Grade 12 that we can really use.

Therefore, I think we have to improve in terms of sending Grade 12 people to this college so that we could have proper trained officers in this regard.

Otherwise, I would like you to support the Vote.

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HON DR KAWANA/HON BASSON**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Let me associate myself with my senior Colleagues who have congratulated the senior Minister here for taking this very important portfolio. Being new in the job, I am not really going to ask a question but just a plea and give him some information.

I am going to comment on Main Division 4 – Special Field Force. Honourable Minister, let me join my Colleagues who have commented on this one. I think we need to look into the conditions of our comrades who are working in that main division, particularly accommodation.

It is not only within the country but also at the border posts. Some of the conditions at those border posts are really deplorable and I am also aware that here in Windhoek most of these comrades are living in informal settlements. I think it is high time that we address their welfare. Otherwise I support Vote 06. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Dr Kawana. Honourable Members, six Members have so far spoken and fourteen still want to take the Floor. Honourable Basson.

HON BASSON: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I support Vote 06 and what I wanted to say was already covered by my senior Minister, Honourable Amathila and also by Honourable Gurirab. I therefore want to be specific on two issues.

One issue is the one which I brought to this House last year concerning the Klein Aub Police Station. I only want to report that I thank Inspector Sebastian Ndeitunga and his team for a job well done in the prevention of crime in our country especially taking into account the limited resources at their disposal. Why I am saying this is, when I reported that there is a police station in Klein Aub which was closed before Independence, he immediately sent an investigating team and they are busy renovating the police station to reopen it again. I therefore want to applaud him for that.

After the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security visited the police stations and prison here in Windhoek, we reported to this House on the bad

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conditions at these places, but now I am happy to report to you that I have again visited these places as a Member of Parliament with the Commissioner and I can report that they have tried to do renovations with the limited resources at their disposal. The holding cells at the Windhoek Police Station were renovated and cell doors replaced. At Katutura renovations are currently carried out and almost completed. At Wanaheda renovations are currently carried out and almost completed. The only problem is the juveniles and the women. There is only one holding cell for women at Wanaheda Police Station and it is overcrowded.

I am very happy about what the police are doing and I am always consulting with either the Inspector General or the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security and he invites the stakeholders to his office and brings it under the attention of the police.

The last point is on transport. We know that transport is a problem throughout the country, but I am happy that money is budgeted for this problem. I am really proud of the police and through the Minister of Safety and Security thank them for what they are doing for the country. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much. Firstly, let me congratulate the Minister with his appointment and at the same time I want to express a little concern on the equipment used by the police, especially the communication equipment.

Honourable Minister, there are some men and women in uniform deployed at strategic and critical places, like at the veterinary control points. A case in point is the veterinary control point between Otjinene and Gam. At that place you find that the police officers who are there, while well-armed, do not have communication equipment and sometimes they are few in numbers, sometimes it is only one or two persons, and then you have a group of gangsters or cattle marauders who threaten these people and without communication equipment they cannot ask for reinforcements. In brief, I am just requesting the Ministry to consider even using communication radios to help these folks who are deployed in those remote areas and who may sometimes be overpowered by potential criminals. Otherwise I support the Vote. Thank you.

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HON TWEYA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me join the other Honourable Members who recorded their congratulations to the new Minister of Safety and Security. I will not bore you by repeating what the others have said, I have three issues.

As a foreword, I shared here with my senior Colleague, the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, to congratulate the Ministry on their very good Annual Report, well presented with graphs and statistics. It is very easy to read and it is very enjoyable to look at all these colourful pictures. Congratulations, this is good work that we cannot receive without being noticed.

The three issues that I wanted to talk about is the programme under border control and my submission here is to request the Honourable Minister to look into the kind of skills that one needs at the border posts, especially the police as law enforcement agents, that when police officers are deployed to those specific areas, there should be screening so that they have those skills or the capacity to be trained in those skills, so that our border posts are equipped with people with the right skills.

The second one is about the programme on Protection Services. My contribution here is on the component of the VIP. I am aware of some drivers that for 18 years have been constables and I am not sure whether there is any career plan for these people as they are aging, compared to their counterparts who are obviously in uniform at the police stations and who are promoted. However, these people remain stagnant and they remain drivers. I would submit to the Honourable Minister that if possible, these people should have their own career path and not start and retire as constables and even if possible, that they could be incorporated within the entire police force and do not remain constables.

The final point is the overall staff development within the police force. I want to submit that there should be a plan where one would also identify more specialised training, such as forensic, money-laundering and various specialised fields and also detailed investigations. Honourable Tjiriange has alluded to that.

This has sometimes been very embarrassing when cases are being thrown out due to lack of proper investigation. This is, in a way, waste of resources. I am concerned in the sense that the arrest may be affected, we have tangible proof, the prisons are full, but justice is not served because no proper investigation is being

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conducted. We are actually perpetuating the crime by not punishing those who are responsible. Training would also enhance the issue of loyalty of the force to the cause in the interest of the Nation.

With these few remarks, I support the vote. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first of all allow me to congratulate the Minister who has taken over the Police Vote. I hope, with him in office the traditional authorities will be heard.

I would only like to share a few difficulties when it comes to the combating of crime. This is part of the duties of traditional authorities but they do not have any budget and I, therefore, appeal to the Minister to meet with the Traditional Authorities and share information on how do they survive and how do they try their best.

Not only that, some criminals who are prosecuted by the traditional authorities are dangerous and the traditional authorities do not even have a cell to keep them during their hearing. Although I appreciate the assistance the Traditional Authorities receive from the police to apprehend those who do not want to attend hearings, I request the Minister to meet with the traditional authorities and take an official stand on these matters.

They do not have transport and when they bring the criminals there, it is dangerous to keep them until tomorrow's hearing. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? I am listening very carefully, but I wonder whether the Honourable Member is aware that right now the traditional authorities do not have criminal jurisdiction, just civil jurisdiction and he is talking about criminals and all these kinds of things

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which fall outside the authority of the traditional authorities. Could he make himself clear on what he is trying to say because traditional authorities do not have any criminal jurisdiction, only civil jurisdiction and we cannot talk about criminals when it comes to the jurisdiction of traditional authorities. What is he trying to say? I just want to understand.

HON MOONGO: Some cases are still with the traditional authorities, like when somebody stabs someone with a knife due to family problems. That is why I say the Minister should meet with the traditional authorities to get firsthand information. We have dangerous criminals who threaten the chiefs and headmen.

I, therefore, appeal to the Minister to look into that matter and that the police cell facilities also are used by the traditional authorities if possible. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? *Onderera* and *Oshikondalongo*, is that a civil or criminal case?

HON MOONGO: In my understanding *Onderera* is a civil case, because you did not shed blood. *Onderera* is when somebody has an affair with somebody's wife and you automatically have to pay and if you call that person, he will insult the people and show his power and now the traditional authority has a problem. That is why I ask that the cell facilities be shared and also transportation to apprehend these criminals.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I put a question to the Honourable Member, please? Honourable Member, do you not think it would be helpful even for the traditional authorities that criminal and civil cases are totally separated and in the instance of criminal cases, the police are at the disposal of the traditional authorities to assist and arrest these criminals, imprison them? Because when you talk about holding cells, that is a different organisation and administration altogether and even expenses.

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HON MOONGO: When you become a traditional leader, you are everything, you have to listen to everything on earth. It is more than being a bishop; you have to listen to everything. Everybody is crying in front of you and you have to give a hand. Now the Government cannot give a hand to you. This is really a pity.

I request the Minister to meet with the traditional authorities and then see how we can assist them. I support the Vote and I thank you very much.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am aware of the time constraints and I will go straight to the point that I have here.

I join my senior Colleague who spoke earlier on the accommodation of the police. The accommodation of these colleagues really needs serious attention.

On combating of crime, what are the variables that actually contribute to the effective combating of crime? One of such variables, as far as I am concerned, is the Fingerprint Unit. The Fingerprint Unit seems not to be receiving the necessary attention it should receive. I had a chance of visiting them where they are housed and I was not very much impressed. I know there are shortcomings, problems with funds, but given the critical role that they play in supporting the whole judicial system and the dispensation of justice, I feel it is an area which needs special attention, just like the Forensic Services that we have talked about and I would wish my senior Minister to give attention to this at the very beginning of his service in the ministry. If that is given the necessary attention, it would definitely facilitate and help with the speedy expediency of justice as such.

Obviously there are many other things, but given the recent appointments and reorganisation of the Executive Branch, I will not bother you with many things, but I would really like to impress upon you to pay attention to that. There are so many challenges, there are so many shortcomings in that area, but I will not at this stage be very specific.

Maybe the last one is for you, Comrade Minister, also to pay attention to complaints about the recruitment in the police force. Maybe it is something that

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you could also pay attention to so that we can eradicate or minimise the complaints. With that I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Nambahu. Honourable Dr Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 6 and I would like to congratulate the Minister on his new portfolio.

I would like to refer you to page 7 of the Minister's budget speech with regard to the road traffic control. Yes, we are all aware that we are facing a problem with regard to road accidents and the two main causes are speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol. Those are the two major causes.

I am happy about the amount of **N\$ 9 million** provided for that programme, but maybe it is not enough, maybe we need to add to that in order to buy equipment for the traffic controllers. It would be a good thing if all of us comply with the law and drive 120 km/h only. Especially our drivers of our VIPs, our Ministers and Deputy Ministers must comply with this, 120 km/h only. From now only 120 km/h, no more. Otherwise we are going to experience a lot of problems. Maybe the Comrade Minister could have a workshop for drivers of Ministers and Deputy Ministers so that they could comply with the law and drive 120km/h only, no more. Road safety is a business for all of us, the Minister and everybody must tell the drivers that 180 km/h is not allowed.

Thank you very much, I support Vote 6.

HON CHRISTIAN: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the august House, let me also join the other Colleagues and congratulate our Senior Minister of this Vote.

We have heard the plea of the Honourable Minister when he highlighted the challenges faced by the police force in terms of capability and skills that cannot

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be retained because experienced detectives are leaving the force for greener pastures.

I also have something on my mind that I also want to plead to the Honourable Minister Iyambo.

I wish to appeal to the Honourable Minister to decentralise and give travelling allowances to the detectives who are going out in the field for investigations, because sometimes they are relying on the society for food and accommodation and this can compromise their integrity and could also influence the outcome of the investigations.

If I move to the Protection Services Unit, I do not know where the Women and Child Protection Unit falls, but let me just say that I think nowadays criminal activities against the woman and child is increasing day-by-day. When we visited the Women and Child Protection Unit we encountered a lot of problems. They do not have sufficient resources allocated to them and this unit is also experiencing a lack of computers and Internet access.

This would assist them to immediately get information and knowledge how to treat the victims. I would like to ask the Minister what the percentage is given to this Unit from the Police Vote.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I support the Vote and what it stands for. Thank you.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we are talking about the police leaving the service for greener pastures. One thing I forgot to say which I think I should say for the record is that we need to look at the conditions of service of the police officers. Maybe the new Minister needs to sit down with the Honourable Prime Minister and look at the police establishment. In plain language, our police are simply lowly paid and we cannot retain them. If we are talking about getting new Grade 12's, we need to look at the establishment of the police. We cannot pay them N\$700 or N\$1,000 and expect them to do the work. We therefore need to look at the conditions of service of the police.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Gurirab. Honourable Members, I am so disappointed and demoralised. You have seen that I have not ruled anybody Out of Order although almost everybody was Out of Order. I do not know why we are not sticking to our Rules. If I were the Minister, I would have ignored 90% of the statements which were made.

They were not detailed, not Committee Stage. I was so disappointed but the Chair cannot transform this House into an induction course and call on Honourable Members to follow the Rules. There are times one just has to allow things to go their way, but if I were the Honourable Minister, I would have ignored ninety-five percent of these statements which were made. I am disappointed. Comrade Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

I have listened very attentively to all the questions and comments. This is a vote that you would call a vote for all of us and as I was listening to your questions, I said to myself, I will do justice right now to answer your questions. I would want to propose, with your concurrence of course: You, Colleagues have received the Annual Report of the Police, number one. Number two, having seen the Report of the Ombudsman, what has been reported in the Report of the Ombudsman and what is put there in the Annual Report of the Police need a special day for this Honourable House to debate it very effectively. The starting point is what Honourable Gurirab has said. First we must look at the conditions of service of the police. There are many shortcomings, like the recruitment itself, but it is due to the salaries that we cannot keep those members.

I would, therefore, want to propose, with your concurrence, that the Report of the Police, as brought up in this House, is sent to a particular Committee of this House and we put a day aside to deal with the issue of police to do justice. That will do justice to our men and women in uniform and the important duty that they are providing to us, as opposed to me now hurrying here and there to give you answers. We must look at these things critically. Thank you very much.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I put Vote 06, any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 17 – **“REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT”**, N\$593,854,000 put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House.

I feel honoured to stand before you today to motivate the Budget allocation for the total amount of N\$593,854,000 to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I would like to once again emphasise the main objectives of the Ministry for the Financial Year 2008/2009 which are, *inter alia*, to extend participatory democracy, improve public services, ensure there is sufficient land available for housing, ensure access to acceptable shelter, to improve the level of household food security and nutrition nationally and to improve rural income at both national and household levels.

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is requesting an amount of **N\$435,978,000** for the Operational Budget and **N\$157,876,000** for the Development Budget. In total the request from the Ministry is **N\$593,854,000**.

Now I want to highlight the outcomes of the previous Financial Year 2007/08.

As you may recall on the same occasion last year, the late Honourable John Pandeni motivated **N\$518,285,000** for various programmes of our Ministry. I am now happy to report to this august House the achievements on the various programmes of our Ministry, during 2007/08 Financial Year.

Programme: Housing Delivery for 2008/09 Financial Year:

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HON KAZENAMBO**

Housing, as a basic universal need, will continue to receive the Ministry's undivided attention. This is so, because housing infrastructure should be used as a hub on which integrated development and provision of many basic services and amenities can take place in both urban and rural areas. More importantly, the partnership of all those with a stake in housing delivery is being forged to work towards the realisation of Vision 2010, NDP3 and the Millennium Development Goals.

However, the successful housing delivery for all is being hampered by lack of adequate funding for land delivery or in other words the development of basic infrastructure such as water, sewerage, electricity reticulation and road network.

During the formulation of NDP3 a platform was created for the participation of all stakeholders in order to map out strategies to address not only the housing delivery but to include also land provision. Therefore, to expedite land and housing delivery, the Ministry is to carry out awareness campaigns to sensitise Local Authorities in order to allocate undeveloped land to potential developers for the construction of services and delivery of housing.

Last year we reported on the construction of 47 houses for war veterans. This year 25 houses in six regions are under construction and expected to be completed in May 2008 at a cost of N\$3,000,000. The construction is being carried out by the National Housing Enterprise with assistance of Regional Councils.

The Ministry successfully conducted four workshops for officials from Regional Councils, Local Authorities and Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia. The objectives of the workshops were to assess the progress made in terms of decentralised housing function; identify shortcomings or/and challenges and to determine whether the housing function is being implemented in an efficient, effective, transparent and accountable manner. During 2007/2008, officials of Regional Councils and Local Authorities were also trained to ensure that housing procedures, guidelines, rules and laws are adhered to. A number of 1 210 houses were built during the 2007/2008 Financial Year in all 13 Regions.

The Ministry provided an amount of **N\$1,000,000** under the current Budget. As a tradition, the Ministry continues to support the efforts of members of Twahangana Fund of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia by giving them an annual allocation in a form of grant of **N\$1,000,000** for housing construction

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purpose. Thus, during 2007/2008, 62 houses were constructed in seven regions, namely Karas, Oshikoto, Omusati, Oshana, Hardap, Ohangwena and Otjozondjupa.

The role played by this group is very much commendable and needs to be strengthened and supported. Therefore another N\$1,000,000 is budgeted for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Infrastructure Development:

The capacity of Local Authorities, especially the small ones, to provide serviced land for housing delivery is a challenge which requires concerted efforts of Central, Regional and Local Governments, including the private sector and civil society to address it.

Sanitation and water are housing related and these are social amenities that each household will need at their disposal. Sanitation in Namibia is not only a concern in rural areas but also in informal settlements in our urban centres. The Ministry reported last year that it has embarked on a tedious journey to address the bucket system in the country. This year, the process is underway in Stampriet, Kalkrand, Aroab and Kalkfeld. This process will take three to four years to be completed in the whole country.

As earlier stated, the Ministry is busy formulating a number of strategies – the salient one is on sanitation.

A “*pro-poor*” position paper on sanitation, housing and income generating activities is being developed with a view to address unemployment and poverty.

Again, in order to live up to the principles of decentralisation of taking Government closer to the people – 11 Constituency offices were constructed. This gives a total number of 95 Constituency offices out of the total 107 around the country. The remaining 12 Constituency offices will be completed during 2008/2009 Financial Year.

**Programme on Regional and Local Government Coordination 2008/2009
Financial Year – N\$468,686,000.**

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In line with vision 2030, NDP3 and the Ministry's strategic objectives, the Programme Regional and Local Government Coordination continues to facilitate the establishment and development of effective Regional and Local Government and Traditional Authorities that bring Government closer to the people and capable of delivering services to the satisfaction of all communities.

The following are the strategic goals for this programme:

- To complete the creation of enabling, regulatory and legal environment in which all sub-national levels of Government will be able to maximise their governance and service delivery mandate.
- To improve the delivery capacity of regional, local and traditional authorities and expand client-service relationships and commitment to greater levels.

Enhancement of Regional Council Administration

Capacity building for sub-national entities remains a very important function of the Ministry. In this undertaking, the new consolidated structure of Regional Councils was approved by the Office of the Prime Minister to enhance decentralisation by all Regional Councils.

An extensive legal training programme was conducted for all Regional and Local Authorities Councillors and Senior Staff Members. This programme was aimed at improving their legal understanding and general interpretations of law, thereby enabling them to meaningfully participate in the law-making process at their respective levels.

Enhancement of Local Authority Administration

The Ministry continues to be on track in fulfilling the Cabinet requirement to have a second local authority in the Region where there is only one local authority, e.g. Omaheke Region. This is meant to redress the disparities in access to municipal services nationwide.

During the Financial Year under review, the Ministry has proclaimed Omuthiya in Oshikoto Region as a Town. Elections at Otjinene in the Omaheke Region are to take place in the course of this year. The Ministry is currently in the process of

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finalising all technical matters related to the proclamation of Otjinene local authority.

Preparations for the proclamation of Oranjemund as a town are progressing very well. An agreement on the de-proclamation has been reached between the Ministry, NamDeb and other stakeholders of Oranjemund Township and town land from the mining area. The road leading to Oranjemund is also in the process of being proclaimed a public road to allow unrestricted public access to the town.

Subsidies to Local Authorities

Even though much has been done to reduce poverty and high unemployment, the situation still persists in most local authorities. In this regard, the Ministry is currently implementing an intervention plan that was adopted by Cabinet. This plan is aimed at addressing the following:

- Broadening the revenue base and generation capacity of local authorities.
- Develop efficient management of resources.
- Revamping of dilapidated and/or aging municipal services infrastructure, and
- Capacity building through training.

The Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper for Namibia has been finalised and is due for submission to Cabinet for adoption. There is an interest shown by our donor partners to fund Local and Regional Economic Development initiatives, especially the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Finnish Corporation programme with some Namibian local authorities.

The Local Authorities Reform process is still ongoing and the Ministry has sought the assistance of consultancy services from the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist the country on the best options of reform.

The Fire Brigade Services Act has been promulgated during the year under review, to regulate the provisions of this service and related emergencies. The

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implementation date for this Act is yet to be determined, because it provides for fire brigade subsidies to local authorities that are not provided for in the current three-year Rolling Budget.

The Ministry is currently working out the modalities for this subsidy and will approach this House for additional funds for this purpose.

Notwithstanding the many challenges facing the majority of our local authorities, especially the smaller ones, I am happy to report that a significant number of them are living up to these challenges.

Trust Fund for Regional and Development and Equity Provision

The Draft Amendment Bill for the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision has been submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation since last year. The Amendment Bill is expected to be tabled before this august House in the course of this Financial Year.

Currently, the Trust fund is busy upgrading the Sewerage Systems at Rundu, Karibib and Ruacana. Hence, it is necessary to allocate the total amount of **N\$29,723,000** to the Trust Fund for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Programme: Traditional Authorities Coordination 2008/2009 (N\$17,147,000)

Funding of Traditional Authorities operations

The training of traditional leaders was successfully completed. The training was aimed at promoting legal understanding and interpretation of the appropriate statute for the sector. The other most significant issue was to help the Traditional Authorities to establish their community Trust Funds according to the requirement of the Act and the regulations. In total six training workshops were conducted in the Regions by which the chief and one senior traditional councillor from each recognised traditional authority attended. All the 42 recognised traditional authorities benefited from this exercises and this programme is ongoing.

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Application for Recognition

The process of recognition of traditional authorities is still continuing. In this regard, the following traditional authorities were recognised:

- ≠ Aodaman Traditional Authority
- Dâuredaman Traditional Authority
- Simon Kooper Traditional Authority

The Ministry is still seized with the high number of applications for recognition from different communities, that the Ministry are continuously busy scrutinising and investigating in accordance with appropriate legislation.

Council of Traditional Leaders

The Annual Meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders has successfully taken place in October 2007. Traditional leaders had the opportunity to discuss issues of common interest and to interact with national leaders. One of the fundamental recommendations of the Council's meeting is to reform the Traditional Authorities Sector to be in line with the latest development at SADC and AU levels.

Construction of Traditional Authorities' Offices

Because of the financial constraints during the period under review, the Ministry has only been able to construct the Khai-//khaun Traditional Authority office which was subsequently officially inaugurated in November 2007.

**Programme: Decentralisation Coordination for 2008/2009 Financial Year
(N\$7,461,000)**

The Ministry, through the Directorate of Decentralisation Coordination, has been tasked to ensure effective and efficient implementation of decentralisation system of governance through providing management direction, coordination, consultations, training and research.

The Ministry is providing support to those Line Ministries which are decentralising their identified functions and to the Regional Councils and Local Authorities to prepare them to be ready to receive the delegated functions from

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the Line Ministries. The Ministry has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for the implementation of the decentralisation policy, which includes the following six strategic intervention areas:

1. Creation of the enabling environment
2. Line Ministries preparations for decentralisation and their new role
3. Sub-national Governments readiness for decentralisation
4. Information and communication
5. Political mobilisation
6. Public participation

Achievements:

Before stating the achievements made in the implementation of decentralisation, allow me to acknowledge the substantial contributions made by our development partners, namely the Finnish and French Support to the Namibian Decentralisation Process.

The major achievements for the previous Financial Year include the following:

- Ministers' Conference on Decentralisation, which coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Adoption of the Decentralisation Policy.
- The delegation of the Rural Water Supply function, which was coupled with Induction and Handover Sessions undertaken in line with the delegation procedures.
- Consultations held to prepare for the delegation of the functions of maintenance by Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication; Primary and Secondary Education by Ministry of Education, and Print Media and Audio Media by Ministry of Information and Technology.
- Training in the areas of leadership, strategic management, financial management, development planning and human resource management were also priorities to enhance the capacities of sub-national Governments to manage functions to be decentralised.

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- Implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy, which resulted in the launch of the Decentralisation website, strategic communication sessions with line ministries, regional councils and the media.

By now, I am convinced that you are all aware that the process of decentralisation is complex and still poses a lot of challenges for our Ministry, relevant Line Ministries and sub-national Governments.

Substantial financial investments are required to ensure that we indeed attain the agreed objectives of decentralisation as defined in the policy successfully. For this Financial Year, the Ministry will still continue with the following key activities:

- Decentralisation consultation and induction sessions with Line Ministries and Regional Councils, it is hoped that in this Financial Year, two additional functions will formally be delegated to Regional Councils.
- Training of sub-national Government, especially training on sub-national laws related to decentralisation, financial management, human resource management, asset management, development planning, improved participation of citizenry, etcetera, will continue.
- Finalise the remaining 6 Regional Public Participation surveys, aimed at enhancing the interactions of regional councillors and their local citizens.
- Commence with Phase 2 of the Information Technology Expansion Project to cover Constituency offices, Local Authorities and delegating Line Ministries.
- Continue with the raising awareness and understanding on decentralisation policy and processes.

Programme: Rural Development 2008/2009 Financial Year (N\$18,837,000)

Rural Development Process

The Ministry has initiated and undertaken the process of realignment of the current rural development focus and the restructuring process of Rural

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Development has been completed and approved by the Office of the Prime Minister, with the key result or focus areas being Rural Industrialisation, Natural Resource Management, Social Infrastructure Development, Food Security, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Statistic and Research.

The process of re-focusing the rural development approach in order to address the cross-sectoral, multi-faced and holistic nature of rural development, in line with the Ministry's coordination mandate, has been addressed through the creation of additional relevant divisions/units to implement identified activities.

Following the regional consultative meetings on Rural Development during 2007/08, the Ministry participated in two consultative meetings on Sector-wide Approach for the Rural Development sector, organised by the National Planning Commission in collaboration with the European Union in December 2007 and February 2008. The purpose of the meetings were to discuss the sector-wide approach and its scope, with the aim of identifying commonalities and ways how the sector-wide approach could complement efforts to coordinate rural interventions in Namibia in a more focused and holistic way/manner.

These meetings are also forerunners to the National Workshop on Rural Development to be held during the 2008/09, which would eventually culminate in the rural policy and strategic documents.

Current Sub-programme for Rural Development

- Food/Cash for Work.
- Empowerment of the San Community for Household Food Security.
- Food Security and Nutrition.
- Upliftment of Rural Development Centres.

Food / Cash for Work Programme

During the period under review the project was implemented across the country, covering productive activities such as feeder roads, water pipeline digging, construction of teachers' houses and classrooms, earth dams, construction of VIP toilets, community halls, clinics, etcetera. The rural people, in particular able-

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bodied people, participate in the programme by providing labour, thus giving effect to the philosophy of participatory democracy and grassroots participation in mainstream economic development activities.

The programme components are: purchase food and non-food items/materials, warehouse rentals and security guards, training and short-term consultancies to capacitate the beneficiaries.

Food Security and Nutrition: Empowerment of the San Community for Household Food Security

The objective of this programme is to mobilise the San community members to engage in productive activities with the aim of improving the food production potential of resettled San communities improving, through their participation in community-based self-help projects.

The project will focus on developing an integrated farming system to improve the quality of the household food consumption, through the introduction of diversified crop production and livestock development.

The funds will be used for the acquisition of materials and equipment, training of the beneficiaries and institutional support, short-term consultancy for training and studies, training and capacity building of beneficiaries and provision of training materials and food for the San working on the projects.

Other important activities undertaken on Food Security and Nutrition

- The Directorate of Rural Development has so far developed thirteen Region Specific Action Plans for Food Security and Nutrition, addressing cross-cutting issues of food security and poverty, which are to be launched soon.
- Produced a National Food Security and Nutrition Assessment Report 2005;
- Produced the Status of Food Insecurity in Namibia Report 2005

All identified Regions inhabited by the San communities are to benefit from the empowerment of the San Community for Household Food Security project.

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Rural Development Centres

The Ministry is currently developing the capacity of the three Rural Development Centres at Ben-Hur/Tsjaka, Ongwediva and Okashana, which have been outsourced to local Non-Governmental Organisations. These centres provide the rural small farmers with appropriate technologies and skills that are relevant to their profession.

The funds will be expended on the salaries/wages, training and capacity building, renovation and building additional facilities for the Rural Development Centres.

Challenges associated with Rural Development Sub-programmes:

- Insufficient funding for regional community-based self-help projects;
- New upcoming black empowerment businesses awarded tenders for the Food-for-Work Programme, but lacking capacity to supply materials to regional projects;
- Lack of institutional and human capacity at regional level; and
- The need to engage more able-bodied people in the Food/Cash for Work projects, who are currently receiving food aid through the Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme.

Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, in conclusion, based on the motivation provided above, I hereby request this august House to approve the Budget of **N\$593,854,000** as requested by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for its operations and capital projects during the 2008/09 Financial Year.

I count on your support and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister.

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Vote 19 – **“TRADE AND INDUSTRY”**, N\$185,904,000 put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I ask the indulgence of the Honourable House for the Introduction of Vote 19 to be postponed to the 25th of April 2008. I thank you.

Vote 10 – **“EDUCATION”**, N\$ 4,782,768,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I rise to motivate the Budget allocation for Vote 10, Ministry of Education - in the tradition established by Honourable Nahas Angula – under the theme: *“Preparing for a Competitive Nation”* and I am quoting from a book written by one David S Landes: *“The Wealth and Poverty of Nations – Why some are so rich and some so poor”* and I quote a few paragraphs:

“The ideal growth-and-development society is one that:

- (a) Knows how to operate, manage and build the instruments of production and to create, adapt and master new techniques on the technological frontier.
- (b) Is able to impart this knowledge and know-how to the young, whether by formal education or apprenticeship training.
- (c) Chooses people for jobs by competence and relative merit, promoted and demoted on the basis of performance.
- (d) Affords opportunity to individual or collective enterprise; encourages initiative, competition and emulation.
- (e) Allows people to enjoy and employ the fruits of their labour and enterprise.”

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According to the 2007 Report of the Education Management Information System, the Budget that I am about to motivate will affect the present and future lives of more than 570,623 learners (409,508 primary, 158,162 secondary and 2,953 in special schools), of more than 20,333 teachers and of more than 1,583 Government schools catering for 544,454 learners, and 99 non-Governmental schools catering for 26,169 learners. The Budget will also affect more than 20,000 students studying at our tertiary institutions, including those at colleges of education and at vocational education and training centres. The number of teachers and learners represent 30% of the Namibian population.

For those who are interested in gender-budgeting, of the over 20,000 teachers, 12,581 are women and 7,752 are men. I am therefore leading a Ministry run by women.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the education and training sector has been at the centre of critical constructive/destructive, misguided debate both in this august House as well as in the country as a whole, not only this year but over the years. Issues at the centre of the Debate include the extent to which education is considered to be free and compulsory, the necessity for school development, funds, the strength and weaknesses in the management of schools, the inadequacy of school facilities and equipment, furniture, books and other learning and teaching materials.

The Ministry of Education and the education sector at large are aware, Honourable Members, that the above issues speak primary to the need to improve efficiency and quality of educational outcomes. The need for such improvement is also clearly demonstrated by the results in the performance of the Junior and Senior Secondary examinations and in particular, at Grade 10 and Grade 12 levels. I do not know why we have this problem whenever we reach Grade 10 and they belong to Vote 10. There is some magic about the number 10, but we will overcome and move to Grade 11 and Grade 12.

The causes of these problems are, *inter alia*:

The education system is growing at a rapid rate against a very slow growth in resource allocation because the economy does not grow so fast, to critical areas of education, such as skills development that can enable the country to stimulate employability and self-employment opportunities for our people. Other problems are lack of housing for teachers in rural, areas to make it possible for well-

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qualified teachers to take up posts in rural schools. In the absence of well-trained teachers, instead under-qualified teachers end up getting recruited. Of the 20,333 teachers in our school system, 894 have had no teacher training, while 19,439 are professionally qualified. Of those that are professionally qualified, 1,480 have an academic qualification of less than Grade 12; 3,285 have at least Grade 12 plus 2 years tertiary education and 15,548 have more than two years of tertiary education. I am pleased to say that last year 1,440 more teachers graduated from institutions of higher learning, 1,051 from teacher training colleges and 389 from the University of Namibia.

By the way, the University of Namibia is having its graduation today, which I missed because of this, and a number of candidates are graduating with Bachelors and Masters Degrees. Thus, the system, despite our criticism, is producing some results – maybe not enough results but it is definitely producing results.

These are some of the constraints that our education system is facing which affect the performance of our learners throughout the grades, but especially noticeable at Grade 10 and 12 levels. Getting the under-qualified teachers out of the system is an industrial relations issue, recognised by our Government and legislated for by this august House. This is what our people out there need to understand.

The Ministry is in negotiation with the recognised union, namely NANTU, to address the problem and I trust that both sides will think nationally as we protect the interests of the present and future members of both the teaching profession and of the unions. At one point in our system, we took a painful decision to demand that standard six teachers improve their qualifications or get ready to leave the teaching profession.

Although some of them left, a good number of them made use of the opportunity to improve their qualifications, which in the final analysis, assisted in improving the quality of educational outcome of our children.

Education sector could, therefore, be performing well if all our teachers were well-prepared, fully committed and are spending adequate time on task and that those who are well-qualified are equally shared in all the schools, Regions and nationally.

In terms of physical facilities provision, there are 19,290 classrooms. Of these, 16,518 are permanent structures, 1,171 are prefabricated buildings, 1,420 are

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traditional huts and confined almost entirely to the seven poorly resourced Regions namely, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Omusati, Oshana, Kavango, Caprivi and Kunene and we hire 181 facilities from other owners.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, tertiary are in no better condition in terms of aging infrastructures and equipment that require serious attention for maintenance and renovation; expansion of hostel accommodation to increase access for the poor and the vulnerable at both UNAM and the Polytechnic.

Surely the education system is required to have a feeling for the poor and create sanctuary that would assist those affected to “*work their way out of poverty.*” Because no matter how poor your background is, if you get the best possible education, you have worked yourself out of poverty.

That sanctuary is our collective responsibility as a Government and as a Nation and the Government is ready and prepared to assist the poor so that they can access and also afford education. A good example has been given by the Honourable Comrade Libertine Amathila, Deputy Prime Minister, for her concern and energy and efforts in taking care of the interests of our truly small minorities. If she was here I would have said give her a big hand, but this is Parliament and not a meeting.

Let me now account for the resources allocated to Vote 10 in the last Financial Year in line with the Government’s programme budgeting approached launched in 2005 and which lays the ground for the measuring of impacts and outcomes.

Accounting for the 2007/2008 Allocation:

A total amount of N\$3.5 billion were allocated to Vote 10 for the last Financial Year to enable the Ministry to implement its six major programmes, namely General Education, Information, Adult and Lifelong Learning; Vocational Education and Training; Knowledge Creation and Innovation; Tertiary Education and Training and HIV/AIDS education and training programmes.

The Ministry of Education had set itself five targets for the year under review whose achievements are highlighted against the following benchmarks:

Number one is achievement of one textbook per learner in Mathematics, English and Science at primary and secondary levels and the aim was to cover at least

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15% of the schools from the then ratio of one book to three children and primary and one book to two children at secondary levels. Without getting into the full details, I am happy to say that in all those subjects, Mathematics, Science and English, we have reached a one to one ratio as aimed.

A need for speedy improvement was noted on procurement of textbooks, timely distribution and management of delivery, including timely reporting from the schools. Planned implementation of a Cabinet approved Textbook Policy is expected to increase overall efficiency in this area.

The other target was a teacher-learner ratio of 40 at primary and 35 at secondary by next year. Current average learner-teach ratios are 31 in primary and 25 in secondary.

During Financial Year 2006/2007 understaffing was reduced from 1 168 to 894. Effective implementation of the new staffing norms which is under negotiation with NANTU is to cause saving of N\$143 million to be realised on Vote 10. This saving can then be used for equipping classrooms with consumables, such as books, computers, maps and reference material.

Average teacher-learner ratio is at present at 28 nationally; 30 at primary and 25 at secondary. The primary level ratio though affected by smaller schools in sparsely populated areas, range from 31 for Kavango and Ohangwena regions, 30 for Khomas, Otjozondjupa, Hardap, Erongo, Caprivi, Khomas, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Erongo Regions to 9 children for special schools. The secondary school ratio ranges from 27 for Oshana, 25 for Otjozondjupa, Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena, Hardap and Erongo Regions and 6 for special schools. Note that national average calculations include smaller schools and special schools that may have only four or fifteen learners.

Another target was achieving 100 percent ICT and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming in curriculum by 2007/2008. That has been achieved

Another target was that a 10% increase in throughput of learners in critical areas of human resource shortages was planned at tertiary level.

At the level of vocational education and training, successful completion rate at the end of 2006 was 72.6% for all levels against the rate of 56% recorded in 2005. Enrolment at Polytechnic of Namibia increased by 14% from 7,067 in

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2005 to 8 000 in 2006, of which the number of graduates increased by 29% from 2 000 in 2005 to 2 688 in 2006. Sciences enrolment increased by 9% from 988 in 2005 to 1,081 in 2006; engineering by 3%, ICT by 16% and I also want you to know that last weekend the Polytechnic had a graduation and a number of people have gained qualifications.

UNAM experienced some increase in enrolment between 2005 and 2006 as far as Economics and Management Sciences are concerned by 3.4%; Medical and Health Sciences by 15.9%; Science by 7.7%.

Honourable Members, without frightening you, it appears that the work of the Right Honourable Nahas Angula has started bearing fruits and if we are not careful, these graduating sons and daughters of Namibia are likely to take over our seats in this august House and they will probably know how to stick to the details.

Then the last point will be that the proportion of Grade 10 school-leavers entering Vocational and Training programmes should at least 25%.

Considerable increase in enrolment was noted from 750 in 2006/07 to 900 in 2007/08, representing 16.6% against the targeted 25%. With increased space at Vocational Training Centres, the target should be exceeded. With the passing of the Vocational Education and Training Act this year, we would expect positive competition among Vocational Education and Training institutions. Institutions are to be financed on the basis of their ability to perform. This is to be coupled with capacity-building and technical support and re-equipping of the Government supported vocational education and technical institutions countrywide.

In terms of the above analysis, the targets set by the sector remain achievable and as funding to the sector increases, some targets can easily be exceeded.

I will now move to the second part of my task, that of motivating the allocation to Vote 10 for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

The total Operational and Development Budget allocated to Vote 10 amounts to N\$4,782,761,000.

The Personnel Expenditure amount to N\$3,897,345,000;

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Other Goods and Services amount to N\$942,696,000;

Subsidies and other Transfers amount to N\$550,762,000.

Acquisition of Capital Expenditure, including furniture, amounts to N\$16,356,000;

Allocation for Scholarship under Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund amounts to N\$213,622,000.

The total Development Budget amounts to N\$172,960,000.

Within the allocation for Development Budget:

- 24 million is allocated for adding new classrooms, libraries, laboratories, offices and ablution blocks to existing schools;
- 40.8 million will be spent on the construction of new primary and secondary schools;
- 23.5 million will be spent on renovations of educational institutions;
- 3.4 million is earmarked for procurement of school furniture;
- 4 million will be spent on the expansion of vocational education and training institutions;
- 64.8 million will be spent on capital projects for institutions of Higher Learning such as UNAM, the Polytechnic and Colleges of Education;
- 10.7 million will be spent on the expansion of national libraries and adult learning centres;
- 1.6 million will be spent on the projects of Science and Research Centres.

The total amount of N\$95,200,000 represents contributions by our Development Partners, namely the European Union, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands.

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Allow me, therefore, Honourable Members to express our sincere gratitude to our valuable development partners, including those who support various educational programmes outside the State Revenue Fund, for their continued support to education and to Namibia. Their invaluable support makes it possible for Namibia to fulfil her solemn obligation of providing education, a fundamental human right, to all our nationals.

The allocation will assist the Ministry to implement programmes as follows:

Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary Education:

This programme is widely recognised as having a significant impact on the subsequent performance of children in basic education programmes. They lay the foundation for acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills. They considerably reduce dropout and repetition rates and when well managed, they generate a predisposition of the child towards learning and attending school. Pre-primary education would ensure a smooth transition between Early Childhood Development and primary education and lay the foundation for long-life learning. Early Childhood Development and pre-primary education are much sought after by parents on behalf of their children who themselves are literate and value them and can afford quality education. The challenge in Namibia is to ensure pre-primary education is available to the less-advantaged communities most in need of it.

General Education:

This programme is aimed at providing 12 years of schooling from Grade 1 to 12. The programme will focus on improving access and quality of primary and secondary education, especially for hard to reach children including out of school youth, orphans and vulnerable children.

Quality Junior and Secondary education will be provided to improve national knowledge base and to enable learners to acquire appropriate skills to proceed to post-secondary training that include vocational education, skills development and tertiary education and training. The amount will also cater for matters pertaining to national examination and assessment, to the National Institute for Education Development as well as Planning and Development. For these activities an amount of N\$3,764,415,000 is allocated, which makes up 79% of the Budget of the Ministry of Education.

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Out of the total allocation for General Education programme the following makes up the allocations:

- Primary Education amounts to N\$2,274,328,000;
- Secondary Education amounts to N\$716,304,000;
- Hostels amounts to N\$309,796,000.

You can see how expensive hostels are.

Adult and Lifelong Learning:

This programme aims at addressing inequalities in access to knowledge, information and learning resources, to empower and tap human potentials especially of disadvantaged regions. These will be carried out through procuring and delivery of information and learning materials to ministerial and national libraries, facilitation of self-employment through the provision of adult skills activities, NAMCOL and community development activities. An amount of N\$39,928,000 is allocated to this programme. This amount represents 3 % of the total allocation to education.

I should also inform the House that of the 16,000 Grade 10 learners who needed to repeat, 5,000 went back to the formal education system, 11 000 were shared between Vocational Education and Training Institutions and NAMCOL.

We love to hate NAMCOL and to bash NAMCOL, but this has indicated that there are people who are willing to utilise the facilities of NAMCOL. As they say in Europe and other places, everybody loves blonde women but then they go and marry brunettes. Everybody would like to get married to Ms Namibia, but you end up going to your villages and marry Ms Nkurenkuru, Ms Eenhana, Ms Omuthiya and Ms Okakarara. Do therefore not kick the local beauty out of your house, because you may not get the blonde you think you are going to get. So, NAMCOL is a useful educational institution.

Vocational Education and Training:

The programme aims at providing vocational education and training for the realisation of effective and sustainable skills formation that is closely aligned with labour market and accelerated development of the competencies needed by

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the youths and adults for productive work and increased standard of living. In particular, vocational centres will be upgraded and re-equipped and an effective levy collection system put in place as provided for in the Vocational Education and Training Act, which was passed recent by this Parliament and, I am happy to say, which was already signed into law by His Excellency the President. The levy system will raise funds from qualifying employers and employer organisation as per the Vocational Education and Training Act. An amount of N\$134,000 is allocated to this programme. This represents 2.8% of the total allocation to education.

Knowledge Creation and Innovation:

The programme aims at facilitating the development of strategies for the enhancement of research, science, technology and innovation to economic development. Knowledge and innovation programmes focus on the development of an effective national knowledge and innovation system that can foster the link between the creation of knowledge and its use in productive economic activities.

Activities foreseen include setting up the National Commission for Research, Science and Technology and establishment of the National Science and Technology Fund. Other policies to be developed by the programme are the Innovation Policy and its legislation. Indigenous knowledge system policy, research depository and biotechnology management system and management of Olute Research Centre and its value-added activities, such as small-scale meat products development and knowledge market place assessment. An amount of N\$11,000 is allocated to this programme.

Tertiary Education and Training:

This programme aims at enhancing capacity for the development of tertiary education institutions, including teacher training college of education. The allocation will be utilised to make possible for these institutions to achieve their key activities that include training of teachers, implementation of tertiary education programmes, staffing of the Secretariat of the National Council on Higher Education, effective transfer of agricultural colleges to the University of Namibia and to cater for the operations of the National Qualification Authority that includes articulation and evaluation of qualification for recognition purposes, accreditation and regulation and alignments of national and foreign qualifications. This allocation will also make possible financing of tertiary education through

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scholarships, loans and bursaries, locally and abroad, financing the operations of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO in order to secure maximum benefits from UNESCO programmes and expertise with regard to issues of culture, communication and the sciences.

An amount of N\$731 million is allocated to this programme. Included in the Higher Education programme is an amount of N\$440 million for transfer subsidies to the University of Namibia and to the Polytechnic of Namibia.

HIV and AIDS:

This programme aims at preventing the infection rate, reducing the transmission of HIV, mitigating the social economic impact of AIDS in the education system. The programme will assist in raising awareness and empowerment, mainstreaming HIV and AIDS activities in our curriculum. An amount of N\$2 million is allocated to this programme.

Capacity Development:

The Ministry requires strong capacity to lead the education sector, deliver ongoing routine education services to the public, as well as implementing non-routine projects and programmes such as ETSIP. Capacity is strongly related to productivity. High capacity in the Ministry will directly increase its productivity, its ability to lead the sector and achieve more with whatever resources are allocated to it. Capacity also has a multiplier effect, high capacity attracts additional funding both from the Government as well as development partners.

In conclusion, I am thankful that the Government has listened to the plight of the education sector and the loud outcry of the Namibian public. It has responded positively in making resources available. I am particularly grateful to the Honourable Minister of Finance and her able team for their in-depth understanding and recognition of the national needs in the fields of education and training. As a way of appreciating the positive response through the allocation, the Ministry will increase enrolment of learners and improve performance at all our schools. NAMCOL performance surpasses 120 of our normal schools. Equally vocational training and skills development centres must be improved as well as our institutions of higher learning. Additional allocation to make possible the repeat of Grade 10 by the 2007 Grade 10 leavers is also fully appreciated. Performance and accountability are, therefore, our commitment.

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HON DR AMWEELO**

The Ministry of Education truly values the leadership of His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba on the issue of Grade 10 repeaters.

And let me paraphrase what has said: *“We cannot allow the majority of our children to swim in the sea of ignorance and bad school system while a small minority of children are secure on islands of good and well-equipped schools”*

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I also have a duty, on behalf of my seniors who are not here, the Vice-President of the party, Dr Hage Geingob and the Secretary General of the SWAPO Party, Comrade Pendukeni Ithana to congratulate a day in advance all the SWAPO Members, supporters and sympathisers on the 48th anniversary of the liberating, ruling and the Party of the future.

Lastly, having nothing else to say, I honestly ask you, Honourable Members, to approve this small amount for your own children and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Vote 22 – **“FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES”** put for Discussion.
Agreed to.

Vote 14 – **“LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”**, put for Discussion.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chair. I have only one concern with regard to the labour inspectors, especially the factory inspectors. Comrade Deputy Chair, we all know that Namibia is a very big country, there are so many working places, but when it comes to the factory inspectors they are not many, only eight or nine, and those people have to cover the whole country.

I thank the Minister but I think maybe there is a need for additional factory inspectors in order to cover all the working places in Namibia.

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Secondly, we have a high level of noise pollution in our working places and according to the Labour Act, should the noise pollution go up to more than 85 decibels, those workers will be exposed to a noise hazard. Therefore, the comment is: It would be good to provide the factory inspectors with equipment to measure noise levels and light metres.

Lastly my concern is with regard to the workers in the construction sector. Accidents happen in the construction sector but the employers just employ people without training them, without showing them how to use the scaffold and ladder. Therefore, you find people falling down and sometimes they are not even wearing the helmets. Those are the things the inspectors should concentrate on.

The last point is with regard to the charcoal factory. Therefore many people are exposed to a dust hazard which is very serious. The inspectors need to go and make sure that those workers who are working in the charcoal factory must receive medical treatment and first aid and provide with personal protective clothes.

Otherwise I support this Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussion? Minister of Labour.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Colleagues, I want to thank you very much for supporting this Vote, which is a very important Vote especially for our elderly.

Concerning the issues that had been raised by Honourable Amweelo, those are issues that are currently under consideration in the Ministry and will be properly taken care of. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any objection? Agreed to. I will allow the Honourable Minister of Fisheries just to thank the House for the support of his Vote. Honourable Minister of Fisheries.

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HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I thank the House for their support.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned in terms of Rule 90 until Tuesday, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:32 UNTIL 2008.04.22 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
22 APRIL 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: REPORT ON ELECTION
OBSERVER MISSION TO ZIMBABWE**

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Namibian Government Election Observer Mission to Zimbabwe 2008; and the Communiqué 2008 of the First Extraordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION: 52

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 24 April 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

1. Is it true that the Chinese vessel An Jue Jiang, is about to dock at Walvis Bay to take fuel?
2. If this is in the affirmative, has the ship arrived and will it be allowed to offload the lethal cargo on Namibian soil?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON ULENGA**

3. This same ship was not allowed to offload its lethal cargo at two ports in Durban, South Africa and Maputo, Mozambique due to bad intentions of intimidating ordinary Zimbabweans with this ammunition.
4. Will the Namibian Government allow this ship to dock and offload its ill-intended cargo on the Namibian soil?
5. Will the Government take drastic steps to confiscate and stop the shipment of ammunition with bad intentions to prevent a civil war and undemocratic system in Zimbabwe and other SADC countries?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Ulenga.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow on Wednesday, the 23 of April, I shall Move –

1. That this House urgently debates and takes a stand on the situation in neighbouring Zimbabwe, which country has been in a state of political limbo and deadlock for the last three weeks since national Parliamentary and Presidential elections were held there on the 29th of March 2008 and which has since experience alarming escalations of political violence and thuggery, including murders, arrests, beatings, with more than 400 political activists having been arrested last week alone.
2. That this House condemns the political violence and political arrests and the violation of the rights of citizens going on in Zimbabwe.
3. That this House not condone but take a stand against any shipment and/or transportation of arms and/or ammunition destined for Zimbabwe through our territory, which arms and ammunition may end up being used against the people of Zimbabwe.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON ULENGA**

4. That this House urge the authorities in Zimbabwe to end the political deadlock by releasing the results of the presidential and other elections held in that country in accordance with Zimbabwean law.
5. That this House urges the Namibian Government to use all influence at their disposal to end the political crisis.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion?
Honourable Mushelenga.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 10, 13, 17, 18 and 19 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

Before I call on the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day, may I express my dismay about the change of the seating arrangements in the Chamber in my absence, the Chamber for which I, and I only, am responsible? If this has not been done in the past, it was because of lack of consultations and not on my part, but on the part of the Ruling Party and I would have expected that I would be informed. It is a *fait accompli*, I would not have done it this way, but since it is a *fait accompli*, I want the records to indicate that I am surprised and dismayed. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL:

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported last Friday, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 11, 22, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to. Votes 10 and 17 had been introduced. Before I go to the introduction of the Votes, let me call on the Minister of Finance to say something.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, the following are changes to some Ministerial portfolios. It has become important that we introduce some amendments to the Appropriation Bill, particularly to the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill in order to assist in giving effect to the rearrangements that His Excellency, the President has made to the Ministerial portfolios.

I therefore, would like to propose some Amendments to the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill as follows:

- (a) Substitute the following title for the title “Transport and Communication” – “Transport”;
- (b) Substitute the following title for the title “Information and Broadcasting” – “Information and Communication Technology.”

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- (c) Substitute the following amount for the amount “N\$1,027,319,000” of Vote 24 – Transport with “N\$1,017,056,000”;
- (d) Substitute the following amount for the amount “N\$215,035,000” of Vote 29 – Information and Communication Technology with “N\$225,298,000”.

I so Move.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any discussions on the amendments? Who seconds?

Agreed to.

I now put Vote 13 – **“HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”**, N\$2,130,873,000 for introduction by the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members:-

First, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, and their teams, for the consideration made in the allocation of the requested funds to address the pressing needs of the health sector as per our priorities and targets.

Honourable Chairperson, I am presenting the Budget at the time our country is facing several challenges in the health sector. During the course of this Medium Term Expenditure Framework, Namibia had to deal with outbreaks of two epidemics whose effects, if not well managed, could have been catastrophic.

In 2006, just on the eve of the World Health Organisation declaring Namibia polio-free, we were confronted by the outbreak of poliomyelitis with its devastating consequences including severe forms of paralysis and death. This outbreak also caused widespread fear and panic amongst the people.

In response to this outbreak and with minimal support from outside the country, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, supported by its development

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partners, WHO and UNICEF in particular, swiftly coordinated the national response, surpassing the WHO record.

Admittedly, the outbreak put to test the leadership and management skills of the Ministry. I am therefore pleased to say that my team rose to the challenge. Indeed, their hard work and tireless efforts in effectively curtailing the further spread of the polio epidemic have been exemplary and commendable.

According to the WHO, no country had ever before succeeded in containing the polio epidemic within such a short space of time. Furthermore, many observers both locally and internationally have commended Namibia and the Ministry on the exemplary leadership provided during the national efforts. Given this successful eradication of poliomyelitis, we have been informed that the WHO will be sending an expert team of Commissioners in June of this year with a view to once again declare Namibia as a polio-free country.

Just as we were about to fully recover from the effects of the polio outbreak, we had to deal with the first-ever outbreak of a cholera epidemic in 2007. Once again, we succeeded in containing the outbreak without the support of any external experts.

Unfortunately, due to the terrible floods experienced in the north and north-eastern parts of Namibia, we experienced the second cholera outbreak this year with severe consequences for over one thousand people, which claimed thirteen lives. Indicators suggest that we have now reached the peak and the epidemic is now on the decline. With the technical support of our development partners, in particular the WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, as well as three SADC Member States, namely South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe who sent in technical teams, we triumphed over the ordeal.

However, given the experience of our neighbouring countries, we may now have to prepare for cholera to become an endemic disease. This requires us to improve our sanitation situation considerably over the coming years.

Over and above these challenges, we continue the battle against HIV/AIDS, and continue to deal with its devastating impacts on many affected families. However, I am pleased to note that with the support of many stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors and civic organisations, we have now rolled out the provision of ARVs and PMTCT in all district hospitals, health centres, and are

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now in the process of rolling out these services to clinics across the width and breadth of Namibia.

Indeed, according to the United Nations Secretary-General and WHO Reports, Namibia ranks amongst the top five countries who have to date, met the commitments made by the Heads of State and Government during the UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2006. I am grateful to report that in terms of our national targets to put 30,000 people on ARV treatment by 2008 we have surpassed the target and currently have 43,000 people on treatment.

In fact, the Nation will be pleased to note that, according to WHO, Namibia is leading the African Region as far as the paediatrics treatment programme for HIV/AIDS is concerned.

It is my pleasure to inform this August House that in June of this year, the UN member states will meet in New York to assess progress made in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic since 2006. I am grateful that His Excellency, the President has delegated me to lead the Namibian delegation and in this regard we will confidently report Namibia's achievements. As said earlier, Namibia is far ahead of its obligations in terms of those commitments.

For those of you who are interested and for ease of reference, we have described in detail the targets and achievements of the Ministry as a whole on page 57 of the Government's Accountability Report.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, as the Hon. Minister of Finance conveyed to this esteemed House when she tabled the National Budget, public health allocation has increased from 13.8% in 2007/2008 to 14.2% in 2008/2009.

In absolute terms, this is a 27% increase in the Health Budget. Furthermore, this translates into an increase in the Health Budget from 4.3 to 5.0% of GDP from the previous Financial Year.

We are indeed most delighted that Namibia is therefore making very good progress towards the targets set by the African Heads of State and Governments, to devote 15% of Government expenditure to the health sector.

The increases in Budget Allocation were motivated by the pressing needs in public health, and will support our efforts as we work towards fulfilling our

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mandate as custodians of health in Namibia. In particular, this Budget seeks to fuel plans and programmes for infrastructural development, equipment upgrading, for the procurement of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, and transportation, especially, for ambulances and outreach service vehicles.

Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry has adopted six priority areas, which are directed towards the fulfilment of our goals and targets as articulated in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and NDP3. These priorities are:- Disease control (HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis), Institutional care, Family Health, Environmental Health, Rehabilitation, Health Systems and Human Resource Development.

Honourable Chairperson, for the past Financial Year 2007/08, my Ministry was allocated an amount of N\$1,682,916 000 of which N\$1,569,252,000 went to operational expenditure and N\$113,664,000 was for capital projects.

It is not possible within the time we have to account on how the money was used nor is it the objective of this presentation. However, I wish to inform this august House of some important milestones accomplished during the 2007/2008 Financial Year. Deserving special mention is the purchasing of 15 ambulances, and the completion of renovation and construction of 10 clinics and 2 health centres. In addition, continued renovation of hospitals took place.

Of further particular importance are the consultations we as a Ministry held with our stakeholders. This inclusive engagement of civil society and the private sector, is inspired by the Primary Health Care approach, and has resulted in the pledging of much needed financial and material support to health care services and infrastructure. For example, I am pleased to report that, because of these successful meetings, 9 more ambulances were purchased by the Ministry, giving us a total of twenty-four brand new ambulances which are now ready to be dispatched to all the district hospitals in the country. In total the sum of quantified pledges from our November 2007 Stakeholder Consultation amounts to N\$4,980,000.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now have the honour and privilege to present before you budget Vote 13 for 2008/2009 for your consideration and approval.

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An amount of N\$2,130,873,000 has been allocated to my Ministry. This Budget consists of the Operational Budget, amounting to a sum of N\$1,831,667,000 (85.95%) and the Development Budget, of N\$299,206,000.

Allow me to address individual programmes.

Programme 1: Tertiary Health Care

This programme deals with the provision of specialised clinical and diagnostic services for patients referred from Regional and district hospitals.

This includes bulk provision of pharmaceuticals and other commodities, including blood products, and the transporting of goods and services. In addition, it addresses the infrastructure needs of the Ministry, as well as the development, supervision and training of staff (nurses, medical and pharmaceutical interns and paramedical workers) by strengthening the skills and knowledge of health workers through clinical training.

Accelerating training of health professionals is a priority area for mitigating the shortage of available skills and human resources. For this reason, I wish to inform the Honourable Members that as of January 2008, 23 new Namibian graduates in medicine have commenced their medical internship in Windhoek Central Hospital. In addition, four graduates have successfully completed their studies in Ghana and are expected to join their colleagues shortly. This gives us 27 new young Namibian medical doctors.

The cost for operational activities under this programme amounts to N\$754,248,000.

Furthermore, the upgrading and renovation of the Katutura, Windhoek Central, Oshakati and Rundu hospitals are allocated a sum of N\$105,235,000.

Much of the construction and renovation has already commenced, therefore these funds are supporting ongoing capital projects.

N\$17,000,000 is an additional allocation to the programme for the MTEF. The resources will be directed towards the oncology department, which is the only radiotherapy centre in Namibia. The improvement of the equipment will result in greater access for treatment.

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Programme 02: Regional and District Health Services

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, this programme is designed to promote, protect and improve the health of families, with particular focus on improving the health of women and children, and with a specific aim to reduce maternal and infant deaths at the primary and secondary health care level within our health districts.

Activities include the provision and rolling-out of ART and PMTCT services, addressing Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM) among under-fives, increasing access and coverage for family planning and reproductive health services and outreach services.

In addition, the programme will address training of health care workers and community counsellors, in areas of rolling out of ARV, HIV Rapid Testing at public health facilities and public health education.

Honourable Chairperson, for this programme to be realised a sum of N\$1,281,224,000 is allocated for the operational expenditure.

For the upgrading, renovation and construction of clinics, health centres and district hospitals a sum of N\$187,171,000 is allocated.

I am grateful for the additional allocation of N\$52,500,350 for the Financial Year 2008/2009 to address the deficit on transport, Integrated Financial Management System, establishment of infrastructure maintenance units and improvement of conditions of services for employees of mission hospitals. Under this programme, within the 2008/2009 Financial Year, we expect to see every health district receiving two to three vehicles, including ambulances and outreach service vehicles.

From this increased allocation, we anticipate improvements in service delivery as relates to emergency and outreach services, better financial management, and the timely repair and refurbishment of health facilities.

Programme 03: Disease Control

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Honourable Chairperson, this programme manages and directs policy development, strategic planning, resource mobilization, co-ordination, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation of the national response across all sectors to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The funds required for the operational activities under this programme is N\$18,644,000.

The development budget for this programmes amounts to N\$3,000,000 aimed at conducting the Biannual HIV Sentinel Surveillance and the procurement of medicines, Home- Based Care Kits and condoms.

Furthermore, as a SADC Member State, we have adopted an HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework and Plan of Action. Therefore, N\$700,000 is an additional allocation to the programme for this plan for the Financial Year 2008/2009.

Programme 04: Social protection

Honourable Chairperson, the objective of the programme is to provide support and social relief services to families and individuals with special welfare needs, particularly those living with disabilities. Developmental social welfare services ensure the provision of comprehensive social protection services. Although social welfare services is fragmented among three ministries, the Ministry of Health and Social Services will continue to provide services such as substance abuse prevention, rehabilitation programmes and the provision of care and services to older persons.

The funds for the operational activities under this programme are N\$18,644,000.

The Development Budget activities under this programme have been allocated an amount of N\$3,800,300.

Development Partners' Contributions

Our development partners have committed an amount of N\$330,712,000 towards the programmes in the health sector and which are funded outside the State Revenue Fund. The funds received from various development partners continue to make a significant contribution to the development of the health and social welfare

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sector, including combating of HIV/AIDS, development of physical infrastructure, human resources, strengthening of health systems management mechanisms and other Family Health Service programmes. Indeed, we remain grateful for this continued support from our development partners.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I wish to sincerely thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, for his foresight, quality leadership and guidance. Furthermore, I wish to thank the Honourable Members of Parliament and the public for your continued genuine interest and constructive criticisms. Your ongoing involvement and concerns regarding the performance of the health institutions has assisted in highlighting the enormous challenges the health sector faces.

Finally, I wish to thank my Team, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary, and the entire workforce at the Ministry of Health and Social Services for their tireless efforts made towards achieving our national goal of "*Health for All*".

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, this concludes the motivation of Budget Vote 13 for 2008/2009 for the sum of N\$2,130,870,000. I trust in your usual support.

I so Move. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

I now put Vote 19 – "**TRADE AND INDUSTRY**", **N\$185,904,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, it is my honour to introduce to this august House, Vote 19 for the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. I wish to reiterate my support for the Budget presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance earlier in this House, and I thank her for the proposed allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

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This portfolio, which I have been given recently by His Excellency the President, is one that presents both challenges and opportunities, and ultimately affects the livelihoods and prosperity of all Namibians. Trade and Industry are some of the most fundamental pillars of national economies the world over, including Namibia.

While our macro-economic framework and longer-term forecasts are stable and positive, as enunciated lucidly by the Honourable Minister of Finance when she tabled this Budget, we face considerable challenges in the short term. There is currently a sense of 'gloom and doom' about the global economy due to rising energy costs, inflation, the sub-prime mortgage crisis and rising interest rates, and fears as to how this would affect us as a Nation.

I nevertheless, have always firmly believed that if we fully exploit our competitive advantages, if we use the opportunities that niche markets offer, if we rigorously promote value addition to our raw materials and if we create opportunities for local and foreign investment, we will develop the resilient and diversified economy that would make us prosper regardless of negative global trends. It is now my responsibility to make this belief a reality, which I will endeavour to do to the best of my ability and with the support of this House, our private sector and all spheres of society.

Some may say that we cannot prosper under these conditions of global economic downturn, because we are part of a global economy and subject to its whims. We are sandwiched between the two regional giants namely Angola and South Africa, we only have two million people, and our small domestic market cannot offer the economies of scale for us to produce or manufacture anything competitively.

In response to that, I say yes, we can. As a Nation, we can produce excellent products from fisheries, mining, agriculture and manufacturing. Our beer, Windhoek Lager, free-range beef, white fish, oysters and crayfish, and table grapes are already fetching high prices in the export market.

We have much more to offer, such as free-range lamb and goat, biltong and other processed meat products, venison, dairy products, fine leather goods, electronics, jewellery, cut and polished diamonds, and a large range of other products from mining. If we are to find fault, it is that our volumes of production are still far too small, and our international marketing effort too limited.

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Equally, we are excelling in some areas of services and international trade therein, for example tourism, financial services, and professional services. Talented and entrepreneurial Namibians are beginning to take on international markets in all seriousness. I venture to say that we are making significant strides to become a service-based economy in future.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, all that we need to do is to believe in ourselves, and all that Government needs to do is to create the right environment for our people. Given the size of our industry and economy, Government sometimes has to intervene to kick-start a new development or nurture a new initiative. It is important that we do this in the right way.

We are a very fortunate people, with abundant resources and opportunities. I firmly believe that in our small Nation, no person needs to be poor or left out of economic prosperity. Therefore, renewed efforts should be made to make the most of our opportunities for everyone.

Budgetary Allocations:

This now brings me to the budgetary allocation for the current Financial Year. The Ministry has been allocated a total of N\$185,904,000 for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. This amount represents:

- N\$157,240,000 for the Operational Budget; and
- N\$28,664,000 for the Development Budget.

This overall amount represents an increase of 47% on the allocations of the previous Financial Year. This increase represents primarily an increase in the operational budget from N\$101,537,000 in 2007/2008 to N\$157,240,000 in 2007/2008, thus an increase of 55% in the Budget for recurrent costs. I am pleased to say that this increase will enable the Ministry to expand its programmes across the board and weather increasing recurrent costs.

The Budget of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, currently consists of five programmes.

Programme 1: Trade Promotion and Facilitation

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During the last Financial Year we were allocated N\$27 million under this program, this has doubled to N\$55 million, in line with a rapid expansion of responsibilities.

With this programme, we handle our responsibilities concerning SACU, SADC, and trade and industry related aspects in the African Union and the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Group of countries, as well as our role in the World Trade Organisation.

Trade promotion and facilitation include the negotiation and implementation of trade agreements. This House will recall the ratification of the EFTA Free Trade Agreement. As we speak, the final touches are negotiated on a preferential trade agreement with the MERCOSUR countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). We are also continuing to negotiate an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, a process with grave consequences for Namibia, and which has brought our vulnerability to single markets home as never before. SACU has also initiated the process of negotiating a free trade agreement with India, and Namibia, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is the chief negotiator and coordinator of this process for SACU.

Market diversification is currently a major priority for us, and we are working with other institutions and the private sector to assess opportunities in all markets available to us. This is a daunting task due to the historical orientation of our trade towards the European Union and South Africa, yet it is an economic imperative.

Under this programme the Ministry of Trade and Industry is also in the process of establishing the Board of Trade, our future tariff setting and import-export control body, which is a requirement under the SACU Treaty, and the SADC National Committee Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate our national engagement in SADC. Importantly, this programme also supports an innovative institution that we have created, namely the Namibia Trade Forum, which is our principal conduit for liaison and communication with the private sector. Lastly, in 2008 we will also initiate the process of creating an entirely new institution, the Export Promotion Agency, which Cabinet has approved last year. Its functions will be to help coordinate export facilitation and marketing internationally.

Programme 2: SME and Entrepreneurship Development

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This programme is designed to increase the participation of previously disadvantaged people in the formal economy. It also focuses on value-addition, employment creation, technology development, adoption and franchising as a type of business formation.

During the last Financial Year we were allocated N\$23 million under this programme, this has now almost doubled to N\$44 million, to enable the expansion of the programme activities in the various regions. The main activities, which we will undertake under this programme, are:

1. The financing of feasibility studies and business plans for SME's and new entrants to the business world;
2. Vendor development in the SME sector, including training in business management, marketing, the use of technology, exposure to best practices, etcetera;
3. Group sourcing for SMEs, namely assistance in procuring inputs and overcoming the lack of purchasing power that any one SME may have;
4. Support for agro-processing, which globally has been an attractive sector for SME development; and
5. SME Clusters and Cottage Development, through the development of common-facility centres.

One of the most important new concepts that we will pursue is the development of an entrepreneurship development centre, a "*one-stop shop*" concept in providing integrated support to SMEs. In the programme is ongoing monitoring and research on the performance of industry through a Sector Survey and Analysis Project and an Industrial and Enterprise Census Project. A further challenge is the transformation of the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust towards an SME banking facility that would complement services available in the Development Bank of Namibia and the private sector financial institutions.

Cabinet has recently reversed its previous decision to disband the Namibia Development Corporation, largely out of recognition that an implementing body is needed to incubate and facilitate industrial and business development in rural areas and in the SME sector. The Ministry of Trade and Industry, along with

other partners, are currently assessing institutional models, and examples in neighbouring countries, for a new transformed industrial development agency, and this House will be informed of progress in this regard.

Programme 3: Industrial Planning and Infrastructural Development Programme:

This programme aims to create an enabling environment for Namibia's industrialisation through proper planning and construction of industrial parks and common facility centres. It aims at the transformation of the economy to reduce dependence on retail and the export of primary commodities.

The cost of setting up business structures in Namibia is comparatively high. In view of this, the industrial planning and infrastructural development programme is constructing SME modules, Industrial Parks and EPZ Centres. The programme provides reasonably priced trading and manufacturing space to SMEs and other industrial enterprises.

During the last Financial Year N\$14 million was made available to this programme, which has been increased to N\$21 million for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. Achievements under this programme include the following:

1. Feasibility studies were undertaken to determine the viability and requirements for the establishment of an automotive manufacturing sector, on agro-food processing and to profile business opportunities in towns such as Ongwediva, Okakarara and Helao-Nafidi.
2. The construction of an SME Business Park and Hospitality Common Facility Centre at Okalongo.
3. The completion of technical work for the provision of bulk water and electricity to the agro-food processing site at Oshakati. The centre will be equipped with machinery for processing agricultural products grown in the Regions and through the envisaged Green Scheme into a variety of manufactured food products, which will have a long shelf life and for marketing locally and for export.
4. The completion of the concept design and starting of construction of the SME Business Park and Garment Common Facility Centre at Okongo.

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5. The completion of the SME Business Park and Automotive Clutch & Break Common Facility Centre at Oshikuku.
6. The completion of the feasibility study for an industrial park in Okahandja.

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

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Before we went on tea break, I was talking about the achievements under the programme and I will continue.

SME's and informal traders operate under highly unfavourable conditions, and are unable to conduct business in urban business centres, due to them being unable to acquire the more expensive business sites and premises. Furthermore, such facilities are often completely lacking in rural areas.

Further demand has been expressed for smaller trading spaces in municipal areas. We will cooperate with Local Authorities in the provision of urban and rural market places for fresh produce, arts and crafts and other locally produced or even imported goods traded by SMEs.

Another demand is for serviced industrial land with factory shells in major centres (Windhoek, Walvis Bay) and other towns (e.g. Okahandja and Helao Nafidi) as "*turn-key*" properties that can be provided immediately for rental to new businesses as it may take up to two years to acquire industrial land and set up a functional factory.

This exciting new aspect of the programme we believe would eliminate bottlenecks in industrial development and investment. It seems entirely possible that this service could be based on full cost-recovery through leasing.

Food outlets (small food courts) to replace and upgrade existing roadside food selling by especially women, is another project, which we will engage in. Improved premises would enable improved marketing, improved food and

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hygiene, and help informal food sellers to enter the SME sector. They would also serve to popularise Namibian food more widely to visitors.

In addition, MTI will endeavour to develop a National Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Project to be implemented as a pilot phase for a period of five years, in line with a recent decision by the SADC Council of Ministers. The programme will be implemented through two integrated components, namely to provide support for the upgrading and improving the competitiveness of industries and related services; and the establishment and upgrading of technical support institutions.

Programme 4: Domestic Market Competitiveness

This programme creates an enabling environment for the functioning and operation of businesses in the country. This entails the provision of services such as registry of companies, the protection of intellectual property, and consumer protection.

Local market competitiveness requires that Government ensures that laws for the protection of intellectual property rights such as patents, industrial designs, trademarks, traditional knowledge, folklore and other instruments, are in place and conform to international standards.

Moreover, the development of science and technology, e-commerce and information and communication technology require that researchers, designers, innovators and inventors are encouraged and rewarded through a protection system.

During the last Financial Year, the Ministry of Trade and Industry established the Namibia Standard Institute and the Namibia Competition Commission. The former is now rapidly approaching full operational status, with the Competition Commission to follow shortly. In addition, the Ministry achieved the amendment of the Companies Act, and automated the companies and trademarks registration system.

The impact of this program is to increase efficiency and competitiveness of the Namibia enterprises in both the domestic and external markets, and thus improving Namibia's global competitive ranking and ability to attract investments needed for expansion of business activities and employment creation.

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The resources made available to the program were N\$17 million in 2007/2008, but has since been increased to N\$35 million for 2008/2009.

Programme 5: Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment Promotion:

The purpose of this programme is to promote and achieve increased domestic and foreign direct investment in Namibia by creating an enabling environment and promoting Namibia as a preferred investment destination to meet the development goals and objectives of Vision 2030. The current budget appropriation for this programme is N\$31 million, an increase from N\$28 million for the previous Financial Year.

Activities in this programme cover:

- Investment Promotion;
- Investor tracking and after-care system;
- Training Reimbursement;
- Spatial Development Initiatives, e.g. the WBSDI Investors' Conference and follow-up activities such as the Trans Kunene and Trans Caprivi Corridors;

- Promotion of investment projects;
- Marketing of Namibia;
-
- The review of the institutional and legal framework for investment promotion
-
- The repositioning of the Offshore Development Company (ODC) and its future re-capitalisation; and
-
- Maintaining Commercial Counsellor Offices overseas.

The programme also involves the undertaking of periodic comparative reviews of investment trends, climate and the competitiveness of Namibia's legal and regulatory framework *vis-à-vis* other competitors.

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It is the objective of this programme to achieve an increase in the value of Foreign Direct Investment by 20% and that of Domestic Investment by 30% by the end of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period in 2011. Similarly, we aim with this programme to achieve a growth of 30% in domestic investment. The enhancement of domestic investments remains a priority given concerns on capital outflows and the envisaged injection of new local investment capital from 2008 in the local market due to the legal requirement that asset management companies reinvest a portion of their capital in unlisted local companies. This will open immense possibilities for domestic investment. In this regard, the Namibia Investment Centre is in the process of reviewing its institutional and legislative framework with the view to establishing a division for the promotion of domestic investment.

Regarding Commercial Councillor Offices, MTI is in the process of identifying appropriate candidates for placement in the following four priority countries: the United States of America, the Peoples Republic of China, the United Arab Emirates and the Federal Republic of Germany. These offices will focus on accelerating the flow of investment to Namibia and to facilitate the export of Namibian products to foreign markets.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, you may be aware that Namibia has not been able to increase its competitive ranking in recent years; that one of the primary reasons for this remains the length of time required in the process of establishing investment and new businesses. This is a matter of great concern. It is no good that if a company is registered in 6 working days, but it takes another 100 days to get all other approvals from other regulatory bodies.

I call upon my counterparts in other Ministries to help me address this problem as a matter of the highest priority in the coming year. To address the problem of “*investor fatigue*” due to delayed approvals on investment proposals, work permits and visa applications, we are considering new institutional arrangements, comprising all regulatory bodies to expedite and integrate the process. The idea is to ensure prompt service delivery to the investor community and to enhance Namibia’s market competitiveness. We have in mind a single all-inclusive mechanism for evaluating and approving investment projects that require Government authorisation or support. Such a system is also envisaged to have the responsibility to decide on the nature of the support to be provided by the Government, and to stipulate and reach an agreement with the investor on obligations in terms of jobs and other expected benefits to the local economy.

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During November of 2007, His Excellency President Pohamba, together with His Excellency President Mbeki of South Africa, jointly opened the International Investors' Conference in Windhoek, which showcased investment projects in agro-processing, aquaculture, manufacturing, mining, energy, tourism and services. The purpose was to stimulate domestic investment and to attract foreign investment. During the Conference, cooperation agreements were signed that could lead to investments of over **N\$2 billion** and the creation of a thousand jobs. The Conference also greatly increased awareness of Namibia as a business-friendly investment destination.

Coming to the Offshore Development Company and its role in investment facilitation, the current operations of the Company are under review and a new business plan is contemplated. A major repositioning of the Offshore Development Company is envisaged, which is also aimed at increasing private shareholding in the company. In the interim, it is necessary to provide Offshore Development Company with working capital or guarantee a line of credit to enable continuation of provision of services in respect of the development and management of industrial sites and premises and the EPZ regime.

Both the EPZ Act and the Foreign Investment Act are under revision and we hope to synchronize both the investment and EPZ promotional activities of these two institutions under one single law, which is modern and responsive to the current needs of Namibia.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, it should be evident to all that this small Ministry, and the nine existing and emerging agencies and institutions associated with it and/or overseen by it, has a very large and important scope of work. There is a risk of it not being effective due to the sheer diversity and volume of responsibility, unless a well-planned and integrated approach is taken.

Finally, we have to re-examine our current policies and practices to ensure that we can improve upon those that add value and contribute to economic development. What is clearly not working should not be there in the first place. I believe that we should re-examine the fundamental cornerstones of the primary-product based Namibian economy that we have inherited from the colonial powers, and re-orientate it through legislation, policy, incentives, investments and whatever other interventions may be needed, towards an economy characterised by diversity, inclusiveness, adaptability, knowledge-based, and maximum value-addition to natural resources and raw materials.

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Crucial among the first steps, which we need to take is to improve coordination between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and every Line Ministry or institution whose work has an impact on economic growth and industrialisation in the country. Clearly, without such coordination at policy, legal and planning stages between the relevant economic Ministries, faster and more sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved.

In conclusion, I believe that the development challenge before us is enormous, but not insurmountable if we all pull together.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, against this background, I request the support of this august House – especially bearing in mind that I am new and it would be unfair to deny my request - for Vote 19, namely the sum of N\$186 million for the Operational and Development expenditure of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for 2008/2009.

At this juncture, let me also pay tribute to the Honourable Ministers who preceded me, namely the Honourable Ben Amathila who laid the foundation of the Ministry; the Hon. Hidipo Hamutenya and the Honourable Jesaya Nyamu who grew the Ministry; and finally the Honourable Immanuel Ngatjizeko who consolidated the Ministry upon which I can now build to help take the Namibian economy to greater heights for the benefit of its people.

I thank you for your attention and support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM”, N\$209,290,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT ANT TOURISM: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, Please allow me to honour one of our departed Comrades Niko Bessinger, the first Minister of the Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism as it was called with Independence. Comrade Niko Bessinger, a hero of the Namibian revolution, played a key role as the founding Minister and determined the different Directorates necessary for the smooth and effective

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running of the new Ministry. His footprints will forever be embodied in the history of our Ministry. May His Soul rest in eternal peace.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to introduce to this august House Vote 18, of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the 2008-2009 Financial Year. I comment and extend my support for the Budget presented by Honourable Minister of Finance and the Director- General of National Planning Commission.

Before I go further, let me thank His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for once again placing his trust and confidence in me to lead this time around the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. During my few days at the Ministry, I have come to learn that with our competent and dedicated staff, we will be able to ensure that the sector we are responsible for will continue to develop and to occupy its strategic position both in the economic, social and cultural development of our country.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism draws its mandate from the Namibian Constitution, Article 95(L)

“The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies aimed at the maintenance of the ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and the utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future”

Against that background, the Ministry oversees a wide range of sectors including environment, the management of protected areas, the sound management of Namibia’s wildlife resources, community-based natural resources management, tourism and regulation of sustainable use and recovery of wildlife under pressure, human-wildlife conflict management and the regulation of gambling and lotteries.

In summary, the programmes of the Ministry is to ensure that all living organisms be it human, animals, plants and other living creatures continue to live in other words, the protection of bio-diversity. This multifaceted mandate requires multi-dimensional approaches, hands-on strategic management and full cooperation from all of us, to attain the desired results and outcome of direct and indirect impact on the socio-economic livelihood of all Namibians.

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To define the Ministry's modus operandi in realising its vision and to ensure successful implementation of its Medium Term Plans and MTEF targets, recently an integrated programme-based five year Strategic Plan was launched. The Strategic Plan articulates the Ministry's vision of conservation, the sustainable use of biodiversity, the promotion of natural resource-based livelihoods and the development of tourism. The Strategic Plan recognises the potential of environment and tourism in generating revenue for the State and job creation, thereby contributing to poverty reduction efforts. It also recognises the importance of educating communities and individuals to appreciate the value of our environment. To enable the Ministry to cope with the changing environment and to align the structure to its strategic vision, an institutional audit is going on with a view for a restructuring of the Ministry.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS:

This now brings me to the budgetary allocation for the current Financial Year. The Ministry is allocated a total of N\$209,290,000 for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. This amount represents:

- N\$150,922,000 for the Operational Budget; and
- N\$58,368,000 for the Development Budget.

This overall amount represents a reduction by 30.2% on the allocations of the previous Financial Year. The reduction is due to the once-off allocation of N\$50 million advanced to Namibia Wildlife Resorts for a loan repayment and N\$30,6 million that was allocated to special projects for community tourism development under the Development Budget.

The Budget of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, currently consists of 6 programmes. All of which are linked to the Environmental management being the core functionary of our work.

Programme 1: Protected Area Management.

Protected areas include all the National Parks and Game Parks of Namibia that are proclaimed through legislation and managed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on behalf of the State. The purpose of this programme is to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing protected areas, which currently comprises 13.8% of the land surface of Namibia and is due to increase to more

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than 17% once the Sperrgebiet and new national park in the Kunene Region are proclaimed national parks, as already approved by Cabinet.

The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$ 92,584,000 in 2008/2009.

Funding requested for the current MTEF period will be used to finalize the management plans for the protected areas. The funding will also be used to strengthen efforts to establish a world class transfrontier tourism and conservation area known as the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, where financial contributions from partner countries, namely, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia & Zimbabwe would also be required to fund core activities of the Secretariat as well as some projects aimed at uplifting rural communities living in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area.

Funds will also be used to fast track the implementation of bilateral agreements regarding the Iona-Skeleton Coast Park Transfrontier Conservation Area and the /Ai-/Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Area. Good progress was made at the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Area with a tourism access facilities opened at Sendelingsdrift in October 2007. The new Parks and Wildlife Management Act will be finalised as soon as consultation processes are concluded. The Concessions Policy was approved by Cabinet and implementation will commence during the MTEF. Money allocated will also be used to establish a Concession Unit within the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Concessions have the potential to generate substantial revenue for the State. Protected areas serve as an avenue for re-populating conservancies through the conservancy programme, custodianship farms through the rhino custodianship programme and commercial and resettlement farms through the wildlife breeding stock loan scheme.

The major impacts from this programme will be increasing the legal and protection status of protected areas in Namibia, expanding the protected area network in Namibia, increasing the ecological integrity, biodiversity and tourism value of protected areas in Namibia, and increasing Government revenue and economic growth of the tourism sector through the expansion of tourism concessions in parks.

Programme 2: Protection and management of key species and natural resources.

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The purpose of this programme is to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing key species and natural resources. The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$16,500,000 in 2008/2009.

The main activities in the programme are:

- a) Maintaining and expanding monitoring systems of key wildlife resources and populations in and outside protected areas;
- b) Management planning for species conservation;
- c) Reintroduction of economically valuable species to conservancies and other areas;
- d) Reviewing the status of endemic species and their conservation needs through field surveys; and
- e) Dealing with conflicts between people and wildlife.

In the current MTEF period, the focus will be to intensify efforts to address species-specific conservation needs that may be identified through monitoring and the review of status and to improve the MET's ability to manage human-wildlife conflicts.

To ensure conservation and sustainable utilization of rare species, the Ministry has put in management plans for the following rare species: such as roan, sable, tsessebe, puku, oribi, lechwe, hippopotamus, wild dog and buffalo. Rare species camps will be established to ensure breeding success while bomas (holding pens) and other infrastructure needed for wildlife capture and auctioning continue to be maintained. Furthermore, a management plan for elephant is drafted while a similar plan for crocodile is also to be worked on. The Ministry is finalising a policy on human-wildlife conflict while an increased quota for hunting problem animals was declared as an interim measure in high-risk areas.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is working with stakeholders including rural communities through this programme in development of Contractual Parks and co-management of protected areas such as Bwabwata National Park and other neighbours such as the Mashi Community, the Mangetti Contractual Park with the Ukwangali Traditional Authority and Kavango

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Regional Council, Kunene Peoples Park with local communities and Kunene Regional Council, Sperrgebiet National Park and Mudumu North Complex.

The major impacts from this programme will be to expand the population size of economically important species; reduce human-animal conflicts; reduce threats and impacts of e.g. mining on endemic species; improve the knowledge base; improve management efficiency for key species; and increase access by formerly disadvantaged Namibians to wildlife to complement other forms of land use.

Programme 3: Community-based natural resource management and tourism.

The purpose of this programme is to strengthen the conservancy system on communal lands and other community-based programmes, by improving the natural resource base for economic development, the management of natural resources through such programmes, and enhancing job creation and livelihood improvement through enterprise development. The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$23,117,000 in 2008/2009, and this amount is supplemented by development partner funding.

Our conservancy programme continues to grow. To date, 50 conservancies have been registered and more than 20 others are emerging, representing an increase of nearly one third since 2005/2006 Financial Year. However, the popularity of this programme has led to enormous increase in the number of conservancies, which now exceed the capacity of the Ministry. The Ministry provides support to these entities.

During the current MTEF period, we will focus on the expansion of services to new conservancies, and community-based tourism initiatives. The current MTEF period will also concentrate on new product development, for example, commercial trade in medicinal plants e.g. Hoodia and Devil's Claw, while protecting indigenous knowledge. At the international level, Namibia will support an international instrument that will ensure access and benefit sharing on indigenous plants in line with the United Nation Convention on Bio-diversity.

The Government's Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme provides local communities with a number of incentives to manage natural resources such as wildlife, sustainably. Through forming conservancies, local communities gain rights over wildlife that enables them to generate income

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from a number of different use options. The adoption of wildlife and tourism as additional forms of land use by rural people and the recovery of wildlife in many conservancies indicates the success of the Government's CBNRM programme. There is supplementary funding by development partners in this programme including funding through the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme.

This programme therefore strengthen the conservancy system on communal lands by improving the natural resources and enhancing job creation and livelihood improvement through enterprise development, game translocations and game utilization options such as trophy hunting concessions.

The major impacts from this programme will be an improved natural resource base in conservancies; increased job creation and household income through tourism and other natural resource based enterprises; improved financial management and accountability at community level.

Programme 4: Regulation of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Resource Management

The main responsibilities in this programme are to manage some of our most important regulatory procedures, to ensure sustainable development by avoiding environmental degradation and non-sustainable use of renewable resources. Examples are the environmental impact assessment process and the system of registrations and permits that we use concerning the use of wildlife resources. The budgeted cost for this programme amounts to N\$ 12,317,000 in 2008/2009.

The Environmental Management Act (Act No. 7 of 2007) was passed in Parliament in 2007. The Act ensures economic development based on the principles of sustainability, thus seeks to ensure that sustainability principles are embedded within our national economic development plans. As part of our constitutional obligation, and through this Act, we have taken a giant step in ensuring that future generations of Namibians inherit an environment similar to or even better to what we are enjoying today. The Ministry is now busy with regulation development, which should be completed in the course of this year.

Environmental issues are fully integrated in the National Development Plan 3. It is against that background, that for the Environmental Management Act to be realised, the Ministry will need the unreserved cooperation of all Government and

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private sector institution. That means, environmental issues must be fully integrated in all development process and projects.

We continue to promote environmental education through our Environmental Education (EE) Centres, Okatjikona and Namutoni. Last year Namutoni EE centre was upgraded in order to serve schools and the general public better. Other communication strategies will also be developed.

To conserve our coastal area, the MET through the NACOMA project is in process of developing a Coastal Zone Management Policy. The result will be a legal instrument, which will ensure that development along our coasts is done in the most environmentally sustainable manner.

The MET last year launched Namibia's Second National Communication to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change Project, which addresses the potential impacts of Climate Change on the most vulnerable sectors, and increase the Namibian public's knowledge and awareness of potential Climate Change impacts. Furthermore, the Second National Communication to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change project have commissioned Climate Change related research that will enable us to better understand the effects and the extent of Climate Change on various sectors.

In this regard, adaptation projects that will contribute to the goal of enhancing adaptive capacity to climate change in agricultural and pastoral systems in several drought-prone constituencies in the North-Central Regions of Namibia have been initiated. The outcomes will include the adaptation measures by rural communities in agricultural production and strategy to cope with the impact of climate change more effectively.

In the current Budget, the focus will be on improvements to databases and the electronic issuance of permits and registrations to enhance monitoring, efficiency and quality control. This will increase the Ministry's support for sustainable land and natural resource management as part of the land reform programme; and environmental planning, management and compliance monitoring at regional and local levels, also in support of the decentralisation programme. In addition, MET needs to provide financial support to the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, to bridge the period of phased out external support until the new business plan is completed and implemented.

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The major impacts from this programme will be an improved regulatory framework; increased support from the Ministry for the land reform programme concerning land use planning and the environmental sustainability of land use; increased support from the Ministry for rural development and decentralisation through improved environmental planning, monitoring and management; and improved compliance monitoring.

Programme 5: Tourism development

The purpose of this programme is to support the development of environmental and socio-economically beneficial tourism development and the further growth of one of the largest economic sectors in Namibia. The budgeted amount of this programme is N\$ 48,736,000 in 2008/2009.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, in the current Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, the focus will be on implementing the Concession Policy, supporting community-based tourism enterprise development and management; finalising the new national tourism policy and supporting the development of empowerment initiatives in the tourism industry.

The Tourism Satellite Account was developed and is operational.

Funding requested for the current MTEF period will be used for the restructuring and strengthening of the Directorate of Tourism, and developing a national tourism growth strategy as well as preparing for the 2010 FIFA World Soccer cup.

A further focus will be on the development of transfrontier tourism initiatives e.g. the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area as well as the implementation of the Community Lodges of Namibia programme, aimed at creating access by rural communities to the mainstream tourism industry. The Ministry has already obtained funding for community-based tourism development through a once-off allocation made available during 2007-08 Financial Year. Currently, the procedures to operationalise the Bed & Breakfast Development Programme are being finalised.

The fast growing Tourism Industry is an opportunity to the Namibia entrepreneurs in particular women who have been dominated in the sector as

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workers. Time has come for them to become not only workers but owners as well.

This programme includes gambling and lotteries, which could be a source of revenue for Government. The revision of the Gambling Amendment Act and the drafting of regulations are at an advanced stage and will be finalised during the current MTEF period.

The Namibia Tourism Board remains an important strategic agent for the Ministry and Namibia's expanding tourism sector through international marketing within the traditional source markets of Europe and other parts of the world, to maintain and increase its competitive position and thus gain the economic benefits from this fast growing industry. I am therefore pleased that we have been able to continue investment in the Namibia Tourism Board, which is now able to generate approximately N\$20 million per year in revenue from licensing, levies and grants.

Government support for Namibia Wildlife Resorts Ltd has been achieved through the re-capitalisation (Government Loan Guarantee) to implement a new turn-around strategy and business plan, and thus improve infrastructure and services. I am delighted to inform this august House that we are already seeing the fruits of this investment and daily positive signs of growth within Namibia Wildlife Resorts.

The major impacts from this programme will be continued growth in the tourism sector, employment creation, community participation and ownership of tourism enterprises on communal lands, enhanced regulatory and planning framework, the monitoring of tourism development, and improved service delivery concerning tourism planning and development at regional and local level in support of the decentralization programme. In addition, increased revenues to the State will be generated.

It was on the Floor of this house during this State of Nation address that His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba has emphasised the strategic position of the Tourist Industry in the Namibia economy as also brought to light by the Tourism Satellite Account Statistics that pointed out that the tourism sector total effect to the GDP is projected to increase from 6.6 billion in 2006 to 7,7 billion in 2007 and 8,9 billion in 2008 representing an estimated contribution of 15.6% to the GDP in 2008 and employing 18.9% of total national employment.

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May I therefore use this opportunity on behalf of the staff of the Ministry and all role players in the industry to pledge our commitments and to ensure His Excellency the President that we will do all humanly possible to ensure that the sector has played its role in the Namibia economy.

Under the policy of sustainable Tourism, more jobs will be created, poverty will be reduced and increase revenue to the State will be realised.

Programme 6: Improving the economic value of natural resources and protected areas in MET's jurisdiction

The purpose of this programme is to improve the Ministry's contribution to State revenue and improve the understanding of the value of the assets that the Ministry is responsible for and the costs of maintaining them. Importantly, this programme includes the measuring and monitoring of the economic value of the tourism industry through the Tourism Satellite Account.

The budgeted cost for this programme amounts to N\$16,036,000 in 2007/2008.

The Ministry anticipates generating revenue amounting to N\$ 51, 830, 000 during this Financial Year. The above revenue will mainly comes from Park entrance fees, tourism concessions, wildlife utilization permits, wildlife registration and licences and film fees.

The allocation for this current MTEF period will be used to provide additional capitalization to the Game Products Trust Fund through revenues generated by MET through sales of game and game products, in partnership with NTB develop, maintain and implement a Tourism Satellite Account for Namibia and to develop sustainable financing mechanisms for the management of protected areas.

The impact of this programme will be improved cost recovery for services; increased resource base for MET; better understanding of the economic importance of the sector; and enhancements to the focus and impact of MET's part of the National Budget.

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Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

Namibia has an abundance of natural assets, which are the common patrimony of all Namibian citizens. Fish, minerals, forestry, farmland, deserts, mountains and wildlife are key elements of this patrimony. We have also inherited important cultural assets from previous generations. The challenge for Namibians living today is to ensure that this common patrimony is available to future generations, to meet their aspirations and to improve the quality of their lives. Your support to this Budget will serve as an important step in helping us to meet this challenge.

Before I conclude, I would like to recognise the valuable contribution Comrade Willem Konjore, former Minister of Environment and Tourism has made to make the Ministry what it is today and we are now building on that foundation.

Comrade Chairperson I will not conclude before I record my appreciation and my joy that with the entering into Parliament of Comrade Bohitile, Comrade Eunice Ipinge and Comrade Kavetuna, we have now reached the 30% of SADC of Women Representation in Parliament.

Having said this, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to support our existence and well being, I now submit the Budget allocation to Vote 18, Ministry of Environment and Tourism to this Honourable House for approval.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister and let us congratulate the Namibian women that they have reached the target of 30%.

I now put Vote 17 – **“REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING”** for Discussion. Honourable Venaani?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the Vote. Allow me to congratulate the newest Member of the House, former Secretary-General of the National Youth Council in absentia and welcome her to the House and just in one sentence to say the following:

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Last night when we were watching the news about the situation in Somalia, it was very worrisome and we should not only focus on Zimbabwe. I am craving for indulgence just to be on record saying ... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, let us not congratulate everybody, let us not go outside, but let us concentrate on Votes. Vote 17 is not about Zimbabwe.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, it is a very serious matter and I do not think Members should really take it in that light, that Africans are killing one another. It is truly worrisome.

Coming to the Vote, I want to concentrate on housing because it is our Vote. Honourable Chairperson, I support two things under this very important Vote and that is the transformation of Single Quarters and I want to applaud the Ministry for having done so, because we know the situation of Single Quarters during those days of apartheid and this is a very commendable exercise.

Secondly, I want to focus my attention on the development of local building materials.

We are all aware that the world economy is experiencing a lot of problems with housing, financing of houses and it is one area that I think we should do a little bit more, and not only to concentrate on the local building materials, but to look at what other countries are using that is cheap. The greatest problem with housing is that for the last 18 years we have not reached our needed targets for the number of houses. I believe it is because of the very expensive building materials that confront our citizens. Remember the cement saga just a year or two ago when the price was lowered and these people were still making profits of up to half on the price of cement.

Greater efforts should be put into the Habitat Research and Development Centre, not only to focus on the local Namibian materials, but also to look at other countries.

The other issue which I think the Government has not really given attention to and which I have been propagating for the last few years in this House, is the

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question that we have the tendency in this country to only build flats. Every man must get a plot in the city. We do not build storeys and Windhoek is growing at a very rapid rate and the old plots have become locations, people are living there. I always wondered why the City Council and the Ministry cannot look at programmes where communities can live in one block, rather than using all the erven available in Windhoek and deplete all of those. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? I just want to ask you whether you are aware that due to the calamities and earthquakes experienced nowadays, storeys are very dangerous. Are you aware of that?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Colleague, I am aware of it that this country has not seen earthquakes in the last couple of years. We do not have them.

However, the problems are that a person comes to Windhoek to look for employment, but that person does not necessarily need a house. If he finds employment in Rundu, he will go to Rundu. (Interjection). He has a problem with Rundu, I am sure I am only going to get one vote, so do not worry.

Young people are coming to centres in quest of employment and if we build forty blocks where these young people could stay while they have jobs in the city, another family can move in when they move to another area, rather than using all the erven and plots available. Maybe the Minister could shed more light.

On the question of community-based organisations, the Shack Dwellers Organisation and coupled to that National Housing Enterprise...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask my young brother a question? Honourable Venaani, you referred to hostels, that you want young people to be accommodated in hostels, are you referring us to those bad practices of the past? We have been dismantling these compounds to get the people living

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in decent places and now you are referring us back to the past. When will the past get out of the minds of you people?

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Member just wanted to show me his new seat, I have seen where you are sitting and I am aware of your presence in the House, but you are just living on this side of Windhoek where you are seeing an extension of nicely blocks built. You are of the opinion that these things can only be built on this side of Windhoek and not the other side. You can build those beautiful flats... (Interjection). I am talking about flats and that is why I am saying you just wanted to show me where you are sitting and I have noticed. (Interjections)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE : You are living in the past!

HON VENAANI: No, if you think that every Member on this side of the House lives in the past, you have a problem.

The other issue was the community-based organisation, the Shack Dwellers Organisation of Namibia and the amount of money that they are receiving and coupled to that the National Housing Enterprise. I understand that we do not have the resources, but I feel that we need to overhaul and reform the National Housing Enterprise from what it currently is, because it is not really serving the question of housing delivery. We should really do more. Government could even offer subsidies to such an important entity so that we remain within the target of housing delivery.

On the programme of rural development and especially the empowerment of the San community for household and food security, I contend that this is a very important programme under the Ministry of Agriculture. I believe this programme can address the food security in the country, nevertheless, it is under your jurisdiction as a Ministry.

I was wondering whether, with the amount that we are allocating, we have tangible evidence that says that we have achieved food security in all those areas.

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What is the programme doing to ensure food security? I believe that food security is not a matter of people planting and processing food today and having food tomorrow. It is about having sustainable food reserves for a period of five, six, ten years, stored, available and ready.

I do not believe to have secured food is when you harvest and have food for 5 months. To me food security is something different. What is the Ministry doing to have storage facilities, that in one good year when the harvest yields good returns these communities could have storage facilities to assist them in order to have food security? Most of the time they are suffering because of rain and the veldt fires, especially in western Caprivi.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I am on page 3 of the Minister's speech and I will quote: *"However, the successful housing delivery for all is being hampered by a lack of adequate funding for land delivery or, in other words, the development of basic infrastructure such as water, sewerage, electricity and road networks."*

Honourable Chairperson, the Windhoek Municipality, unlike other municipalities, do not get any subsidies from Government. It means that the Windhoek Municipality runs like a private company and charges us for water and electricity. All those are things we cannot afford in monetary terms. The people who do not have an income and are staying in Windhoek cannot keep up with all the private accounts that they are receiving from the Windhoek Municipality.

Therefore, land is very expensive in Windhoek. All the funds of the Windhoek Municipality must come from us, the people staying in Windhoek and Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo...(Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

I am terribly sorry to disturb you, but you have just touched on an important issue. The Municipality of Windhoek has a tendency of invoicing you on water

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and electricity and then after two years, they bring another statement, saying you have not paid rates and taxes, you owe N\$20,000, after paying your water and electricity every month. Why can they not combine these two accounts on a monthly basis so that you know what you owe them?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Venaani, I think it gets even worse when you see the accounts that the old-age pensioners are receiving from the Windhoek Municipality. They are paying N\$397 per month for rates and taxes. It means you cannot live in Windhoek when you are old, when you are unemployed and when you are not rich. Windhoek is only for the rich people because of the Municipality.

I still live in Wanaheda since 1989 and the Windhoek Municipality has not even tried to tar the road in Wanaheda. Is it because black people are staying there and they think we do not need it, or what might the reason be despite the fact that we are paying rates and taxes every month?

Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo, I know you are capable of dealing with these people.

I want to add to what Honourable Venaani mentioned regarding the National Housing Enterprise. Their slogan is that they are providing housing to low-income people. Who are the low-income people if one house costs N\$250,000?

This is the cheapest house of the National Housing Enterprise. Is this low-cost housing or is it just another way of milking people who cannot afford to stay there?

There is a saying that goes that, *“everyone is entitled to proper housing. Low-income people should not be prevented to raise their children in a sound environment.”* This currently means that our children will all grow up in shacks because the parents cannot afford housing in Namibia.

My comment on page 7 of the Minister’s speech, **Subsidies to Local Authorities:** In a village like Tses where there are three thousand people, five of them are working for the Village Council, two of them are working at the local clinic, twenty of them are teachers at the local Government school and three of them are Police Officers. How do you expect these people to pay for water and

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electricity? Their electricity is always cut off because the Council does not have income to pay for these services rendered to the people of Tses, Aus and all similar villages. If you have three thousand people staying in a town and only 60 are working, it means that these people will never survive and the municipality will be in debt.

The Minister also talks about projects that the Ministry will take up to sustain these villages. What are these projects? We in Namibia have so many skills and tools, but we lack wisdom to carry out these things.

Honourable Chairperson, with due respect, put up small markets in these villages so that people can start their own thing, instead of travelling from Tses to Keetmanshoop just to do shopping. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to say something small on a big problem and I thought I should take advantage of *the broom being new* to say the following on the programme, called Regional and Local Government Coordination. I wish to talk about sub-national Governments.

Honourable Chairperson, if you look at Page 223 of the Appropriation Bill, N\$184 000 is made available for subsidies to towns. Another N\$27,000 is available for subsidies to villages and N\$38,000 is available for subsidies to Regional Councils. However, the fact is that the governance of sub-national structures is *kaput* and/or in a state of disrepair.

To my mind there is tripartite in governance at a sub-national level. The Ministry is at the central level. There are the elected Councillors and the Civil Servants who are working at that level. I sit on the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and year in and year out, we receive reports of miss-governance, mal-governance, mal-administration and embezzlement at that level. I have not heard of actions taken to correct this, unless it was done in secrecy.

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In a different capacity in 1995, I was part of a group, which helped to develop the first manual for the Local Authorities' Governance. The point I want to make is that they must be totally untalented or deliberately wanting to go out to do the wrong thing, because governance at sub-national level is rural-based. The law actually prescribes what you should do. It says, before you buy a tractor there must be a meeting of the Council and there must be Minutes saying that on the 22nd of April the Council decided to buy a tractor of N\$500. It does not happen. What we see at the Public Accounts Committee is that purchases are made. No record in the Council's Minutes, no receipts of purchases, no invoices is reflected. Everybody signs the chequebook. There is no separation between where the request was generated and who approves it, resulting in total chaos, *kaput!* Where is the tripartite between the Ministry, the Councillors and the staff? (Interjections) Somebody who is smarter than me has said the problem the absence of good governance is because nobody is made to take responsibility.

Honourable Chairperson, we all know there is a requirement that if a person has debts with the Local Authority, you cannot become a Councillor. In Afrikaans, these Councillors are called *Stadsvaders*, I am told, but for now, they have also become *Stadsrowers*.

They do not pay their rates and taxes, they do not pay for Municipal services, and yet they are in charge of ensuring that these services are delivered to the people and that monies are collected for these services to be continued to be delivered.

We are now requested, Honourable Chairperson, to approve these huge sums of money which these Councillors, which have become all but *Stadsrowers* would now be in charge of. Where is the Ministry's responsibility, while we receive reports, saying that the money is not spent for the purposes for which it should be spent. Who should take the responsibility?

Honourable Chairperson, one of the things that we need to re-visit is our our law and the responsibility of the Councillors, that the Councillors indeed become *Stadsvaders* and that they become custodians of the ratepayers' money at that level. At sub-national level almost everywhere, there is compensation between Civil Servants...(Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Gurirab a small question? I just want to get clarity. You made a sweeping statement, saying that all the Councillors at the sub-national level are criminals, they are robbers. Is that the policy of the CoD to call elected representatives criminals? This is an over-generalisation, Honourable Gurirab. If they are criminals, you need to take them to Court and then prove in a Court of Law. You are now the Judge, the Jury and the Executioner. Is that fair?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I am satisfied that I am supported by evidence. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That statement that all Councillors are criminals and robbers, which provision is supporting that, who is saying that?

HON GURIRAB: I would like to refer the Honourable Chairperson of this House to the reports that were tabled in this Honourable House. The Local Authorities have collapsed. There are probably only two Local Authorities in this country...(Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: Comrade Chairperson, this is a very serious statement and the Honourable Member must withdraw. It is a very, very serious statement to say that all the Councillors are criminals. He has to withdraw that.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Exactly, I will call on him to withdraw that statement if he mentioned that they are robbers, because I am waiting for the statement where he has seen it in the Reports of the Auditor-General, accusing the Councillors of being robbers. May I have it? This is very serious. Let us hear from which Report this comes. Can you show us the material or read it from the statement, or withdraw it?

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HON T GURIRAB: What I am saying is that in Afrikaans we call the Councillors *Stadsvaders*, but looking at the reports which are tabled here, we cannot call our Councillors *Stadsvaders*, we should call them *Stadsrowers*. That is what I am saying and I have the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee to support that. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Which Report is that? Withdraw the word. I cannot stand for that. Withdraw the word. (Interjection)

HON GURIRAB: Which one?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOILE HOUSE COMMITTEE: *Stadsrowers*. I do not want somebody to use Afrikaans, you have to translate what you have said. Do not insult or accuse people, because I do not understand Afrikaans. Never! Withdraw the word.

HON GURIRAB: Since the Chairperson does not understand Afrikaans, that word stands withdrawn.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Do not put conditions, Honourable Member, just withdraw that word. Say that "*I withdraw the word unconditionally.*"

HON T GURIRAB: I withdraw the word. I withdraw the word.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Which word is that one? Withdraw the word *stadsrowers* which you have mentioned.

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HON GURIRAB: I withdraw the word *stadsrowers*. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, but for two Local Authorities, Swakopmund and Ongwediva, the Local Authority administration in our country is a study of how not to run an administration and I am raising this whilst the broom is new. This is a serious area that we need to look into. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Which broom are you saying? There is no broom. Out of Order. I call on Honourable Kasingo. Do not play with words.

HON KASINGO: Thank you, for giving me a chance to make my contribution on Vote 17 Honourable Chairperson. Before I make my brief contribution, allow me to congratulate Honourable Comrade Jerry Ekandjo for taking over this very important Ministry in terms of the challenges and the expectations our voters are expecting us to do.

At the same time, Honourable Chairperson, allow me, because it is my first time to talk, to pay tribute to late Comrade John Pandeni with the following few words: "*Modest heart, fearless warrior, self-appointed slave for the liberation of men ...*" (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Honourable Member, that is general. Let us stick to the details only. You were supposed to do that during the General Debate.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Chairperson, I was in Zimbabwe for elections and this man is very important.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is true, but in Committee Stage, the Rules do not allow that. I cannot allow you to break the Rules.

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HON KASINGO: Just allow me to say the final words. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, Honourable Member, you will put me in a difficult situation. A lot of people will come up in the Committee Stage in that way. Please, can you proceed to ask the questions on the details of the Budget. We still have a Motion whereby you can do that, but not in the Committee Stage. Proceed.

HON KASINGO: I cannot proceed before I pay tribute to my late Comrade.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House, on Page 3 of the Minister's speech, allow me to start by saying that I am deeply disappointed to see a general statement made instead of being more specific on the programme.

As the Minister was talking about realisation of Vision 2010, NDP3, I have not seen the Vision 2010 perhaps this is what the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. It is very important for a Ministerial Statement to be very specific and clear, rather than misleading.

There is a statement that says that: *“However, the successful housing delivery for all is being hampered by lack of adequate funding, land delivery, in other words the development of basic infrastructure such as water,”* etcetera.

We have for the last 18 years, been budgeting for these things and it is very unfair to tell us today that *you are still looking at that*. It is very clear that money is not being spent for the purpose ,which the money has been budgeted for.

“Down the line, to expedite the land and housing delivery, the Ministry is to carry out awareness...” (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my understanding of the speech of the Minister when he was motivating is that it is general about the whole Budget and it is cast in more general terms without prohibiting the Minister to become specific on certain issues. However, it was a general statement. However at this point in time, my understanding of the exercise here is to address these books, the figures, not the general pronouncements of the Minister. That I think is out of Order. Here we should just confine ourselves to the figures as they are in the book. That is my understanding of the Rules. Am I correct?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are right, but not only to the figures as such, because if you look at Rule 26(4)(ii) it says during this stage the Bill is considered in detail, clause by clause. We can talk about the speech of the Minister and you can refer to those books, which the Minister of Finance gave you. You do not mention where your Committees went to, that will be general. You do not congratulate the Chiefs who did what they did, that would be general. We do not mention something, which is outside these books.

HON TJIHUIKO: I was saying that in order to allocate undeveloped land to potential developers for construction and services and delivery of houses. Honourable Chairperson, looking at the information that was provided to us, one is getting the impression that this is a Ministry that started yesterday. I think we need to be more clear in our presentations in this august House, we must provide information, so that we know that the money that has been provided has been spent and has contributed to the development of a specific sector.

On Page 6, the following are the strategic goals for this programme: “*To complete the creating of enabling regulatory and legal environment.*” Today we are still looking at creating a conducive environment, eighteen years after Independence. We are supposed to have been given information as to how many houses have been constructed and what are the problems.

These are the things, which should have been done fifteen years ago. I think here we have a serious problem where you have Ministries...(Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Point of Order?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information, Honourable Chairperson. I think the Honourable Member is being very unfair and probably it is just political propaganda for his Party. There are more details in the book and every year the Ministries, Offices and Agencies are submitting annual reports concerning those programmes. I think the Colleague is really being unfair and he may have a political agenda.

HON TJIHUIKO: On page 14, “*current sub-programmes for rural development.*” Honourable Chairperson, I think this needs a definition of rural development. If you are talking about Food/Cash for Work, is that development? If you are talking about housing for the San community, household food security, is that development? What kind of development is that? You do not provide to people and say that is development, you must teach the people how to catch a fish. What you are doing is that you are creating a dependency syndrome, for these people to depend on the Government so that they are not going to do anything and then probably at the next election you will say, “*if you are not going to vote for me, I am not going to give you food.*” We should not use the taxpayers’ money to keep people hostage forever so that they vote for us the next time. It is wrong.

When we are talking about rural development, let us take rural development to the appropriate Ministry. It is either the Ministry of Trade and Industry or the Ministry of Agriculture. This programme is a politically motivated to keep certain people and certain communities hostage in order for them to vote for you the next time. That cannot be allowed.

You are saying in the Food and Cash for Work Programme: “*During the period under review, the project was implemented across the country, covering productive activities such as feeder roads, water pipeline digging, construction of teachers’ houses and classrooms...*”

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, is now responsible for earth dams, construction of VIP toilets in the communal areas.

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For whom? When the Members of Parliament go to these rural areas, must they have their own special toilets? Is that what you are saying? Are you spending money on that? (Interjection). You are going to Gam once a year and you need a VIP toilet at Gam?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time is up. Honourable Members, let us not change issues in the book. It does not mean that VIP toilets are built in the rural areas. Where is it in the rural areas.

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Chairperson, I am making my contribution based on two issues, the one, training of Traditional Leaders and the other one is informal settlements.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I am making reference to something I have spoken about before and it is obviously the role that the Traditional Authorities play in the development of rural areas. The point I am trying to drive at is the planning aspect of informal settlements.

When you read here, you will find that we are training Traditional Authorities to carry out certain activities, but I do not find the planning capacitating of these Honourable Members in here. If you go to the informal settlements, you will sometimes forget that we say Namibia is free. You will end up saying Namibia is partially free. The development that is taking place there is chaotic. I think we should really find a place to capacitate the role-players. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question just for clarity? Honourable Nambahu is talking about the informal settlement in *omikunda* and I am trying to figure out where his informal settlement in the *omukunda* is and what do they look like.

HON NAMBAHU: They look like something very aesthetically attractive. (Intervention)

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, when you are talking about these informal settlements, is that where they also talk about the construction of VIP toilets on page 15 of the motivation of the Honourable Minister?

HON NAMBAHU: I have not yet reached that stage. I am referring to his. What I am however trying to say, is that we should really develop our thinking in this direction. Sometimes I have a problem. I do not really know where rural development starts and ends. If you are, for example, saying the informal settlement should be this or that and you fence off Onyaanya, is it rural development from there or not, or should the development there be planned or not? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Chairperson, on a Point of Information. People are talking of VIP toilets in rural areas, but these VIP toilets do not mean that these are toilets for the VIPs. It is just a name given to the type of toilets when they were developed by IBIS. IBIS came with the project of constructing toilets in the rural areas. They call them VIP toilets, but they are not meant for VIPs. That is the name of the type of toilet.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you, I take it now that the name is VIP and the surname is toilet. It is VIP toilets, it is not really that it is for VIPs. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. If my memory serves me well, it stands for "Ventilated I-something Pit toilet. It is an abbreviation.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, I think what the Minister has said here is that it is for very important people.

HON NAMBAHU: On a very serious note, the development that is taking place there is very chaotic. For us to undo that, while we allow it to continue unassisted by the development criteria and modern development trends, is going to be very difficult. Maybe our planners should really come together and exercise their knowledge in this direction to equip the role-players who are intervening in order to put them in a position where they can really exercise this function properly. That is what I wanted to say in that regard but the words fail me. I think all of us go to those areas. When we at the amount, we only talk about them being able to exercise their leadership or the Courts of Law, but the development planning aspect is not looked at and for us to be able to undo the damage that has been done is going to be very troublesome. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I just have a question to clarify something that I have seen here and which I do not understand in the document titled “*Development Programmes – Estimates and Expenditure – Medium Term Expenditure Framework.*” If you look at pages 387 and 388, you will find the NPC Code 8026 which says “*construction and upgrading of sewerage network Kamanjab.*” Then you go to the next page, Code 8087, “*construction of service sewerage reticulation.*” What is the difference between the two projects, because the other one is also sewerage network. The words I have chosen are “network” and “reticulation”. I think both are about sewerage and each of them has their own project. The cover of the toilet pot has its own project and the pot has its own programme. I do not see the difference between the two.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mbai.

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HON MBAI: Madam Chairperson, as usual, I will be very brief. On page 9 I refer to the Trust Fund for regional development and equity provision. I know that the able hand Minister and his Deputy will do every possible in their endeavour to see to it that the Amendment Bill, which will provide for this Trust Fund, this time around will come to this House for discussion and approval. My concern is on the broadening of the revenue base of especially the Regional Councils. It is not fair for this broadening of this revenue to be catered for only through this Trust Fund.

One fails to pick up in the explanation of the Minister on page 9 the mechanisms from the side of the Ministry and also from the side of the Regional Councils themselves to broaden the base of their revenue.

The Development Committees like the Village Development Committees and the RDC's are not functioning properly in many Regions, properly, because of lack of capacity and funds.

I believe that this time around, apart from depending on the Trust Fund allocations by the Ministry, the Ministry and the Regional Councils should broaden their base of revenue. I support the Vote.

HON MOONGO: I would only like to ask the Minister whether this is not now the right time to improve the sewerage systems in all the towns and informal settlements. In Oshakati, the people are still using the long drop. After 17 years, the people are still using the old system and when the floods came, everything was contaminated by sewerage water. Seventeen years were enough for the SWAPO Government to construct proper sewerage. It is unfair... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member is talking about holes. Is that not very far from Uukumwe? And after the flood, what happened to the hole?

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HON MOONGO: I know the Honourable Colleague does not visit the informal settlements like Oneshila. Those informal towns are very old and still you dig these holes and when the flood comes, it is full. Then you dig another hole on the other side of the house and you talk about diseases, cholera and those things. This is very disturbing and I appeal to the Colleagues to be serious when considering this. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. *Honourable Venaani*, thank you for supporting the Government through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for having done away with the Single Quarters.

We concur with you that building materials are becoming expensive, it is a fact and Honourable Venaani may be aware that recently our Ministry, together with National Housing Enterprise, has mentioned the possibilities of using *kalk* for the construction of houses. Those are some of the ongoing efforts, which require the various stakeholders to contribute to find solutions to the high cost of building materials.

Habitat is encouraging the local communities and municipalities to consider the utilisation of local materials for construction purposes. We have a Committee where the Ministry, Habitat, National Housing Enterprise and other stakeholders, including the private sector, are working together to address issues of trying to use local materials for construction of houses. That shows that Government is seized with the matter you have raised and it is a concern to all of us. Let us continue with the research, let us continue with bringing ideas together to address this problem.

I have taken note of the issue of building either flats or storeys, but Honourable Venaani, the Municipalities call public meetings and I hope you attend those meetings so that ideas like these can also be accommodated and considered.

It is a good idea to build blocks for residents, but living in a house is also a human right because it is a question of taste whether people would want to live in blocks. In a country like ours we do not have a centralised housing system where we build and say you must move in whether you like it or not. Some people do not want to live in such blocks, and we provide housing as per the need and as per the demand.

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It is however, a very valid point and its cost effectiveness needs to be considered by all stakeholders and perhaps we need to sensitise our communities on this. However, housing is not done per regulations and as per provisions of the Law.

On the issue of the role of community-based organisations such as the Shack Dwellers Federation and other organisations, the Ministry is working in close relationship with community-based organisations. In fact, the Ministry is allocating some amount every year to the activities of the Shack Dwellers Federation. Our relationship with the community-based organisations and other environmental organisation, either those working in the housing sector, is not only confined to the issue of money, it is broader than that. It covers issues of security, the security of the environment and other issues and we engage them and the private sector. There are banks and legal firms and Standard Bank is one of them and legal entities are lending their support to the efforts community-based organisation that are operating in the housing sector.

Therefore, it is broader, it is not confined to monetary activities. We listen to them, we engage them, we go to areas where they are operating and we meet their delegations and the Prime Minister raised this issue at various Government structure levels, such as matters of sanitation.

I remember the Prime Minister also said on the Floor of this House that the Government is seized with this matter. We therefore invite you as a stakeholder, also as a Political Party in order to be seized with the matter. Your concern is however noted, it is a genuine concern, but we are working together with these Non-Governmental Organisation.

Next week I am going to Caprivi Region, I was invited by the Women Action Development (WAD) on issues that surround these matters. The Ministry and the Government are working with them in trying to address the plight of our people, who need housing, alleviate the issue of land allocation. Your point is noted.

National Housing Enterprise housing delivery: You have various interpretations and perceptions about certain institutions. National Housing Enterprise is playing a role to address a certain segment of the market, a certain segment in our community. We know very well that when we are talking about housing allocation, in Namibia especially we have a situation where the housing provision is so liberal in nature that there are private people who allocate. Because I fall under a certain category, they provide houses for themselves. They get money

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from the banks and they build certain houses for themselves. However there are those who are also falling under a certain category, the middle income and then you find those falling in a category, which is catered for by the NGOs like the Shack Dwellers Federation and Build-Together. There are therefore many, many categories of products and the National Housing Enterprise has been catering for the middle-income group who can afford the loans of National Housing Enterprise.

There are also other stakeholders, like the municipalities and others, that are working together with National Housing Enterprise and the N\$250,000 which you are referring to is an amount which is up to the beneficiaries.

If they want to build a one-bedroom house and then later extend, that option is there and it is determined by the need and affordability, but National Housing Enterprise is playing a role. I am not saying it does not have shortcomings, it does not have challenges. It may be faced with challenges just like all players that are trying to contribute to housing provision in Namibia through various mechanisms and means that we have.

However yes, to say that National Housing Enterprise should be overhauled, perhaps in time Honourable Venaani may elaborate on that, but I really think National Housing Enterprise is playing a very critical role together with the municipalities to try to provide low-income houses. In places like Oshakati, they are collaborating with certain projects, so I think they are playing a very critical role.

Honourable Venaani, on Rural Development: the issues of food for work programmes and storage facilities are definitely good ideas which will be welcomed by everybody and I think it was also raised by leaders here that we need storage facilities. With the floods, we had in the north and because the people do not have storage facilities lost their food they harvested last year. It is a real concern that needs to be addressed by all of us. If it can be addressed through Rural Development and through programmes like this one, it is good idea which we need to welcome and consider.

Honourable Tjihuiko also addressed the issue of Food for Work. It is very sad that this issue has been reduced to propaganda. Food for Work and Cash for Work and the confusion that is created in this House is that it is a well-meant and serious programme. It enables the San community and others to access skills.

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Knowledge is imparted through this programme and the communities are encouraged to embark upon building feeder roads. In some areas, the road is just a twisting road and you cannot see the car coming from the front, but through this programme, you either allocate Cash for Work or Food for Work. It encourages the culture of self-reliance. You should not confuse this programme with the role of the Ministry of Works in road construction. When people are building earth dams, it is also self-reliance programmes.

They see there is a need to build a dam here and through this programme, you educate them to build these projects for themselves, not that you have taken over the role of the Ministry of Agriculture. You are complementing and empowering the communities to do things for themselves through this programme.

Going back to comments by Honourable Venaani on Food for Work, this is very important, it is true, Food for Work is not only confined to food, let us not confuse it with drought food. It addresses matters of nutrition, educating people on food conservation and many others. We are engaging communities through Traditional Leaders, through Regional and Local Councillors. Therefore, this is a very critical programme and deals with issues of sanitation.

Sanitation is not only confined to urban centres, it goes to the heart of human settlements and sustainable development. It is a very broad programme and it should not be confined to politics or that maybe that it is designed to be used as a campaign. A very sophisticated programme cuts across various sectors.

Honourable Dienda, the Windhoek Municipality is not a Private Company. It is not a private sector. It was established through an Act of Parliament. It is just like all other Local Authorities. Land is becoming very expensive in Windhoek and I know this matter was raised here by the same Honourable Member and we provided costs and figures here on how it works.

Of course, land is not affordable to certain sectors of our community, there is no denial about that and this goes with what I have explained earlier, that we have programmes and we are working together with the City of Windhoek. The City of Windhoek is also working with the Non-Governmental Organisations, such as the Shack Dwellers Federation, identifying portions of land and allocating them at subsidised prices. Those efforts are going on as per the provisions of the rules and the Act.

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As for the prices of land, it varies from area to area and it is true, in some areas, land is becoming expensive. You however know, as you said, that Windhoek is the only municipality that is not subsidised by Government and as politicians we must not get carried away with unwarranted criticism. To make a blanket statement, calling the City of Windhoek a private company is a generalisation and we should be responsible leaders who should develop this country. We are always boasting that we are coming from one of the cleanest cities in the world. It is well-organised, because it derives income from the sale of land and the houses have running water. We should also be realistic when addressing this issue, but this does not rule out that we should have a social responsibility.

As for rates and taxes and the bills of residents and senior citizens, the City of Windhoek, like all the municipalities across this country, has a policy that if you are experiencing problems with your bills with were recorded wrongly, their doors are open to rectify this and when the elderly have problems, their doors are open. There may be challenges, but it is not fair to make a statement that there are no mechanisms in place to address those problems.

Yes, I understand that the bills are high, but I have addressed it, that yes, in some cases this is a concern, but as citizens we sometimes need to be fair and honest. Sometimes they spend the little money at shebeens and I am not saying this to justify the bills, but this is a reality, it takes two to tango.

On the issue of Wanaheda and black people, Namibia has by way of its Constitution has done away with discrimination on the basis of colour and the City of Windhoek as of now have many roads that were tarred before Independence and which are not tarred now. It should be in their programmes and maybe Wanaheda is on its way.

Honourable Members, as I said, the City of Windhoek also addresses the issues of construction in public meetings and they should be able to share this information with the residents of Wanaheda. I know Rocky Crest had a problem with a bridge and when you go to Rocky Crest today, the bridge and the road is there. It is however not right to say that blacks are discriminated against, that one is not true.

I have addressed the issue of National Housing Enterprise and the issue of subsidies to smaller villages and electrical cut-off in small towns is true. We all

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know that people cannot afford in these areas and the ministry is subsidising the smaller villages. The Ministry has intervened with utilities such as NamPower and NamWater when they cut off. We engage them but they are saying that we are encouraging this, because these entities have come about because of an existing law and they have to meet certain criteria.

We downgrade the villages to a certain status, like we did in Otavi, so that they could qualify for certain subsidies. We are seized with this matter, we are aware of the situation and we are encouraging projects.

It does not mean that when you are poor you have to surrender to life, you identify certain things to get yourself out of poverty. We are together with the Village Council identifying projects to contribute to income generation. There is however no way that Government is punishing them or Government is denying them subsidies because they are said that they should come with income generating projects. Subsidies are going to these smaller villages. We know their situation and it is a concern. That is why we have provision in the Ministry, which goes to these villages.

The issue of markets is a welcome idea. We are saying we are encouraging them to identify projects and we are encouraging the stakeholders to identify projects and to take the markets to the people and that is a welcome idea. Let all of us encourage it.

Honourable Gurirab, on the issue of governance and mal-administration, robbery etcetera: The issue of capacity at Local Government level is a reality in Namibia, let alone in many developing countries. We need human resources and other resources. It is a challenge, we are trying to work within our resources and we want you to support our Vote so that we can continue with ongoing programmes of trying to improve the capacity of our human resources. We are also happy that the Ministries are responding through the decentralisation process by decentralising functions and human resources to that level. Maybe it will alleviate that problem of lack of capacity. The Ministry is to it. A classical example of mal-administration is the town of Okahandja. It had problems, the Ministry, through the various stakeholders, withdrew the Councillors, and others were elected.

I hope Honourable Gurirab, when he was referring to the Councillors as robbers, was not referring to CoD Councillors in those Municipalities.

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Politics aside, on a serious note, Honourable Gurirab has correctly said that capacity is a concern and that it needs to be addressed by all of us – regarding Government and Political Parties, because some of the people there are facing challenges and limitations that are not of their own making. Their own people elected them and they have to be treated as such. However, we have to cope with the situation to try to deliver service under the circumstances. Therefore, this programme is an ongoing programme, it is a programme with challenges, but we shall not surrender. We have to keep addressing it in an honest manner with cooperation with all Political Parties because in many of these structures there are also their parties and community leaders.

Honourable Tjihuike, Vision 2030, Vision 2010, it should be taken as a typing error, it should have been Vision 2030. I defined it that it is not confronted with propaganda. You can keep that propaganda for next year where we are going to smash you nicely.

Honourable Nambahu, on the issue of informal settlements and planning of informal settlements: Planning is very important for any activity. We can only agree with you that the issue of planning needs to be put at the centre stage of whatever we are doing and we are engaging the traditional leaders and all other stakeholders. This point goes back to the issue of capacity, which Honourable Gurirab also raised in a joking manner. However, the capacity is sometimes lacking at that level. We have been independent for only eighteen years and we know what the situation was. We know those rural areas. We know in those reserves the capacity was zero and it was deliberately kept at zero. We are trying, with the limited number of planners that we have in the Ministry and they are driving from corner to corner to engage our officers at the regional and local levels on issues of planning of settlements, laying out of towns and they are really trying but the challenge of human resource capacity remains a big challenge. The issue of planning is very important.

Last year, for the information of the Honourable House, we had a workshop with the traditional leaders on aspects of planning and interpretation of laws and understanding of legal instruments, but the limitations are there. The point is however very important.

Honourable Tjiriange, the answer can be found in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, page 250, page 387 and 388. For the sake of time, I will

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refer the Honourable House to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework which explains this.

Honourable Mbai, I have attempted to answer your question on broadening the base and identifying projects, but this is a serious concern that we have to address, the issue of revenue, through capacity-building, through helping these colleagues at that level to identify certain projects and to develop those projects.

Honourable Moongo, I have attended to your concern as I was addressing the questions by Honourable Nambahu. I thank you and plead with you to support my Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: We support this Vote, as I already told the Honourable Deputy Minister that new brooms sweep clean.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, let us not use indirect words to others, which is not fair. I am not going to accept the statement of “new brooms sweep clean.” This statement was referring to the new Minister. It is not fair. I am not going to accept it, withdraw it again. (Interjection)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: It is not an insult!

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, I am not going to accept it. If you are not going to withdraw it, I am not going to give you the Floor. Withdraw the statement!

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HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Chair, in 1989, Dr Libertine Amathila and the late Shoombe and I were Shadow Ministers. I was the Shadow Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government. We were only three up to the 21st of March 1990. We created that Ministry. We were operating from where Restaurant is today, that is from where we were running the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing. Therefore, there is no issue of new broom.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I just want to inform the Honourable Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing that five years ago at a community meeting at the Martti Ahtisaari Primary School in Wanaheda, I asked the Councillor of SWAPO the question: When will the roads of Wanaheda be tarred? The answer of the Councillor was that they are catering for those areas where the people have computers, because they are afraid that these computers will get dust. Does it mean that we who are staying in Wanaheda do not have computers? That is why I asked this question, we are attending those meetings.

HON VENAANI: Let me ask the Honourable Member. Honourable Deputy Minister, do you not think it is time – and I have been pondering on this question for some years now – for Windhoek as a city to have an Executive Mayor?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, *Honourable Dienda*, your comments are noted. I was not at that meeting, but your comments are recorded.

Honourable Venaani, the issue of Executive Mayor has been discussed and the discussion is continuing at Regional and Local Authority forums and it is being considered. It will be brought here to be debated, but the Budget is something else.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 17, any objections? Agreed to.

I now put Vote 10 – “**EDUCATION**” for Discussion.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to say something about the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund, which was allocated N\$213 million.

Honourable Chairperson, our Government fund students who do training in very specialised areas, for example medical students. The condition is that when you come back, you work for the same duration of years that you were funded and if not, you have to pay back the money.

The practice we have seen is that when one comes back, gains a few years experience and goes to the private sector, it is always easy to make quick money and it is no issue to pay. Therefore, the Ministry should perhaps put a condition of compulsory years of service. That is for the Ministry of Education, that if you are funded... (Interjection). I am not talking about one profession only, I am talking about specialised services. I mentioned medical students as an example, but there are also engineers and other highly specialised areas, that they be given compulsory years of service, because an engineer who goes to the private sector will be able to pay that, but it is not an issue.

My other concern is that this figure for the current Financial Year is N\$213 million. Next year it drops to N\$205 million, the next year to N\$170 million. Does that mean we believe we have reached a stage whereby all people are well-educated, we do not need to give more funds any longer? I know the Finance Minister will talk about additional resources, but additional resources have also gone down from the current Financial Year to the next year. I really want an explanation as to why after this year we will fund less and less students.

The other point that I want to raise...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I just wanted to inform the Honourable Member that the reason why there is this fluctuation in the allocation

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is simply bad planning. You have a system where you know that you are now encouraging more people to get into education and then you are cutting. There is therefore no correlation between the planning at the initial stage and the planning at the end of the tunnel.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order. Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. In fact, I was going to say I will wait for a more legitimate answer from the Minister of Education.

The other issue I want to raise is on the Budget document on page 135. I see something allocated to private schools and hostels and I believe that is also for upgrading hostels of private schools.

Honourable Chairperson, of the hostels of private schools, especially former Mission or Church Schools, the prestigious Martin Luther High School, the prestigious Oshigambo High School etcetera, Döbra is at least in a good shape. I am however talking of these particular schools whose hostel facilities are in bad shape, especially Martin Luther High School and I really hope that in this allocation they are going to benefit from the N\$11,087,000. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Kasingo.

HON KASINGO: I thank you for the Floor. I would like to comment on the amount allocated to projects under the Development Budget as highlighted on page 10 of the motivation speech of the Minister.

When you look at page 10, the money allocated to the building and renovation of schools, Libraries, Research Centres is a lot of money, and I recognise the effort of the Government in this regard. However, I would also like to challenge the private sector, inclusive of some of the State-Owned Enterprises of the Government. What are they doing?

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We sometimes see that they appear on television and say they have allocated some computers to a certain school. However when you compare that with the huge profits they are making, it is really nothing.

When some of our regions were devastated by the floods, the north and the northeast, we saw those school kids carrying plastic bags, crossing the water and generally, they walk far distances. I agree that the building of hostels is very expensive, but I was wondering whether something could not be done in the most neglected areas. That is why I am humbly challenging the Mining Companies, the Fishing Industry, the people investing in tourism, people who are making big money, what are they doing to help the Government in building centres in Africa, particularly in SADC Region?

There is one leader whom some people are trying to crucify, but when you see the education in Zimbabwe, you realise that it is one of the countries, which have the most educated people. I would like that come 2030, we must also have educated people.

I support the Vote, but I am appealing to the private sector to build schools and libraries for our people. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Iipinge.

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am also speaking on the page 13 of the Minister's motivation speech, item number 2, "*knowledge creation and innovation.*" I am very much pleased to see this programme, which is focusing on a national knowledge and innovation system that can foster the link between the creation of knowledge and the use of that knowledge in productive economic activities.

This programme will be instrumental in establishing the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology and the establishment of the National Science and Technology Fund, which I welcome.

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I however have a concern on the Fund and I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether the omission on research on this Fund is deliberate or is it just an omission, because I wish to also see research appearing in the National Science and Technology Fund.

I also want to join Honourable Kasingo on the private sector's contribution to this. I would like to request that mechanisms be put in place for the private sector to also contribute to the Fund, because research produces knowledge that feeds business, including business plans and activities.

Having said that, I really support this Vote, because I see many good things, including the research depository policy that is to be developed by this programme. I am very happy with it and that is my question and my concern I put to the Minister.

I also have another point. When the Minister introduced his Vote, he referred to gender disaggregate data about the female and male teachers, which I fail to see in the speech here, or maybe I have not read the speech properly. Comrade Minister, is it possible for you to repeat the figures on the gender disaggregate of teachers? I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. That is the way we do it here. I now recognise Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, I am on page 136 – Library and Information Services.

Honourable Chairperson, new technologies are entering our country, but in our schools there are no Internet Services available to our children to do research. The solution to the problem may be because Telecom, as a company, which also has a social responsibility towards this Nation, can give these services free to our schools, so that our children can learn how to use the Internet. (Interjection). Honourable Kazenambo, you were struggling to answer me, keep quiet now. I feel that Telecom must really see how they can help our schools with free Internet Services.

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Also on page 136 there is a Budget for libraries, but it is not said who will receive what. We have 58 community libraries and 386 school libraries and 70 Ministerial libraries. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Member, you said you want Telecom to provide the new technology free of charge. Do you think when this new technology enters our country it is free?

HON DIENDA: I am not surprised by that question coming from you. On Libraries, Honourable Chairperson, the Hage Geingob Senior Secondary School just near my doorstep has a beautiful library but it is empty, no books at that school. Honourable Chairperson, I think to enable us to encourage our learners to research and to be more motivated, we must put some books in that library.

I am confused on why we are still subsidising NAMCOL. I feel that we can use the money for NAMCOL, which is a Parastatal, and build schools and put our teachers who are receiving a Government salary in those schools instead of sitting with NAMCOL which is a more expensive exercise to the Government.

In the same vein, Honourable Chairperson, some of our Grade 10 learners who failed and who did not make it back to the school were not even admitted to NAMCOL, because the parents cannot afford it. What is the possibility then for these Grade 10 failures only to rewrite the subjects, which they have failed? These learners are attending classes at NAMCOL, but there are no teachers available, so what is the use of having NAMCOL, an expensive exercise, if there are no people to give the service?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information to the Honourable globetrotter.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, what ... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I withdraw, I withdraw. Is the Honourable Member aware that this week all those children are attending face-to-face instruction, this week and the coming week? Are you aware of that?

HON DIENDA: Why do you want to give information when I contribute, you must give the information? Give the information before we make our contributions.

Honourable Chairperson, our hostel facilities are very expensive. It is true that Government subsidises it but still parents cannot afford that their kids stay in hostels and this leads to these children roaming the streets, staying ten or twenty in one small room.

It is the same with UNAM and Polytechnic and all the children going to an area where there is no accommodation.

Honourable Peya Mushelenga has already mentioned the scholarships, but I want to thank the Honourable Minister for the Vocational Training Centre that you have budgeted for in Keetmanshoop and also for the one in the Omaheke Region. At least something will be done here, but I hope that these Vocational Training Centres will not turn out to be private institutions and at the end of the day we will not ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. I think the Honourable Member must learn to use the word “*some*”, because if she generalises, saying the parents cannot afford, it makes those who can afford to hide behind those who really cannot afford.

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HON DIENDA: Wait until you have children then you can speak again.

Honourable Chairperson, on the construction of schools, I just want to say that my house children are attending school in a tent and I am concerned about the empty Ramatex building. Is the Minister considering reconstructing that into a school, so that those kids can move out of the tents into Ramatex? I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the Vote and thank the Minister for the priorities he has set for his Ministry. Honourable Chairperson, I have three or four concerns that I want to raise.

One is that I support the restructuring of teachers' salaries which is supported by us.

The other issue that I want to raise is the question of literacy and adult education. I also want to thank the Ministry for what they are doing because an old woman up in the North who could read a telephone directory impressed me, and you know the font of the telephone directory is so small and I had a problem and she could read it. I asked her and she said it is the literacy programme.

The other issue that I want to raise, Honourable Chairperson, is farm workers' children. Some of us who are dealing with these people know that the farm workers have become very nomadic in this country. He works six months on this farm and then six months on the other farm. (Interjection). Learn to listen for once! You are a leader and a leader should listen. A leader who does not listen is a very poor leader.

Farm workers' children are a key concern, because today you will find young children on all commercial farms. How does the Ministry envisage addressing this? Sometimes it is a matter of affordability, but the conditions of service of farm workers and having six, seven children not having access to education creates a continuous cycle of farm workers. Those children will become farm

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workers because they did not attend school. How do you envisage addressing that? I am suggesting that we prioritise a special programme to make sure that we target farm workers' children to attend school.

The other issue that I deplore is the very few hostels that we have in this country. I sincerely and honestly want to raise my concern that some of the conditions of hostels are deplorable and when you have a child of seven, eight years old sleeping on the floor without a mattress in winter, it defeats the purpose of having a hostel. (Interjection). I can tell you it happens in many areas in this country. There are many examples. Otjinene is one and many other schools. That is also a very important concern.

The other question that I want to ask is in relation to vocational training. Two years ago I visited the State of Bavaria where I met some Ministers of that State who said that they have availed donations for vocational training to the Government of Namibia. I asked a question on that last year and I did not receive an answer. They said that you were there, perhaps not yourself, but the Honourable Nahas Angula and they were saying that they were ready to assist the Namibian Government with vocational training, but the Government was not forthcoming in receiving. Is there any element of truth in this concern?

Otherwise, I support the Vote and I think the cardinal year is 2011 when we are going to judge whether ETSIP has really borne the fruits. The priorities are correct and we support the Education Vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, I recognise Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am talking about vocational training on page 135.

Eight years ago, when I joined Parliament the Right Honourable Prime Minister was then Minister of Education and Vocational Training and I asked a question about the Vocational Training Fund.

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The Right Honourable Prime Minister at that point said there is N\$30 million in the kitty, but they are waiting for it to grow so that it could be used for vocational training. If we accept that not every child needs to follow an academic career at the university and if we look at the examples of countries like Germany where people who were trained in a trade, are to a large extent, responsible for the economic successes of Germany, would the Honourable Minister kindly tell us what has happened to that Fund, where it stands now, how many people have been trained, how many will be trained? I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. From the onset, allow me to express my support for the Vote. I have made by comparisons and studies here and there and I think it is really addressing the issues in accordance with ETSIP.

Having said that, there are only two or three points I wish to air and one is in connection with the alignment of foreign qualifications to national qualifications.

Before Independence, there were shortcomings when compiling bridging courses and sometimes they designed these courses on assumptions of what the shortcomings are, but I do not think they were properly designed in some specific professional areas. Suppose a person has to go to the institution where the qualification is obtained and when designing this course here, it is actually addressing some of the shortcomings or adapting it to the national conditions.

When you go through it and when you are done, you will sometimes find there were some shortcomings in this regard and if this could be taken care of, it would be very good.

I have looked at the challenges were enumerated by the Minister facing the education and the parameters in terms of ratio, etcetera. There is only one challenge which I think is missing and that is the role that parents play in the education of their children. Repeatedly we blame the teachers and all the other

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stakeholders, but we leave out the role that is supposed to be played by the parents. When a kid goes to school early in the morning, he is in the care of the teachers, but after-hours, the kid returns to the care of the parent. That is the time when the homework is to be done, but that is also the time when the DVDs get continuous work.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, do you not see that you are on general now?

HON NAMBAHU: I am just mentioning the challenge to substantiate my point. It will definitely be a good thing if we could profile what a good parent does and what the other parent needs to emulate in order to put his kid in the same position as the other is. What our kids do when they are in our care leaves much to be desired.

We really need to allocate more money to research and as the other Colleagues have said. It needs more attention. On the issue of parenting, I think we need to critically analyse ourselves and not spoil the kids and spoil the good results. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have only one issue and this is of great concern and it has to do with NAMCOL materials.

I really sympathise with all those learners who want to improve their subjects but unfortunately, there were not enough materials. Comrade Minister, I am urging you to look at this issue very seriously. I cannot see why at NAMCOL the learners have to buy new materials every year. Even if a learner bought the materials last year and could not make the subject, the following year the learner still has to buy the new materials while last year's materials are still intact.

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At institutions like the University or the Polytechnic of Namibia learners are able to make photocopies if there are not enough materials, but if a learner cannot buy the materials from the NAMCOL institution, then that learner is completely out for the whole year. I feel that is very unfair and I am urging the Honourable Minister to look into this issue very seriously. I know he is very good negotiator, he can actually negotiate that this rule of every year new materials, even when the curriculum has not changed, should be done away with. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: I will be very brief. Honourable Minister, I rise to support your Vote – for a change. On page 2, the Honourable Minister was saying:

“According to the 2007 Report of Education Management Information System, the Budget that I am about to motivate will affect the present and future lives of more than 570 000.”

On that score, I see that you are looking at a cross-section of the affected parties in education.

This time, Honourable Minister, I will give you the benefit of the doubt and I am looking forward to seeing an improvement in the education process next year. Therefore, I support your Vote and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: A quick question of public interest to the Honourable Minister on teachers:

I have been receiving complaints from teachers who were trained in Zimbabwe, specialising in Mathematics, Science and Agriculture, that whenever they apply for jobs in schools they are asked, “What is your second subject for teaching?” Obviously, these people were trained as specialists in a particular subject, so they do not have a second teaching subject and invariably schools reject them.

My question is really, how is the Minister going to address this situation? Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much. I recognise Minister Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I was trying to see the problems here, but in view of our priorities – and here I am having in mind the Green Scheme – if you look at regions like Caprivi and Kavango, those areas can be the bread basket of this country.

I was informed that there was an agricultural college somewhere in Mashare but that it closed down some time back. I do not know whether there are any plans for us to reactivate that particular college or put something there. If we are talking about the Green Scheme, those areas can really be turned into productive areas of this country. I feel it is good to have a committed, well-organised agricultural college in those areas if we are to live up to our plans of developing an effective Green Scheme. I do not know why they closed it. I think it was closed before Independence, but we have to think very seriously of reopening it.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, is that scheme under Education or under Agriculture?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: No, I am talking about the college, a school, and I do not know to whom these schools belong, whether they belong to Education or belong to the Line Ministry. If they belong to the Ministry of Agriculture, let God bless them, but since it is Education, I wanted to

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HON DR AMWEELO

raise the point. I thought colleges are part of the Ministry of Education and it is under this understanding that I am talking about this particular point.

Finally, although you did not mention that, I am still repeating my complaint about the imposition of Afrikaans on our children in schools.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to talk about tertiary education on page 14 of the Minister's speech and I would like to thank the Minister with regard to the transfer of the agricultural college to the University of Namibia. The expansion to establish an Engineering Faculty at UNAM is very good.

I would also like to ask the Honourable Minister to consider having a University of Technology at Tsumeb or Ongwediva, because I understand at Tsumeb there are already existing facilities, which, when upgraded, can be used as the University of Technology. Even if it is put at Ongwediva, it could cater for neighbouring countries. We know that a two-thirds majority of the people are staying in that area and that will cater for that population. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you mentioned Tsumeb and Ongwediva, since there is a campus in the North, why do you not suggest this to be somewhere in the South, at Keetmanshoop or so? We already have a college there, as part of the University, but there is nothing in the South.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much. I was considering the University of Technology. I was not speaking generally. Again, the two-thirds majority is there in the North and it will cater for the neighbouring countries.

Last year it was also in the plans of the Ministry of Education to establish a University of Technology either at Ongwediva or at Tsumeb. I thank you very much and I support Vote 10.

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Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support the Vote for Education and the question I am going to ask is really for my own knowledge and for the Minister to explain, because we know that people are listening to what is happening in Parliament.

The people argue that one of the problems we are facing to improve on the quality of our education, is because when people apply to the College of Education, the points to enter are lower than the points required for one to enter at UNAM or the Polytechnic. I really want the Minister to elaborate on this and if it is true, to explain the logic behind it. If it is not true, then it we need to know so that this should not circulate out there. Comrade Minister, I just want you to explain it for the public to know what is really happening. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is really a small issue and I wanted to follow up on what my young brother there, Honourable Venaani, mentioned on the neglect of the farm workers' children. I was just thinking aloud that there are direct beneficiaries in the agricultural sector, companies like Meatco and others who benefit from this important sector.

I know that the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture can look into this issue because we are now moving towards the restructuring of Meatco and they are direct beneficiaries.

They can negotiate with Meatco because they derive millions from the export of prime beef, karakul and all these sectors, the sectors, which generally affect the farm workers. We can work out something and maybe these funds could be used to assist to the schoolchildren. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. It has taken Honourable Members exactly an hour to ask all the questions and it will definitely take me two hours to answer all your questions. Close the doors, nobody should leave.

I appreciate the support. I am not going to answer the questions posed by each Member, but rather on issues.

First, the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund: It is not only a question of training specialists, it is providing funding for young Namibian people to study and of course, those who specialise get extra funding beyond that. We have already started with the Honourable Minister of Health, because he initiated the programme. He needs the doctors to remain in the system to maintain our health system. We therefore have already made that arrangement. If the Ministry of Mines or the Ministry of Works or whatever Ministry want that same arrangement, that will be possible. The formula of how many years you should serve after you have been supported so many years by the State, has already been established .

Honourable Kasingo, thank you very much for your support and then on the issue of research *Honourable Ipinge*, that was an oversight, it should actually be Research, Science and Technology Fund.

On the issue of gender, I have written it down because I asked them about the ratio when the document was already prepared. I remember the women were over 12,000 and the men over 7,000 and here my officials are saying the women are more than 60% and men are around 40%. (Interjection). Somebody is saying it is not good. Well, whenever something is not in your favour it is not good.

Then the issue raised by *Honourable Dienda* on Telecom Namibia and Internet in our schools. We have School Net which is helping us, we have a policy which is called TechNA, which is a policy of introducing computers and ICT in schools. We have actually made an arrangement that we will have a kind of special window in the Internet that all our educational institutions are bound together so that we do not have the school paying and the college paying. I think on the Telecom side that is goodwill, if our technical people are competent enough to challenge those institutions.

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I do not know what to say about a school with such a big name and it does not have books. It does happen. At least some Peace Corps volunteers are working hard to help in some of these ICT issues. The issue of books is really a question of money. You build a school, you put in chairs, you pay for the teacher and whatever is left, is those things that we need. Many schools are campaigning very hard for photocopier machines and when you take a photocopier machine to that school, they celebrate. We should continue to support our local schools to do some of these things.

With regard to NAMCOL, unfortunately Honourable Dienda may not have been here on Friday when I motivated my Vote, because I said clearly that although we hate NAMCOL, NAMCOL has a service to deliver to our people. It is just like the people who are sitting there who are saying, "*why are we here up to 8 o'clock and we are not doing anything, we are just talking*". However they definitely now have something to offer. NAMCOL is not more expensive than a normal school, a normal school is more expensive and I attach it to the questions posed whether it is true that every time you register, even though you have the books, you have to buy new ones. Something must be wrong.

It is like when you have an old cell phone and somebody says, "*now that you have become a Member of Parliament or a Minister, buy a new one.*" It is a waste of resources. I think those are some of the things to be checked.

I do not want to comment on Ramatex until we know the status of those buildings. Once that we know they belong to the Minister of Trade and Industry or to the Government, then I will have a proposal. To talk about other people's private property without knowing exactly which way they are going to move is a waste of time.

Vocational education is very important, we would like to expand it, but it is a question of resources and I think we can also link that to the Green Scheme. It is true that we need better-trained agronomists, better-trained farming technicians, and veterinary technicians and so on. We have two colleges, Neudamm, which is mainly concentrating on livestock and Ogongo, but we need satellite campuses like anywhere else. All those demand well-trained people to take leadership as well as resources. Once you try to divide too much, you are not producing the necessary result.

Honourable Venaani, thank you very much. I have always said that women are

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good learners. When they learn something, I have never seen an old woman saying, “*come and count my money.*” No, they will always know how to manage and people definitely have a natural talent and they learn. I am glad you picked that up.

There is no such thing as farm workers’ children. We have children who are born on the farms. We have Namibian children who are born by farm workers. It is our collective responsibility to make sure that we provide facilities for them to be educated and trained, to join the other children. The problem is always these scattered farms of 5,000 hectares. I know of one farm where if you drive from the gate to the house, it is exactly 10 kilometres and you have not crossed the farm to the other side. It is really a problem and I do not know, we will have to come up with certain measure to make sure that we at least provide some literacy classes, pre-primary classes and take them to the nearest school.

There are some farmers who have created their own schools for farm children and that is why you find a school with fourteen children and some even with seven children and it becomes very expensive to have two teachers teaching fourteen children.

Within the Budget there are N\$27 million put aside for hostel renovations. I went to a secondary school at Sangwali at the beginning of this year and it was a lot of water. It is not only the hostel for children but also the accommodation for teachers. You do not want that situation to continue, that is why we are in a hurry and when we approve this money, we will do something with it.

It is true that I went to Bavaria, it is true that we had a nice programme, it is true that we have some friends who are Members of the Bavarian Parliament, but I know of no shipment arriving at Walvis Bay or Hosea Kutako International Airport. We will follow it up, but I definitely know of no specific shipment.

Comrade Nambahu mentioned the role of parents. It is true that the President, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and all of us are crying out for parents to support their children, to help them with their homework, but we must also be aware that not all the parents are at the same level. They are not doing it because they hate their children, but because they themselves do not know better, lack education, lack facilities, no electricity in the house, no ability to buy kerosene or whatever. That is socio-economic development but we are getting there, family by family. We know as African society we support families, we

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support other people's children and there are other people who are supporting children they do not even know. Therefore, it is true that we should encourage the parents to do more, but we must also be aware that there are parents who cannot do it and therefore, the community must get involved.

Research and private sector support – we will do that. The money is there in the Vocational Education Fund and now we have created the Namibia Training Authority which is going to utilise some of this money to make sure that training is more organised and somebody mentioned that we should ensure that these vocational education and training centres do not become private institutions. They will be autonomous as the Polytechnic and UNAM are autonomous, but not private. We should however put more money where better training is taking place, where there is leadership and the learners are performing and get jobs when they graduate, rather than giving the same amount and the performance is not the same.

Then the measuring of qualifications by the Namibia Qualification Authority of students from different schools. This is a difficult task, but I think the Namibia Qualification Authority has put the machinery in place to make sure that we can evaluate what you study, where you study, how many hours, how many years and what is your qualification in terms of that country and equivalent to the neighbouring countries and we should now be able to say you have a Bachelor's Degree, a Bachelor plus one year, a Master's Degree, Master plus one year, a full Ph-D or you are a Ph-D candidate.

Honourable Katali, I think I have touched on the materials already. Honourable Tjihuike, I agree with you and thank you very much for your support.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, I think we have not given proper directions to our schools, because the excuse here is that a teacher must be able to teach at least two subjects. You teach Mathematics, you teach Science; you teach Science, you teach Geography; you teach Geography, you teach History. If we really have a big senior secondary school with a number of classes, you can still have one Science teacher teaching as many classes as possible. We are stuck, because we said as long as they do not have two subjects, we cannot employ them. Sometimes we are our own enemies and sometimes we have this connotation that people who trained in Russia are not as good as those who were trained in Britain.

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You do not even check what did the person study, or China or Egypt, you just say they one trained in South Africa is better than the one trained in Tanzania. No, that is not fair, but we are trying as much as we can to make sure that the people who were trained at the expense of the taxpayers of Namibia are employed and they do what they were trained to do in the first place. I however think the reception was not positive enough and we apologise for that.

On the issue relating to Mashare College, I think it is really a question of expanding our programme and we can work together with the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to make sure that we train people to do agriculture. This year is going to be a very tough year, the world does not have enough food even if you have money. If you do not have money, you do not have food. It is better that all our projects, the Shadikongoro's, the Etunda's and all the others in-between receive our full support, full technology, the technical people who can make sure that at least we have some maize-meal available.

Honourable Amweelo, the National Council on Higher Education will do their work, I need your money and your support. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? I recognise Honourable Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I know that Honourable Mbumba is one Minister who is really gender sensitive. I remember as Minister of Finance he was even demanding that every Minister, when presenting their Budgets, have to indicate how women are benefiting from the programmes. When he was there, he was demanding it. Thus, that shows that he is gender sensitive.

Honourable Minister, I think it is gratifying to know that 60% of our teachers are women. Maybe in the next Budget you can help us, just to give an example to all of us in the Ministries, by indicating how many are at the level of Inspectors, how many Principals, Heads of Departments, so that the picture could be clear. That would tell us how this Budget is benefiting both men and women and at what

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level. In that way we can learn to identify how our Budgets are benefiting both men and women. I thank you, Comrade Chairperson, that was my request.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Honourable Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information on the question of the farm workers' children. I am glad that the Minister said he has experienced this difficulty of five to ten kilometres only from the gate. The Minister may consider something. These children, largely, are taken to schools, which are far from the farms where the parents are and the means of transport from these schools is a problem.

Now there is a phenomenon in our hostels of out-weekends, which is compulsory and most of the people on these farms cannot simply go and collect their children as demanded by the hostels. Once it becomes a problem, they do not send the children back again. However, the facilities at the disposal of these people are such that they cannot afford to do that. That is why I think we have to cater for a certain situation where it is not possible, to arrange for those children to stay there.

Just imagine the area that I know, some people take their children almost to Epukiro at the Roman Catholic College and that person comes from somewhere near Gobabis. Then he is supposed to come after two or three weeks to come and pick up that child.

He does not have transport. Sometimes the farm workers are left alone there, they have only tractors and they cannot travel 100 kilometres with a tractor to go and pick up children. Therefore, this thing of out-weekends is really killing the farm workers when sending their children to school and I think something needs to be done.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I think this is more of an advice that gender should have a proper breakdown next time. In terms of Regional Directors of Education, the Khomas women, the

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Omaheke women, Otjozondjupa women, Oshana and Oshikoto. We have quite a reasonable balance, but we will bring full statistics.

The advice from *Honourable Tjiriange*, I think this is at least the second if not the third time I am hearing him emphasising this point. All I can say is that I think it is time we seriously study it and come up with some form of recommendation and even talk to the managers or owners of those hostels to make sure that no child is penalised simply because you say today the hostel is closing. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 10, any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: On that note the House stands adjourned until 14:30 tomorrow.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:00 UNTIL 2008.04.23 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
23 APRIL 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Mushelenga?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24 and 27 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? None. Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Minister of Foreign Affairs?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I am going to make a very brief statement, following the tabling of the Observer Mission Report from Namibia on the Elections of Zimbabwe and the declaration of the last Summit in Lusaka by the SADC Heads of State. I will be brief Honourable Speaker, just indicating the importance of reading those documents and also the importance of the process that it is currently going on in Zimbabwe.

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HON HAUSIKU**

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, you will recall that the Republic of Zimbabwe held its harmonised elections on the 29th of March 2008. The Government of Zimbabwe extended an invitation to a number of countries and organisations to observe these elections. Yes, from all the indications that we got, all observers, including the national observers, agreed that the elections took place in a generally orderly, peaceful and transparent atmosphere. Namibia was invited and sent a delegation led by Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting at the time and today the Minister of Environment and Tourism. Namibia was also represented in the long term SADC Observer Team, as well as the ACP Observer Team of Ambassador based in Belgium. Yesterday, I submitted a Report of the Namibian Observer Mission for your kind information and further references. You will also recall that the SADC Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of States and Government took place in Lusaka, Zambia on the 13th of April 2008 to discuss the developments following the Zimbabwean elections. The Summit issued a communiqué at its conclusion, which I tabled in this Honourable House yesterday for the Honourable Members' information.

Comrade Speaker, having submitted all the documents that I have alluded to, I do not want to remain remiss of making reference to the role played by His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa in taking the facilitation efforts in Zimbabwe forward. President Mbeki was mandated by the SADC Extraordinary Summit of the Organ on Defence and Security, which met in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania during March 2007. He has since played a tremendous role in bringing the political parties in Zimbabwe together.

The facilitation efforts brought about many changes, including the establishment of an independent Electoral Commission, the Constitutional amendments and the revised electoral procedures.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, SADC has renewed the mandate of President Mbeki to continue his efforts on the outstanding issue. Namibia is party to this undertaking and will provide any support it can give to make that effort successful. The SADC Extraordinary Summits, through the that community, urged the electoral authorities in Zimbabwe that verification and release of results are expeditiously done in accordance with the due Process of Law. It also urged all the parties in the electoral process to accept the results when they are announced. The High Court of Zimbabwe pronounced itself on the

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HON KAURA**

MDC challenges for the immediate release of the results for the presidential elections. I am submitting a transcript of the verdict of the Court for your information and detailed reading as well.

Members interested should make their own copies through Parliament, I could not make it at my ministry, apparently the Budget is limited.

Comrade Speaker, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission decided to recount ballots of the 23 contested constituencies pursuant to the submission made by both ZANU-PF and the MDC. SADC was subsequently invited to send an observer team to witness this process. Namibia is again part of this observer team. They are now in Zimbabwe as we are talking, observing the verification and recount. We are now awaiting the outcome of the recount.

Comrade Speaker, as indicated earlier, I will hand over a full copy of the deliberations and final decision of the High Court of Zimbabwe on the application seeking a provisional order compelling ZEC to announce the results for the Honourable Members' perusal and information. I thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you Honourable Minister for his statement. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister just a simple question? Honourable Minister, given that the British Common Law is based on legal precedents, in the case of Zimbabwe, given the 28 years' precedents that are already in place, where elections were announced immediately, within a day or two when ZANU-PF won those elections, and now this delay in this situation, which is not in keeping with the precedents established over the 28 years. Does this not mean that His Excellency President Mugabe lost the elections and is trying to remain in power by force?.

HON SPEAKER: The interaction with Ministers after their Ministerial Statements is limited to seeking clarification, but Honourable Kaura's question is

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a bit beyond seeking seeking clarification. It is contesting the results of elections and I do not think that the Minister would be in a position to reply. Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I will limit myself to the Rule and leave out the last question. I want to inform this House that the elections in Zimbabwe were held on an annual basis, individually. You had the Presidential elections alone, you had the National Assembly elections alone and also the Senate elections alone. In this case Comrade Speaker, for the first time in Zimbabwe and that's why we are referring to the issue of amending their laws to conform with the present elections, we are talking about harmonising four elections for the first time in Zimbabwe. That is what had happened, four elections at once. Therefore, the experience in the past does not really apply here in terms of expedient announcement of elections. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Schimming-Chase

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Through you to the Honourable Minister, as you know ZANU-PF, which also has members of Opposition Parties, was not invited, through the Parliamentary Forum. I noticed here that these are all Ruling Party officials and the team. Nevertheless, I think if you are not invited to a wedding you should not go. I refer specifically to E on page 11. It states: *“The voting and counting was transparent. Counting took place immediately after voting at every Polling Station in the presence of party agents and observers. At the end of the counting, a duplicate certificate on results was issued, signed by the presiding officer and party agents. One copy of the certificate is sent to the command centre.”*

Now with the peaceful elections, with the peaceful counting and the transparent counting and the transparent posting of results, which is also stated here as it is stated in many other places, the question arises that the need for 34 polling stations, which by chance, if turned around, would put ZANU-PF back in Ggovernment, what happened then to the results that were observed by

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international observers and were found to have been the expression of the will of the people of Zimbabwe? And it is in the Report. Why the need for a recount?

HON SPEAKER: I still have one Honourable Member to take the Floor, but I think we are going beyond what this provision is intended for. These are the kind of issues that we can do justice to either questions or motions.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I have not finished my second question. I know that SADC has principles for the supervision and observation of democratic elections, which emanated from the norms and standards of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. I see in the Report of the team that no reference is made to the SADC Principles for Election Observation. So, how did the team then observe if they did not apply the relevant Rules?

HON HAUSIKU: Comrade Speaker, that is why I indicated that it is important for us to read this document provided to us. The Report indicated clearly that our team became part of the SADC team. In the statement of the Minister who led the delegation as Chair of the Organ on the Policy, Defence and Security, he directly referred to the Rules of Elections in SADC and advised that every Party that is going to have a question on the process of the result, should do it within the electoral law of Zimbabwe, because that is what our rules require. Honourable Nora Chase is correct when she is saying that the counting at the polling stations was at the end entered into what is called Form 11 and it was signed by all participants, specifically the polling agents and of course the representatives of the Electoral Commission.

There is, however, another form, MV 23, which transmits these results to the national coordinating point where these results are announced and this is exactly where the difference came in. What was announced at the polling station, which has been signed by Political Party agents and the Electoral Commission representatives, differed from what was announced at the national coordinating point and therefore, in one case a person who won at the electoral polling station, was announced to have lost the elections at the national coordinating point. That is where this question came in and they went to look at a number of issues randomly, and they discovered that there have been changes between the polling

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HON RIRUAKO**

station and the provisional form that is filled in only by the Electoral Commission officials to the national coordinating point.

This is where the question came in and indeed, Honourable Schimming-Chase, for your information, that the query did not only come from one party. Maybe they have differed in terms of how many ZANU-PF have queried and how many MDC. However, both of them have queried some of the results. That is the difference between what was signed and what was transmitted to the national coordinating point. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Riruako?

HON RIRUAKO: It is unusual in an independent country and for a independent body, it has never happened. It happened today in Zimbabwe. Even the Opposition Parties were not invited to participate as usual. They participated in the election in the DRC, but not in Mugabe's elections.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, can you address what the Minister presented? Seek clarifications and information to what the Minister said now here, not about what you think he should have said.

HON RIRUAKO: Can he really make it possible for the House to understand where he started to say and what is saying now?

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, we should read our Rules carefully because any Government that invites parties to observe the elections, has got that right to invite the organisations that they would like to. It is important, so that is exactly the situation. I cannot answer why Parliament was not invited, but that is the freedom of each country that is having election to do whatever they are doing. Thank you very much.

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HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to stick to seeking clarification from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the million-dollar question that I want to ask is: As the head of our Foreign Affairs who was privy to a lot of meetings at the Summit, when does the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission envisage to announce the result? Is it in a period of a month, two months? I am asking that question because the Minister was privy to discussions at the Heads of State Summit and he should have engaged Zimbabwean authorities. When do the Zimbabwean authorities envisage announcing the results? Is it in a period of two weeks, a month, a year or when?

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I think it is also wrong, unless it is explained, to talk about the Zimbabwean authority because when we talk about the Zimbabwean authority, you are talking about the Government, which is a party to this process. They do not have the power to decide and please read the decision, the deliberation of the Court. The Court says the only authority that has that power is the Electoral Commission of Zimbabwe and indeed, if you have listened carefully to my statement, I said we were party to the Extraordinary Summit in Lusaka and we called for immediate release of the results within the framework of the law of Zimbabwe. We would have been happy if the Electoral Commission of Zimbabwe would have released the election result the same day, but they have laws under which they are operating. Thank you very much Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. The Secretary will read the first order of today.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 15
HON NGHIMTINA**

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 10, 11, 14, 17,22, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to. Votes 13 and 18 and 19 had been introduced.

Vote 15 – “**MINES AND ENERGY**” N\$152 330 000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: *Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am honoured and privileged to present to this House Vote 15, Ministry of Mines and Energy, as the custodian of Namibia’s rich endowment of mineral, geological and energy resources.*

This Ministry facilitates and regulates the responsible development and sustainable utilisation of these resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

The objectives of the Ministry of Mines and Energy in the current Medium-term Plan is to ensure:

- *That mineral and energy production is optimised for the benefit of Namibia;*
- *Beneficiation takes place by adding value to our raw materials before export;*
- *Adequate supply of energy is provided;*
- *Environmental effects resulting from mineral and energy resource exploitation are considered and minimised;*
- *Enhancement of geo-environment.*

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As a strategy to promote the above objectives, our main emphasis will be placed on the implementation of the Ministry's Strategic Plan 2007/2012, which is in line with all the National Planning Tools, including Vision 2030.

Honourable Chairperson, The N\$152,330,000 that I request this House to appropriate to my Ministry is to ensure that the above five national programmes are realised during this Financial Year.

OPTIMIZATION OF OUTPUT OF MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTION

In an effort to optimise the output of mineral and energy production, we have budgeted an amount of N\$48,233,000 to carry out the following activities:

Geological mapping programme is continuing. We will undertake an even larger high-resolution airborne geophysical survey compared to 2007, to ensure total coverage of the country by the year 2009.

It has been proven that exploration expenditure and availability of high-resolution geophysical data are directly correlated, and in these times of exploration and mining booms our data are ideally promoting the Namibian mineral resources. Mapping and geophysics are also used for infrastructural development and the search for underground water, and we thereby contribute to sustainable development of our country.

The minerals database continues to be constantly updated as new data is acquired, and a number of new reports in the mineral information series are nearing completion. Acquisition of remote sensing data and airborne and ground geophysical surveys are continuously carried out to provide comprehensive and detailed data sets for use in mineral exploration, as well as the search for underground water and environmental research.

Our country continues to attract high levels of mineral exploration expenditure by the private sector. During the last Financial Year, exploration expenditure of over half a billion Namibia dollars surpassed any exploration expenditure recorded since Independence. Gold exploration in Otavi – Otjiwarongo areas is now at pre-feasibility stage and the final feasibility study to be completed during the first half of 2009 could lead to the second open cast gold mine in Namibia to commence production before 2010.

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Exploration for base and rare metals as well as industrial minerals continues to receive a lot of attention. Diamond exploration in the Kavango Region continues as companies search for diamondiferous Kimberlite bodies. To date, over sixty exploration licences stretching from Katwitwi in the Kavango to Kongola in the Caprivi Region have been granted.

The only copper producing mine, Weatherly Mining Namibia has increased production at Matchless, Otjihase, Tsumeb and the Tschudi Mine and exploration for other ore-bodies continues. Unfortunately two successive power failures in December last year had damaged the underground water pumping stations at the Kombat Mine, which has resulted in an indefinite closure of the mine.

I have instructed my officials, Weatherly, NamPower and NamWater to propose solutions in order to re-open the mine in the near future. In the meantime, Weatherly is undertaking a study to reopen the Berg Aukas Zinc, Lead and Vanadium Mine. A decision, I am informed, should be taken before the end of this year and development to start in the third quarter of 2009.

In terms of uranium, both Rössing Uranium and Langer Heinrich Mines have embarked on expansion programmes to a combined extend average life of the mines beyond 2025. The extended programmes have covered environmental impact, socio-economic benefits, stakeholder involvement, and additional employment of over 300 people in the short to medium term.

Bulk sampling exploration programmes at Trekkopje Uranium deposit near Arandis as well as at Valencia are nearing completion. It is expected that these deposits will advance to mining operations in the next year, placing Namibia amongst the top four producers of uranium in the world.

I am pleased to inform the Honourable House that applications for mining licences for these deposits have already been lodged with my office and my officials are already working hard on the assessments. If the applications meet the legislative and regulatory framework, I anticipate that I will grant those licences within the next few months.

Uranium price continues to be favourable with the demand for uranium oxide currently exceeding supply. This situation has created good opportunities for Namibia to become a major producer of primary uranium in Africa. Due to the rush in the acquisition of nuclear fuel mineral licences, and in order to realign the

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Ministry's administrative functions with the developments, I suspended the application and subsequent issuing of new uranium exploration licences with the concurrence of the Cabinet. My Ministry immediately embarked on work to develop policy and other regulatory instruments to ensure that rights for this strategic mineral are issued to the deserving, who will contribute positively to the development of the industry and Namibia at large.

In this context, these frameworks will take into account, for the first time ever, conversion and beneficiation where possible of uranium on the home soil.

I am pleased to inform the Honourable House that the draft policy and legislation is already discussed internally and will be presented to me for comment and further directives within the next few months. The policy, legislations and accompanying regulations are being drafted in close consultation with the UN regulatory body, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Honourable Chairperson, in the last Financial Year, my Ministry issued six mining licences, 7 exclusive reconnaissance licences, 190 exclusive prospecting licences and 200 mining claims. Local and international companies as well as individuals have participated in the application and acquisition of the said mineral licences and rights. A number of new mining applications have been lodged and are under consideration.

With the current high international oil prices and our own efforts, Namibia has attracted a lot of interest from international oil companies for exploration opportunities. Last year in my Budget speech, I told this august House that we managed to negotiate and issue nine petroleum exploration licenses and one production license in the last Financial Year. Today I am happy to report that the number of exploration companies vigorously searching for oil and gas in Namibia both offshore and onshore has indeed increased by a further addition of two exploration licences after successful negotiation between the Government negotiation team and the companies. As a performance indicator, I am pleased to announce that our exploration profile has increased and we now have 16 licences issued to 12 local and international oil companies searching for oil and gas on the Namibian continental shelf. We can confidently report that the potential for petroleum in Namibia and interest shown by the international market currently is at its peak with new requests flocking in at a fast rate and applications being processed constantly.

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I am pleased to report to you that exploration activities are going on according to the work programs with three seismic surveys conducted (onshore and offshore) and one well drilled offshore during the 2007/2008 Financial Year. I am proud to report to you today that as I am standing here for the first time ever in Independent Namibia, an onshore seismic acquisition survey is currently conducted in the Nama geological basin located in the south of Namibia with preliminary interpretations showing promising results. This year we expect more activities to take place, including the drilling of the Kunene 1 well in the Namib basin close to the Angolan border.

Therefore, in a further attempt to make the dream of finding oil in Namibia a reality, this year we expect to license the remaining potential oil and gas areas both onshore and offshore. I believe that there is oil somewhere in Namibia and with increasing oil and gas exploration activities in our country we are moving a step closer to finding it.

ENSURING THAT MINERAL PRODUCTION BENEFICIATION TAKES PLACE BY ADDING VALUE TO OUR RAW MATERIAL BEFORE EXPORT

An amount of N\$19,264,000 has been budgeted to pursue the activities below:

To increase the revenue base of Government, we have a moral responsibility to ensure that mineral and energy production benefits the nation. Although finalisation of the Transformation of Economic and Social Empowerment Framework (TESEF) has been delayed, this Economic Empowerment framework is a noble tool in this endeavour. It will give a legal provision for my ministry to address the economic imbalances of the past, by seeking to fairly transfer and confer ownership, management and control of Namibia's oil, gas and minerals to previously disadvantaged Namibians. We have now had the draft Economic Empowerment Charters for the electricity, petroleum and the mining sectors ready and await the legislative framework that will guide the Charters.

The Mining and Minerals sector is very dynamic. The Ministry has therefore been working on a draft Minerals Bill to replace the current Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act of 1992 as a measure to remain competitive, yet to improve on the provisions that guarantees what is due to Namibia. Amongst others, we have endeavoured to simplify the provision relating to payment of royalties and I can assure this House of better returns from the mining sector.

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In the award of both consultancy and contractors' work for the rural electrification programme over the last years, we continued to place emphasis on TESEF credentials as one of the selection criteria. In addition, the contracts for the wiring of schools, clinics, police stations and other Government buildings in rural areas are exclusively awarded to small and medium enterprises residing in those areas. These measures are meant to enhance our TESEF programme.

Honourable Chairperson, a large number of previously disadvantaged Namibians make their livelihood through mining on a small scale. We have a responsibility to ensure their assistance, both technically and financially. In the last two Financial Years, together with other stakeholders, we have re-organised the small-scale mining sector. My officials, the Chamber of Mines, and their individual members have committed themselves to assisting and supporting the sector to ensure that these people mine in a safer and sustainable manner.

The Minerals Development Fund continues to provide limited financial assistance to small and medium scale miners who were able to provide viable business plans and security for their projects. In the course of this Financial Year, we shall continue to increase resource allocation to the plight of the small-scale mining and minerals development sector. A sales kiosk is currently being built for the sale of mineral specimens at the Spitzkoppe turn-off. In addition, our laboratory also assists small-scale miners with mineral analysis.

Feasibility studies for five projects will be undertaken in the next few months to bring development projects, particularly to the rural poor.

These include:

- A project to evaluate the establishment of a dimension stone processing plant of reject material from the medium to large scale operations in the Karibib/Usakos area;
- A project to establish the viability of using naturally occurring calcrete deposit as building material;
- A project to evaluate the feasibility of a glass-manufacturing project in the Rehoboth area, taking advantage of the sand deposits in the area;

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- Evaluation of clay deposits for ceramic and pottery products casting and fabrication projects and
- Evaluation of limestone deposits to look into the viability of establishing a calcium carbide products manufacturing plant in the Usakos area.

Structurally, the Directorate of Mines has established positions with specific emphasis on assisting the small-scale miners as well as the overall development of this industry.

Ensuring safety in mining activities continues to be a core function of this Ministry. At the beginning of the last Financial Year, we had an unfortunate start with two fatalities. Since then, only reportable accidents have been recorded. We shall continue to visit, inspect, monitor and investigate mining sites on a regular basis to ensure that the mines operate under the statutory instruments of safety, health and environmental regulations.

Diamonds remain a key component of the Namibian economy as diamonds continue to contribute disproportionately towards the GDP and state revenue generation.

The strategic importance of diamonds to the country's economy cannot be overstated. It is against that background that diamond security, continued stability, and the growth of the diamond industry in Namibia are of paramount importance to my Ministry.

A major study on the marine terraces along the Skeleton Coast as part of our geological surveying activities currently carried out will assist in determining the diamond potential of the area.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry continues to play a crucial role by ensuring that it maintains complete oversight over the regulation and monitoring of all diamond prospecting and mining operations with a view to ensuring that theft of diamonds from the mines is eliminated and that diamonds are not siphoned out of the country through smuggling by unscrupulous elements. This is essential in order that our diamond resources continue to benefit the majority of our people and not just a few people.

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As you are aware, we are now finalising agreements with De Beers with a view to ensuring that we maximise benefits for Namibia and its people from its diamond prospecting and mining activities – especially offshore. We have already secured rough supply for our diamond cutting and polishing factories – which would be instrumental in creating more jobs, transferring skills and technology to Namibia.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you Honourable Chairperson, I was saying: I am therefore pleased to inform this House that, Namibia has started with beneficiation of diamond through cutting and polishing. According to the agreement entered into between the Government of Namibia and De Beers, 16% of cuttable NAMDEB produce is being supplied locally. Namibia Diamond Trading Company was launched in October last year, 2007.

Thus far, the company has eleven site holders

Because diamond-mining activities have expanded significantly from on-shore to offshore, and diversified into downstream cutting and polishing activities, it means that the scope of our regulatory activities would also be expanded to minimise risks and close down loopholes. Against that backdrop, the Ministry has been busy fortifying and expanding the diamond inspectorate. Twenty-two new inspectors would be hired in this Financial Year. Some of them would be deployed on diamond prospecting and mining vessels and some others would be deployed to monitor diamond cutting and polishing factories to ensure that they really cut Namibian diamonds in Namibia and to ensure that the factories are not used to wash or launder illicit diamonds.

We remain committed to our obligations under the Kimberley Process International Certification Scheme for the import and export of rough diamonds. We have to ensure that our diamond industry's image remains untarnished and that we are perceived to be ethical in our dealings. The Ministry, therefore, has to work hard to maintain our hard-earned good image in the diamond industry by ensuring that we scrutinise all new entrants into the industry and ensure that existing players play by the rules. It is our good image that has compelled our international colleagues to elect Namibia to the position of Vice-Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2008 and Chair in 2009. We are, therefore,

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mobilising resources and manpower to ensure that we do a great job of coordinating and overseeing a process involving up to 74 countries.

PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ENERGY TO THE NATION

An amount of N\$65,977,000 is required for the activities stated below:

Namibia is still dependent entirely on petroleum products imports procured and processed in foreign countries, mainly South Africa. Namibia has no refining capacity of its own, therefore an oil refinery is required if Namibia is to meet and secure its local demand and that of its landlocked neighbours.

The Namibian market, albeit small, is growing at an accelerated rate and it will therefore be costly to import all the necessary fuel requirements in the near future.

A pre-feasibility study assessing the viability of locating an oil refinery in Namibia has been completed and a fully-fledged feasibility study is expected to be conducted in future. The national oil company also completed a market and site feasibility study for a bulk storage facility of petroleum products.

The geographical spread and the low population density of Namibia make the transportation of goods as well as persons an important element for economic growth. The energy sector is essential for other industries and the availability of liquid fuels indirectly determines economic growth. Other industries that are highly dependent on secure fuel supply are mining, fishing and manufacturing.

On the supply of petroleum products, the national oil company, Namcor, in conjunction with Afroneft continues to import 50% of the national petroleum product demand thereby diversifying the supply of petroleum products in the country. The fuel industry experienced a substantial growth, which is reflected by a 2.5 percent increase in retail licenses, 34.4 percent growth in wholesale licenses and 1.2 percent increase in consumer installation certificates issued during the period under review.

Honourable Chairperson, my Ministry shall continue with rural electrification programme with increased vigour and determination to ensure that the additional resources allocated are well spent. We will give priority to connecting to the grid

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all localities, which were electrified but not energised in twelve Regions of the country.

The Khomas Region will be the only exception as there does not seem to be any socio-economic rural centres or villages with schools, clinics, agricultural centres left un-electrified in that Region.

About 26 villages all over the country were earmarked to benefit from the 2007/2008 Rural Electrification projects. The Solar Revolving Fund has managed to sell over 600 solar systems over the last two years of a total value of N\$11,804,000.

As a tool to improve access to modern clean energy services to off-grid areas of Namibia, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Off-Grid Energisation Master Plan in June 2007 and the Cabinet has directed that all Government and Parastatal buildings' hot water requirements be met through the installations of solar water heaters only.

Honourable Chairperson, out of the five Regional Electricity Distributors initially envisaged, NORED, Erongo RED and CENORED are operational. The Southern RED and Central RED were expected to be operational before the end of 2007, but that did not materialise due to legal aspects, such as the transfer of assets that need to be sorted out first. Inefficiencies in the industry will be minimised once the rationalisation process is completed.

It is a well-known fact that the Region is experiencing a power shortage in terms of electricity generation capacity and the demand for electricity, in the vast majority of the SADC countries, including Namibia, have entirely outstripped the electricity generation capacity. Although the negotiations between the various role players in the Kudu Gas to Power project have not yet yielded the desired outcomes due to various reasons, my Ministry has urged the developers to progress with developing this project. The negotiations through the Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC) between Angola and Namibia to develop Baynes Hydro Scheme are progressing well. The Kunene Consortium was appointed to conduct a full feasibility study.

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**MINIMISING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF MINERAL/ENERGY
RESOURCE EXPLOITATION TO THE NATION**

We have set aside an amount of N\$8,753,000 for the following efforts:

We have a responsibility to monitor the environmental impact of mining and exploration to ensure a healthy environment for the generations to come. The Ministry also assists so that developments in mining areas are done in an environmentally safe way, as has been shown by the recent investigations done at Tsumeb, Berg Aukas and Oamites. A database of the many abandoned mine sites in the country is constantly updated, and the formulation of measures for rehabilitation is an important programme of my Ministry, which will continue this year.

In the amendment of the Minerals Act, the enforcement of compulsory funds from the mining companies for environmental clean-ups upon mining closures is an important step in the right direction.

**ENHANCEMENT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GEO-
ENVIRONMENT**

An amount of N\$10,103,000 will cover efforts to enhance the understanding of the geo-environment.

My Ministry will continue with environmental geology investigations. Geological studies for urban and rural development, land-use planning as well as geo-chemical surveys, are conducted in order to provide data to ensure Namibia's sustainable development. The geological aspects of new infrastructure developments, existing and new waste disposal sites, coastal zone changes – so important for the current climate change debate - and natural hazards are monitored on a regular basis.

Further projects include the application for the extension of the Namibian continental shelf in accordance with the international law of the sea, the co-management of the Benguela Large Marine Eco-System, where we are now serving on the Interim Benguela Current Commission, the influence of geological processes to climate changes, the utilisation of geological resources and biodiversity and the international cultural aspects of our natural heritage with respect to the World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO Convention and the

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International Year of Planet Earth. Active participation in the work of the UNESCO National Committee will hopefully lead to the identification of a second World Heritage Site for Namibia. A three-volume book on the Geology of Namibia will be published during the course of 2008, and will provide an excellent reference volume for all stakeholders, be it the mining industry, scientists or students.

Honourable Chairperson, the application of earth sciences in supporting wealth creation, quality of life, and laying the foundations for a sustainable future is of ever-increasing importance to civil society. Geological research data plays a crucial role in both geo-scientific research and its application, to achieve the goals, which are enshrined in NDP2 and Vision 2030.

Budget per Programme	N\$ '000
Optimisation of the Output of Mineral and Energy Production	48,233
Ensuring that Mineral Production Beneficiation takes place	19,264
Provision of Adequate Supply of Energy to the Nation	65,977
Minimization of the negative impact of Mineral/Energy Resource Exploitation on the Environment	8,753
Enhancement of the Understanding of the Geo-Environment	10,103
Total	152,330

Honourable Chairperson, In conclusion, I would also like to thank the Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and staff for a well-constructed Budget.

I would also like to assure Members of this House that the funds I request for appropriation to the Ministry of Mines and Energy will be utilised prudently. I am further convinced that these funds will go a long way in improving the quality of life in Namibia.

I thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

I put Vote 16 – “**JUSTICE**” N\$236 359 000 for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is an honour for me to stand before you, on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, to motivate the Budget requirements of the Ministry of Justice, Vote 16, for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Allow me to convey to you, the sincere apologies from my Minister, Comrade Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, who could not be with us today, as she is nursing her husband back to health, following a short admission in the hospital, in the past weeks.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to also thank the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Steve Katjauanjo, and the entire management and heads of the offices falling within the administration of Vote 16, for their diligent work in ensuring that the Budget presentations to the Ministry of Finance were well-motivated, even though we wanted a little bit more to work with.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for a variety of services, such as the administration of justice through the courts, the provision of legal aid as a consequence of the Namibian Constitution, the development and reform of law, the drafting of legislation on behalf of Government, the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, the administration of deceased estates and estates of incapable persons, international cooperation and extradition, the prosecution of crime, the representation of Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies in civil matters, and the general rendering of legal advice to the President and the Government.

The Ministry of Justice includes in its organisational establishment, four distinct constitutional offices and institutions, namely, the courts, from the Lower Courts, that is the Magistracy, to the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor-General, the Ombudsman and the Attorney-General, all whom I may say, exercise their functions independently, and without fear or favour.

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The courts are independent, and neither I, nor the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, can interfere with how and what the Courts deal with. The same applies to the work of the Prosecutor-General and the Ombudsman. However, as between the Prosecutor-General and the Attorney-General, a lot of consultation occurs, given the constitutional relationship, and even then, the Prosecutor-General is independent in her prosecutorial role.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the total appropriation amount sought for the Ministry of Justice amounts to N\$236,359,000 for the financial period 2008/2009.

The appropriation sought for this Financial Year represents a 3.9% decrease from last year's allocation.

Of that amount, 88.2%, that is, N\$208,688,000 is intended for the Recurrent Budget, and the remainder 11.8% is intended for allocation towards the Development Budget.

Having highlighted the various services rendered under the structure of the Ministry of Justice, I now wish to highlight some activities and facts/points of note, and perhaps which I feel obliged to report to this August House, before I summarily breakdown the total requested allocation figure per service:

During the Financial Year 2007/2008 -

- Countrywide, the District Magistrate's Roll entered 45,533 new cases, adding to the already existing cases numbering 40,034, that being 85,567 cases being prosecuted and adjudicated upon in the Lower Courts. Total cases thus increased by 72,48% from the Financial Year 2006/2007.

Of the above total amount of cases at the Magistracy, 21,863 cases were finalised, while 63,704 cases remain on the Roll. Finalised cases increased by 56,5% from the Financial Year 2006/2007.

The Regional Courts entered 822 new cases, adding onto the older 1,557 cases already on the roll, bringing it to 2,379 cases in the Regional Courts.

Total case increase by 55, 29% from the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

Regional Courts are Magisterial Courts with a higher jurisdiction than District Courts, but are also Lower Courts to the High Court and the Supreme Court.

Of the above cases dealt with in the regional courts, 594 cases were finalised, while 1,985 cases remain on the roll of the regional courts. Total cases increased by 13,58% from the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

- In the High Court, 210 criminal appeals were lodged, adding onto the already lodged 229, thus totalling 439 criminal appeal cases on the Roll of the High Court. Of that total amount, 64 appeals have been finalised, while 375 remain pending.
- Because the High Court is a Court of first instance, it has received 67 new criminal cases, adding onto the 38 from previous years, meaning, there were 105 criminal matters, of which 35 have been finalised, while 70 are pending. Seventeen of the 35 criminal trials handled were dealt with during the Circuit Court, at Oshakati 12 and Keetmanshoop 5 respectively. The High Court also dealt with 1,953 criminal reviews during the 2007 Legal Year.
- In the Supreme Court, 45 appeals from the High Court were lodged, of which 29 remain pending.
- There was therefore 88,535 criminal cases were dealt with by the judiciary. That is an increase of 71,85% from 2006/2007 Financial Year.

The Office of the Prosecutor-General also embarked on a clean-up operation in the Lower Courts of Namibia. Members of this office travelled to individual stations in the Regions to assist local prosecutors to finalise long outstanding matters in an attempt to bring the heavy caseloads of those stations under control.

To date the following stations were visited: Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Grootfontein, Tsumkwe, Otjiwarongo, Okakarara, Oshakati, Opuwo, Outapi, Ondangwa, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Omaruru, Usakos, Windhoek (Luderitz Street) and Karibib. This greatly contributed to the 56,5% increase in the number of finalised cases in the lower courts. It is vital that this exercise, notwithstanding its heavy financial burden, continues because, as is apparent from the statistics quoted, the number of cases increased by 72,48%.

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- Thirty-one Labour Court cases were registered, adding onto 14 pending applications, of which 15 have been finalised, leaving 30 applications pending.
- Seventy Appeals from the Labour Court were lodged, adding onto two pending Appeals, of which seven were finalised, leaving 65 Appeals pending.
- 3,568 Actions and Applications were set down and dealt with in the Motion Courts, while 579 Trial Actions and Opposed Applications were dealt with.
- The High Court handed down 274 judgments in 2007.
- 128 Bills of Costs were enrolled for taxation and dealt with by the Taxing Master.
- The Registrar granted 1,501 Default Judgments and issued 1,972 Writs of Execution and 3,831 Summonses.
- There are two Supreme Court Judges, eight High Court Judges and fifty-four Magistrates. These numbers exclude the Chief Justice, the Judge President and the two temporary magistrates brought in to work on the backlog.
- I am pleased to announce that the Oshakati High Court is due for completion by July 2008 to alleviate the pressure on the High Court in Windhoek. This of course means that we need more prosecutors, clerks and even judicial officers to staff the courthouse, and thus we can expect that the establishment will grow.
- The Ministry of Justice establishment has 1,134 filled posts, including myself and the Minister of Justice, the Ombudsman, the Prosecutor-General, the Chief Justice, the Judge President, Judges, Magistrates, and lawyers all the way to the messengers and cleaners.

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I must inform this august House that despite the fact that it is difficult to fill positions of Magistrates, currently all Magistrate Courts are staffed with the exception of the Karibib Magistrate's Court, but this will be resolved soon.

Legal Aid Offices opened at Oshakati, Ondangwa, Otjiwarongo, Mariental, Keetmanshoop, Swakopmund and Katutura.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the framers of our Constitution knew that equality before the Law would not be realised amid poverty. To ensure that poverty is not a barrier to the majority of Namibians to realise their rights guaranteed in our Constitution, the framers by Article 95(h) deemed it fit to obligate Government to provide legal aid to those without or with insufficient means.

The Directorate of Legal Aid is presently in the process of amending the legal aid regulations, in order to update them. It must be mentioned here that since the Act was promulgated in 1990, the regulations and the tariffs of legal fees have not been amended. This amendment is seeking to ensure the tariffs of legal fees are in line with present day needs, both in terms of the legal fees, as well as the tariff to determine eligibility of indigent persons who apply for legal aid and other ancillary matters.

The ongoing Caprivi Treason Trial is the highest cost driver of the program legal aid, estimated at N\$7 million per annum. As the case is still pending, the state is still presenting its case, and witnesses for the state are still giving evidence. In terms of procedure, the defence still has to present their case after the state closes its case.

- The Legal Drafters, Law Reform and Government Gazette drafted, researched and published:-

25 Bills, 11 Acts of Parliament; 207 Government Notices; 402 General Notices; 24 Proclamations; 16 Tenders; 52 Estate Notices; 20 Road Carrier Permits and Air Service Licences; and 8 Trade Marks.

- The Guardian Fund is approximately worth N\$590 million, and it made payments for the benefit of minors and other beneficiaries totalling N\$40,017,343-14. Accounts for minors have increased to 27,899 with approximately 1,900 new accounts opened for minors.

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- 1,119 Deceased estates and 18 insolvencies and liquidations were reported to the Master of the High Court, while 405 trusts were registered.
- 426 requests for legal advice were received, adding onto 117 from the Financial Year 2006/07. Only 197 are finalised. It is important to mention that some of the files that have been carried forward from the previous Financial Year are ongoing due to the nature of the advice required, that is: on-going negotiations, disciplinary proceedings, etcetera.
- 1,016 civil cases were handled and of these, 319 were closed.
- For the above cases, N\$2,745,258-32 were incurred by the Government-Attorney as costs to legal practitioners, advocates and other legal costs.
- The Ombudsman is responsible for the investigation of complaints received from the public and relating to the areas of corruption, mal-administration, human rights violations and the environment and natural resources of Namibia.
- During April 2007 to March 2008, the Office received 1,327 complaints. Of those complaints, 393 were received during 163 complaint intake clinics at all the prison facilities across Namibia. Of the total complaints received, 75% were resolved, while 25% remained unresolved.
- During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, the Office will again be involved in countrywide complaint intake clinics, over and above normal complaint handling operations at its head office in Windhoek, as well as the regional offices in Keetmanshoop and Oshakati, where permanent staff were meanwhile appointed, resulting in the two offices becoming fully operational.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the purpose of the above facts and figures are to illustrate how busy the year was for the Ministry of Justice, and also to demonstrate that while we may not tangibly produce a product, we add value to the democratic system of Government as a sector.

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Going back to the Budget *per se*, the following estimates are required for each of the programs that are administered by the Ministry of Justice under Vote 16:

1. Administration of Justice N\$118,186,000
2. Legal Aid N\$22,573,000
3. Protection of fundamental rights and freedoms N\$1,206,000
4. Law Development and Legislative Drafting N\$11,618,000
5. International Co-operation N\$2,273,000
6. Deceased estates, Guardian Fund and Trusts N\$9,128,000
7. Prosecution of crime N\$42,973,000
8. Legal Advice N\$22,238,000
9. Anti-corruption, fair administration natural resources & Human Rights (Office of the Ombudsman) N\$6,164,000

This gives a total of N\$236,359,000.

I thank you for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister.

I now put Vote 27 – “**YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE**” N\$319,168,000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, it is my honour to introduce Vote 27 of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. First, allow me to congratulate the, Minister of Finance, and her entire team, for the *pro-poor, pro-growth* Budget.

This Ministry’s mandate is to empower, encourage and support the participation of the youth and the entire Namibian nation in the process of national development through sports, arts and culture with the overriding aim to promote unity in diversity for a better life for all.

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Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the proposed Budget allocation for 2008/2009 Financial Year amounts to N\$319,168,000. This amount includes an additional allocation to the tune of N\$101,360,000 for Youth Opportunities, sport and culture.

This amount represents:

N\$283,340,000 for the Operational Budget; and

N\$35,828,000 for the Development Budget.

This proposed allocation represents an overall increase of 55% on the allocation of the previous Financial Year. The Operational Budget increased from N\$172,791,000 in 2007/2008 Financial Year to N\$283,340,000 for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

The Development Budget increased from N\$32,678,000 in 2007/2008 to N\$35,828,000 in 2008/2009.

By the end of the 2008/2009 Financial Year the Ministry envisages to meet two out of its five targets in line with the allocated resources. The main targets achieved during the 2006/2007 Financial Year are, *inter alia*:

- Five Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres out of the thirteen envisaged were completed and are fully functional.
- On the employable skilled youth, out of a target of 60%, so far only 10% has been achieved.
- Eight sport-codes were developed and one sport facility completed.
- On Arts and Culture, the Ministry achieved 10% and 50%, respectively.

My Ministry's proposed Budget, as expressed in the Medium Term Plan, comprises of five programmes and I will elaborate on them one by one, focusing on activities, achievements and proposed allocations.

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The main purpose of Youth Development Programme is to empower, encourage and support the participation of the youth in the process of national development and decision-making and to ensure that youth concerns, needs and aspirations are integrated into the mainstream of all Government policies and actions.

The main activities and achievements under this programme are as follows:

Youth Volunteerism

The amount allocated for this purpose is N\$6,217,000

Youth Health Programme

N\$9,229,000 have been allocated for this programme.

Juvenile Justice Programme

The amount allocated to this programme is N\$5,420,000.

Capacity Building Programme

N\$7,288,000 have been allocated for this purpose.

Environmental Education Programme

To accelerate the environmental education programme N\$5,700,000 have been allocated.

Youth Gender Programme

N\$2,158,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

Youth Exchange

N\$5,702,000 has been allocated for this programme.

Rural Youth Development Programme

N\$10,239,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

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National and International Bodies

My Ministry is giving a grant-in-aid to the National Youth Council to the tune of N\$4,500,000 and pay subscription fees to both the Commonwealth Youth Programme and Pan-African Youth Union to the tune of N\$1,190,000.

N\$16,158,000 have been allocated for the provision of facilities.

The overall budgeted amount for the Youth Development Programme is N\$73,801,000.

Youth opportunity endeavours are provided through the National Youth Service (NYS), a legal entity established by the National Youth Service Act (Act No. 6 of 2005) that resorts under the Directorate of Youth.

The National Youth Service has been operating as a pilot project since 1999, and this Financial Year - 2008/2009, will be the first time that it would operate as a fully-fledged statutory body as established under the aforementioned Act of Parliament.

The main activities of the National Youth Services can briefly be outlined as follows:

Skills and Vocational Training, Competency Based Training Courses/Entrepreneurship and Marketing:

Youth recruitment and the subsequent skills training programmes are the National Youth Service's core business. After an extended break in the trainee recruitment process, the National Youth Service is in the process of recruiting a thousand youths as trainees during 2008.

To this end, N\$25,490,000 have been budgeted, N\$2,413,000 for the competency based training courses and a further N\$3,200,000 for entrepreneurship and marketing.

N\$3,460,000 has been allocated for transportation of Recruits and Goods.

N\$33,000,000 has been allocated for recruitment and a further N\$2,040,000 for the Capacity Building of Administrators.

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Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, on infrastructure as follows:

Since the establishment of the National Youth Service, Berg Aukas has been the Headquarters. However, during the 2007/2008 Financial Year it was revealed that the soil around the centre is no longer conducive for the agricultural production purposes following the survey conducted in 2005 by the Geological Survey of Namibia (GSN).

Henceforth, the National Youth Service relocated its Training and Agricultural Centre from Berg Aukas to Farm Rietfontein in January 2008. Furthermore, the Government of Namibia, through the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, purchased the Namibia Grape Company, and allocated it to the National Youth Service during October 2007. This farm employs close to 300 permanent employees.

The transfer of the farm to the National Youth Service is done with the assistance of the Attorney-General's Office. For this purpose an amount of N\$13,309,000 has been allocated.

N\$2,979,000 have been allocated to agriculture farming and N\$2,490,000 for the aquaculture farming and a further N\$2,490 for the marketing and selling of the produce. When combined, these figures amount to N\$7,959,000.

The amount allocated for the surveying, demarcating land and operating Namibia Grapes is N\$24,700,000.

Employment Creation and Youth Volunteering:

To fast-track employment creation, an amount of N\$4,630,000 has been allocated and a further N\$2,590,000 for Youth Volunteerism. When combined the total amount for employment creation and youth volunteerism is N\$7,220,000.

The overall Budget requested for the Programme for Youth Opportunities is N\$122,791,000

The main purpose of the sport programme is to encourage and enable all Namibians to participate in the sport of their choice, to expand participation in sporting events and to raise the international profile of Namibia in all sporting

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arenas as well as the provision and maintenance of basic sports facilities in all thirteen Regions.

Main activities and achievements under this programme are as follows:

Encouragement of Excellence in Sport:

During 2007/08 Financial Year, Namibia qualified and competed in many international sporting events. The major ones are:

- The 9th All African Games (Algiers)
- Rugby – World Cup in France
- Football – African Cup of Nations Tournament in Ghana

Namibia will also participate in the Olympic Games scheduled for August this year in Beijing, China.

Comrade Chairperson, the Ministry has also through bilateral agreements with friendly countries continued to recruit international coaches to assist with the development of sport in our country.

During the previous Financial Years, the skills of Namibian coaches were upgraded and we will continue to send our coaches and youth to friendly countries, such as Cuba and Germany, in order to sharpen their skills and knowledge in sport. The amount allocated for this item is N\$9,290,000.

An amount of N\$11,659,000 has been earmarked for the provision of sport facilities countrywide

Provision of Sport Equipment received an amount of N\$6,110,000.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, let me now move on to:

The Creation of a Conducive Sport Environment in the Regions: An amount of N\$3,905,000 has been allocated for this item.

For the purpose of Mobility Facilitation, N\$4,950,000 have been allocated.

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Subscription fees to Regional and Continental Sport Organisations and Grants-In-Aid to National Umbrella Sport Bodies:

Namibia is a member of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa and Zone Six (Zone VI) and is as such obliged to pay an annual membership fee. The Ministry also gives Grant-In-Aid for sport development, participation and administration to the following organisations:

- The Namibia Sport Commission (NSC)
- Tertiary Institutions of Sport Association in Namibia (TISAN)
- Namibia Schools Sport Association (NSSU)
- Namibia Women in Sports (NAWISA)

To cater for these national sport bodies an amount of N\$16,295,000 has been allocated.

The National 2010 Coordinating Committee, consisting of a Ministerial Committee chaired by the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture and a Technical Committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the same Ministry, was approved by Cabinet on the 21st of August 2007 to implement Cabinet Decision 14th/21.08.07/011. This Cabinet Decision directed the National Technical Committee to come up with a strategy on how Namibia should position itself to benefit from the 2010 FIFA World Cup in the Republic of South Africa and the 2010 African Cup of Nations in Angola and beyond. N\$3,300,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

The total Budget for the Sport programme is N\$55,509,000.

Whilst on this topic, Honourable Chairperson, I would like to appeal to the nation at large to bear with the mention committees to come up with a proper report on progress and planning for 2010.

Honourable Chairperson, the main purpose of the Arts programme is to identify, develop and promote the creative talents and artistic skills of Namibians for the purpose of income generation, employment, innovation, design and the nurturing of national pride and identity.

Main Activities and Achievements under this Programme are as follows:

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Arts Education and Training: For this programme to have a meaningful impact on the youth, a further N\$15,974,000 have been allocated.

The Promotion of the Arts Industry gives grant-in-aid to the National Art Gallery of Namibia, the National Theatre of Namibia and the National Arts Council of Namibia which was established by an Arts Fund Act (Act 1 of 2005).

N\$2,116,000 has been allocated for the promotion of Visual Arts and the National Art Gallery of Namibia:

Performing Arts: National Theatre of Namibia: N\$4,226,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

The combined allocation of Visual and Performing Arts is N\$6,342,000.

Development of the Arts Industry received N\$7,492,000.

N\$6,109,000 were allocated for Research, Documentation, Data Analysis and the Development of Arts Marketing Strategies.

The total Budget allocated for the Art Programme is N\$35,917,000.

The main purpose of the Culture programme is to identify, develop and promote the traditions and cultures of Namibians for the purpose of income generation, employment, innovation, design, nurturing and the transfer of the national pride and identity.

Main activities and achievements under this programme are as follows:

The amount of N\$4,757,000 has been allocated to the Cultural Exchange Programmes.

To establish Culture Centres and Villages Nationwide an amount of N\$5,651,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

N\$1,727,000 have been made available for the increase in the number of cultural groups.

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To optimise the availability of Culture Heritage, National Museum Collections and Exhibitions, an amount of N\$7,577,000 have been allocated for this purpose.

To develop Culture Industry Training and Facilities, an amount of N\$11,438,000 has been allocated.

The overall Budget allocation for the Culture Programme is N\$31,150,000.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of my Ministry towards the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Director-General of the National Planning Commission for the proposed Budget allocation to my Ministry.

However, I should remind this august House that the majority of our population comprise of young people. Therefore, it is worth noting that about 70% of Vision 2030 emphasises human resource development for which this Ministry is responsible alongside the Ministry of Education. In order for my Ministry to make a meaningful contribution towards this noble objective of nation building, this august House should consider allocating additional resources to my Ministry.

Comrade Chairperson, let me also use this opportunity to thank my Colleague, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff of my Ministry for their kind support and cooperation. I would like to mention that the Honourable Members would appreciate the fact that there are more detailed information in my motivation and they will receive copies.

I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

I now put Vote 24 – “**TRANSPORT**” N\$ 1 017 056 000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, allow me to introduce Vote 24, for the Department of Transport.

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I will focus my motivation by primarily highlighting some important achievements during the last Financial Year.

The mandate of the Ministry is to deliver seamless inter-modal transport and meteorological infrastructure so as to, among others, contribute towards the achievement of Vision 2030 and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The following are some of the achievements during the previous year:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first keep the august House abreast with ports and harbour infrastructure development.

During the previous year, cargo volumes increased by 633,382 tons or 15% to a record 4,2 million tons and at the same time attention has been given to a new port/corridor community initiatives. Container volumes grew with a record 54,049 or 36,5%. The deepwater Port of Walvis Bay is playing a significant role to the SADC landlocked countries as a transport hub with direct connections from the Americas and Europe.

In line with the National Development Goals, NamPort is committed to further expand infrastructure, focus on the business areas of containerization, harbour equipment, corridor development, ship repairs and creating capacity for regional imports and exports. To this end, the Board has directed that new Ports Master Plan Development Study be activated. This new Port Master Plan will guide the development of our ports until 2015. Investment is estimated at N\$1.2 billion to realise this Master Plan.

The development plan for the Port of Walvis Bay for the next five years will comprise the following major components, with the envisaged number of TEUs handled being half a million by 2015:

- Construction of a new quay and additional container terminal facilities, increasing overall commercial quay length to 2.1 kilometres;
- Deepening to 16 metres to accommodate fifth-generation container vessels;
- Provision of a dedicated fishing quay;
- Acquisition of rubber-tyred gantry and ship-to-shore cranes;

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- Provision of an offshore repair facility, and
- Bulk storage facility.

Lüderitz has been serving its important role to southern Namibia's mining and fishing industry and is envisaged to play a significant role in the Kudu Gas field development. NamPort has placed internal emphasis on environmental commitment, risk management, training of staff, harmonising its internal working communications and raising its level of efficiency. NamPort enjoys its newly International Standards Organisation 14001 and ISPS accreditation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I must report that the usage of the Trans-Kalahari High Way has increased to 58% in traffic volumes. Further investigations have revealed that 40% of the operators are now using the Trans-Kalahari High Way. This has led to a decision of extending border closing hours from 22:00 to 00:00 midnights on the Botswana/Namibia and Botswana/South Africa border.

The programme for training semi-skilled Small and Micro-Scale Contractors to boost their competitive capacity in construction industry continues. During the past year, eleven small contractors were trained in labour-based construction methods.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to enumerate on the Ministry's achievements in the Road sub-sector as relates to a number of road construction projects that were carried out over the past years:

***Kamanjab-Omakange** (204 kilometres) – thanks to Comrade Muharukua's insistence: This road is co-funded by the African Development Bank and the project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 of 104 kilometre was completed on 30 December 2007 and opened to traffic. Phase 2, which is 100 kilometres, about 70% complete. The final completion is anticipated to be in by October 2008.*

District Road 3611 Oshikuku – Okalongo road (23 kilometres): This road will be upgraded to bitumen standard. This road would make economic sense to continue to Okasamani Boarder Post. However, investigations would still be conducted to determine viability. In the meantime, an on-site investigation was conducted in December 2007 for Oshikuku-Okalongo Road. Tender documents for the consultancy services for the detailed design were prepared. It was

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expected to commence with the detailed design by March 2008. However, due to heavy rains this programme was delayed and will only start next month. The project will be completed by 2010.

Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu road (370 kilometres): This project is co-financed by Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and our Government. The project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru covers 134 kilometres. This phase will be completed in November 2010. Phase 2 runs from Nkurenkuru-Kongo-Elundu and covers 236 kilometres. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by November 2011.

Rehabilitation of Okahandja-Karibib: The project will rehabilitate the most damaged section of 77 kilometres of the road and restore its service life with improved standards. The project is co-funded by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and German Financial Co-operation (KfW) through the new Sector Wide Approach Programme. This road is the economic lifeline of our country and forms part of the Trans-Kalahari Corridor. Both tourists and Namibian holidaymakers use this road to the coast. The rehabilitation of this road is anticipated to be completed by the end of April 2010.

The construction of the following labour based road projects will commence during the Financial Year 2008/09:

DR3502: Kongola/Zambian Border (22 km),
DR3507: Ngoma-Muyako (Namibia/Botswana border, 43 km),
TR 8/6: Katima Mulilo-Kopano Quarantine Camp (5 km),
Drainage – Sesfontein, Okanguati, Okombahe,

These projects are co-funded by Government of the Republic of Namibia and European Union under the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme. They are expected to be completed by March 2010.

Meanwhile, the tender documents for the following labour-based road projects are ready for advertisements:

- Tondoro-Kamupungu (15 km)
- Rupara/Muveve-Gcangu (12 km)
- Mangetti-West Quarantine Camp (50 km)
- MR 92 Omagongati (15 km)

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The construction of the following roads funded by German Financial Co-operation (KfW) will continue and they are anticipated to be completed in 2009/2010 (DR 3642 Okahao-Outapi, DR 3643 Ekamba-Onkani, DR3644 Ompundja-Eheke, DR3645 Onyaanya-Onanke).

The Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi road project will commence this Financial Year 2008/09. This project is part of the Gobabis-Otjinene-Grootfontein road that will link the Trans-Kalahari Extension to the northern part of the country into Angola through Tsumeb. The road will be upgraded to bitumen standard and will relieve the current traffic congestion at Oshikango border with Angola. It will connect Namibia with the province of Kwandu Kubangu in southern Angola to create an additional Windhoek-Luanda corridor. It is envisaged that this project will create similar economic activities at Katwitwi, like we have now at Oshikango.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, having narrated on the achievements recorded by the Ministry in the road sector, I now wish to share with you our achievements in the Railway sub- sector.

Transportation of heavy and bulk cargo via Tsumeb to Ondangwa and vice versa is now by rail transport. Total freight conveyed by rail over the past year amounts to 2.14 million tons. This is an increase of 9 percent compared to the previous year. The volumes along the new Northern Railway Extension from Tsumeb to Nehale Lya Mpingana station at Ondangwa had a dramatic increase. 120 000 tons of traffic volumes were conveyed during the period April 2007 to February 2008 over this extension. These eleven months period compares very well to the previous years where only 39 000 tons were conveyed over a period of eight months since its inauguration in July 2006. For Honourable Kaura to say this is a white elephant is a very wrong statement.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, while the construction of new railway infrastructure should be given the support it deserves, upgrading and rehabilitation of the aged and depreciated lines cannot be ignored. Many railway line sections needs to be rehabilitated, to ensure safe passage of trains and continued provision of rail services. The total disintegration of these sections would be disastrous to the overall national economy. It is for this reason that TransNamib Holdings Ltd has completed the upgrading and rehabilitation of 10 kilometres between Karibib and Usakos where consistent rail wash-aways caused derailments.

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The rehabilitation of the railway line between Windhoek and Walvis Bay is also planned to enhance speed and safety.

To maintain the inherent sustainability of heavy haul and speed, the ministry foresees increased spending on rail line rehabilitation and upgrading to increase axle loads and speed.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the past year saw the completion of some projected components on Phase II of the Northern Railway Extension, as well as the complete upgrading and rehabilitation of 74 kilometres on the Aus-Lüderitz Railway line in the southern part of the country.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I will now share with you our progress with respect to Transport Policies and Legislation.

Progress has been made in the implementation of the Road Traffic and Transport Act and the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations. First registration of left-hand driven vehicles has been outlawed. Wearing of bicycle safety helmets to mitigate possible head injuries in bicycle accidents has been made compulsory. Furthermore, carrying of warning triangles and fitment of reflective stripes for certain goods vehicles have been made compulsory as well, while substantive progress with regard to public passenger transport reforms has been recorded. In this regard, a series of workshops with all Local Authorities has been successfully conducted. In addition, a number of amendments to the Road Traffic and Transport Act have been compiled and forwarded to the legal drafters.

Significant progress has been recorded in our ongoing undertaking to have the Road Traffic and Transport Act and the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations fully rolled out. First the amendment to the Road Traffic and Transport Act to accommodate Namibians who were left out when the Old Green Card driving licenses were exchanged for the SADC Credit Card type driving licenses has been completed and will be discussed in this August House during this Financial Year.

Personalised number plates were introduced, thus bringing Namibia at par with other countries within the region, such as South Africa.

In addition, the regulations covering roadworthiness of vehicles were amended to unify the operator card with the certificate of fitness. Through these

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amendments, all vehicles above 3500 kilograms and those involved in the transportation of passengers are now compelled to undergo a thorough roadworthiness test every year upon renewal of their licenses. This arrangement will further enhance safety on our roads, as vehicles not fit for use will not be allowed to operate.

As my predecessors announced previously, that the Ministry at the same time under Cabinet authorisation declared an amnesty to defaulters whose vehicle license fees had gone into arrears, this arrangement will remain in place up to the end of May 2008. In the same vein, the Ministry also granted an amnesty to bus operators who had installed additional seats in their vehicles contrary to the legal provisions. These bus owners have until Friday, 5th December 2008 to comply with the current provisions of the law or risk having their vehicles taken off the road as from Saturday, 6th December 2008.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to continue with the achievements in the Aviation and Meteorological sub-sector.

The lengthening and widening of the runway at Walvis Bay Airport to International Civil Aviation Organization Category 4 “F” to accommodate bigger aircraft such as the Airbus A380 (i.e. the new generation of wide body aircraft), and the upgrading of Hosea Kutako International, Eros, Ondangwa and Lüderitz airports are continuing well.

Some progress has been made on civil works of the Walvis Bay Airport-project. The project is expected to be completed by 30 June 2008.

The Directorate of Civil Aviation has started with the collection of over-flight charges and terminal fees as from the 1st of December 2006. Since it was a huge challenge to capture all the flights and identify the operators with their respective addresses, the first invoices were only sent out during February 2007. However, the process is running very smoothly now and during the last twelve months we have actually received more than N\$48 million just by means of the collection of aeronautical fees. Credit must go to my predecessor who worked tirelessly to achieve this goal.

The safe and orderly development of international civil aviation requires that all civil aviation operations be conducted under internationally accepted minimum operating standards, procedures and practices, and that States collaborate to the

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highest degree to achieve standardisation and harmonisation. However, a State needs, in order to comply with these minimum standards, procedures and practices at national and international level, an appropriate safety oversight organisation and infrastructure. It is evident that the absence of such an organisation has resulted in the allocation of insufficient resources to the Directorate Civil Aviation and the result why we fail to implement these procedures and practices.

Cabinet has approved the establishment of the civil aviation authority to regulate the implementation of international standard and recommended practices in fulfilment of our obligations as a signatory to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The design of the headquarters for the Namibian Civil Aviation Authority has been completed. The Ministry will go out on tender and start with the construction in 2008/2009 Financial Year.

The tender for the Namibian Radar project was advertised, but was unfortunately called off due to non-compliance to International Civil Aviation Organization technical specifications. New tenders will be invited soon.

The Ministry is responsible for the maintenance, upgrading and construction of the state-owned aerodromes that are not the responsibility of Namibia Airport Company Ltd and are not owned by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism or the Ministry of Defence. During the Financial Year 2007/08 the Ministry carried out improvements and maintenance works at Eenhana and Opuwo aerodromes. Different maintenance activities started at Bagani and Ruacana aerodromes as well.

An amount of N\$600,000 is budgeted for maintenance works at different other aerodromes for this Financial Year, 2008/2009.

Planning of the construction of Outapi aerodrome started last Financial Year. However, due to heavy rains the site is inaccessible. The work will resume after the water has dried up. Construction works will start during this Financial Year, however due to the budgetary ceiling, this project will be carried over to Financial Year 2009/2010.

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Other activities under this programme are to investigate aircraft accidents and incidents and to promote aviation safety through the conduct of independent and objective investigations consistent with the Convention on International Civil Aviation Organization and in accordance with the Aviation Act.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to share with you developments in the Maritime sub-sector.

The Multi-lateral Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Angola, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa on the Coordination of Search and Rescue Services was signed on 29 March 2007. This Agreement requires Parties to cooperate on matters related to Search and Rescue Services.

Also ratified in September 2007, is the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation. The main purpose of this convention is to facilitate for member states to prepare, respond and co-operate their efforts against threats caused by oil spills.

In an attempt to provide services most required by many vessels navigating along the Namibian coast, including fishing vessels, the ministry is striving to acquire and install shore-based emergency communication and navigation aid facilities, for safety purposes. In order to further enhance the ship safety and maritime security in our national waters, the Ministry intends also to acquire the marine radar system for monitoring purposes.

During this year under review, the following activities will be embarked upon, namely, the acquisition and installation of a marine radar system for the purpose of ship safety at sea and maritime security in our national waters.

A pre-feasibility study of the proposed Cape Fria/Angra Fria Port is completed. The report is distributed to stakeholders. The Ministry has proposed to conduct an integrated feasibility study that will include harbour, railway network, roads network, markets goods destined for Namibia and for neighbouring countries. I hope the Opposition will not call this another white elephant.

Allow me to share with you developments pertaining to Government Garage.

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Following the Treasury approval to revise the vehicle rental tariffs which came into effect on the 1st of April 2005, the financial position of the Government Garage Trade Account started improving gradually during 2006.

I must, however, mention that the Integrated Financial Management System which the Provisional Government of the Western Cape in South Africa wanted to donate to the Ministry of Works and Transport in order to replace the old Financial Management System of the Government Garage, has however not been realised yet.

Despite the absence of a reliable Financial Management System, the Government Garage submitted the financial statements for the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

The Government Garage was allocated an Operational Budget of N\$30,000,000. Two hundred and twenty-eight vehicles, which costs a total amount of N\$25,274,536.17, were bought in order to replace the old vehicles of the Government Garage.

During the same Financial Year, 2006/2007, the Government Garage bought 187 different types of vehicles for Political Office Bearers to the tune of N\$53,056,179.

During the Financial Year 2007/2008, the Government Garage paid an amount of N\$24,500,000 as settlement for more than 138 Omatemba vehicles which were retained by the Ministry of Works and Transport, Government Garage, after the expiry of the lease contract. Thirty-three vehicles were bought during the Financial Year under review to the amount of N\$7,332,776.90.

The Ministry of Works and Transport generated an amount of N\$9,105,924 from auctioning of old vehicles and equipment which started in 2005 through the Ministry's Operation Clean-Up Project and we must really congratulate Comrade Kaapanda for this excellent job done. There are still a lot of moveable assets rotting around, including in all offices of Government, computers lying around while the children have no computers, broken chairs, which could be auctioned in order to acquire money to purchase new items. This is a challenge to us to do away with this waste. This amount was paid to the Government Garage Replacement Suspense Account. The Department of Government Air Transport Services' functions are to provide safe, secure and efficient air transport service to the Government's VIPs,

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officials, visiting dignitaries and commercial sector to local and international destinations.

It facilitates maintenance of communication equipment erected on mountains for the NBC, State House and the Office of the Prime Minister and the first Prime Minister.

It also renders transport services to conduct geological surveys for the Ministry of Mines and Energy, game rescue, as well as wildfire control for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and private enterprises. The amount of N\$5,630,477.63 has been generated from these services.

The Ministry is currently playing a vital role in emergency operations, such as airlifting and dropping off food and medicine to communities affected by natural calamities in the following Regions.

Oshana Region (Floods)

Omusati Region (Floods)

Ohangwena Region (Floods)

Oshikoto Region (Floods) and all other areas that are affected nationwide.

I remember that some of our friends were condemning the purchase of the two helicopters. With the flood of 2003 we were rescued by Zimbabwean helicopters and nobody else in the Region had the capacity wanted to help us. This time it is our own equipment that is rescuing our people. We have to have a vision, we have to look forward and not only look at what our stomachs do not have today.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry is responsible to ensure public access to safe and reliable transport and meteorology infrastructure. The provision of this infrastructure contributes to economic development, employment creation and poverty reduction. I, therefore, would like to share with you the seven programmes of the Ministry:

The amount of N\$131,845,000 was allocated to Railway Infrastructure Development and Maintenance for this programme during 2008/2009.

he purpose of this programme is to develop, rehabilitate and upgrade the rural and urban road network. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the construction and rehabilitation of the following roads: Kamanjab-Omakange (204

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km), Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu Road, Okahandja-Karibib Road and Gam - Eiseb-Otjinene-Epukiro as well as the labour-based gravel roads I referred to earlier.

I, therefore request an amount of N\$499,462,000 for this programme.

Road Traffic and Transport Act and Regulations:

The amount requested is N\$19,091,000 under this programme.

Aviation and Meteorological Facilities:

I am requesting an amount of N\$327,840,000 for this programme.

Maritime Safety and Pollution Control:

I am requesting N\$10,284,000 only.

Government Garage Services:

I request an amount of N\$28,536,000 for these programmes.

I want to sincerely thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and her team and the National Planning Commission for this generous contribution to the transport sector which I now humbly submit as Vote 24 for the total amount of N\$1,017,056,000 for your kind endorsement. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

I now put Vote 13 – **“HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”** for Discussions

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this Vote. There are however one or two things that I wanted to mention. Honourable Minister, I am fully aware of the fact that you have a huge responsibility to look after our health, but from what

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I have seen – and I will be honest with you - from your actual activities on the ground, your political leadership that you seem to be providing in that Ministry is commendable. There seems to be a Ministry now. I have seen the resolution that you took at the meeting in Otjiwarongo. I read in the papers that your management team held a meeting in Otjiwarongo. It was very encouraging. I have seen various hospitals, the facelifts and the improvements that have taken place. I also congratulate you for that.

However, there is one thing that is still bothering me, Honourable Minister, and that is the attitude of your staff, the nurses especially at hospitals like the one in Katutura. You go to these hospitals, you spend five minutes, ten minutes there. These people will not even be able to see you and when you listen to what they are saying, they are talking about other people, personal problems of individuals. I think you need to do something about that, Honourable Minister.

This time around, I will give you the benefit of the doubt, as I did with the Ministry Education, because I am seeing that at least there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I know that Rome was not built in one day, but do not take it for granted that you are getting my support and therefore you are doing well. With these few comments, I wish you all the best. Next year I will be watching you closely. Thank you.

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Chairperson, I would also like to add my voice to the support of this Vote and to thank the Minister for supporting the Committee on Health during the past year, especially when we visited the Regions. What the Minister presented here is what we requested him to give us and we are very happy about that.

I am also grateful for the ten clinics that have been renovated, but my plea is please to check the materials used for the renovation, because one would suspect that these people that are renovating these clinics are using cheap materials and then after a few months the paint starts peeling off again.

The social protection programme is very important in the light that our senior citizens and the vulnerable children that are suffering. We appreciate this patriotic move.

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Comrade Minister, in your speech you thanked our development partners and I would like to underline that. These development partners are supporting Namibia because Namibia has the same democratic values. These people are doing very good work in Otjozondjupa.

Thank you Comrade Chairperson and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. First, allow me to congratulate the Minister. Many things changed this year but there is still need for improvement. Whenever you visit the regional hospitals, like that one at Oshakati, and you pass the new buildings and go to the old one, you become aware of the smell. I do not know if the Minister ever visited that hospital, there is a very bad smell in some of the wards.

The Minister also mentioned that the total allocation increased with 27% in this Budget. Will it cover the old beds and mattresses for patients that are sleeping on the floor? Will it also be enough to cover the problems of outstanding overtime of nurses? Does it cover and increase in the drivers and cleaners' salaries which are still low? Will it cover security, to prevent the patients from sneaking out and getting lost resulting in some dying?

I appeal to the Minister to look into those three points. I gave many points, which he already solved and I hope these will also be solved. Thank you very much.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson I am on page 2 and 3 of the Minister's speech and I quote: '*Due to terrible floods experienced in the north*

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and northeastern parts of Namibia. And on page 2, *'the outbreak put to test the leadership and the management skills of the Ministry.'* Honourable Minister of Health, I was paging through your documents to look for something to ask you, but since there was nothing, I went to the Katutura Hospital this morning to look for my questions. I was standing there fifteen minutes waiting for the lift because out of the three only one works. When I entered the second floor and it was flooded with water. I could not enter and the patients were sitting on the beds because they could not come in nor go out due to these *floods*.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On point of Order may I ask my sister a question? Honourable Dienda, that flood you are talk about, is it coming from Cuito Cuanavala or Cuvellai?

HON DIENDA: Please wait, I am getting there. A pipe burst at the Katutura Hospital and the people were there trying to fix it. That is why I am saying that you put to test your leadership and management skills, therefore the people were capable to rescue the patients who were under flood there.

Honourable Chairperson, on pages 169, 167, 171 there are vacancies that are not yet filled and according to my information. These are vacancies, which do not require people with special skills, it is vacancies for clerks, porters, labourers, and operators and then there are other vacancies, for Human Resource practitioners, accountants, etcetera. Those ones I understand, but there are many people with these qualifications roaming here in the streets. My question is what is the reason that these positions cannot be filled?

My other question is on page 176, tertiary health care. Does the Minister have anything to place about improvements of record keeping? I do have a problem that people are being transferred from one hospital to the other hospital and when you come to the hospital you have to explain your problem to the doctor and this results in miscommunication. This is how people are being sterilized instead of being put on contraception. Do you have any electronic database where doctors can read or have access to the information regarding patients which are transferred from one hospital to the other?

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Page 299, Chinese medical assistance: I would like to know whether people must be referred by a general practitioner for these services or whether these services, which include massages, by the Chinese people at the Katutura Hospital are available to everybody?

Then my third question is on the renovation of the Katutura Hospital. Will it not be easier or cheaper for us, instead of renovating the lifts every year ten times, just to replace it with other lifts?

Honourable Chairperson, fourthly I would like to thank and commend the Honourable Minister for upgrading the mortuaries nationwide, that is good.

Honourable Chairperson, number 6 is that our Government must really look into the issue of paying of medical bills, because if you do not make a down payment, the doctors will not help you and that is not right. People cannot die because there is no money available. Government must negotiate with these doctors. This is not a story, this is not a rumour, I have experienced this myself.

Honourable Chairperson, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. I rise to support this very important Vote and congratulate the Minister for the role that he is playing in the Ministry at this point in time.

Furthermore, I want to raise one important issue and that is that I see in the Ministerial targets and objectives, he has not included one issue that is quite central to the provision of health delivery in the country, namely the service delivery of the staff. If you look at the patient-service ratio, the person waiting for another two hours at hospitals, then I do not know why it is not part of the objectives of the Ministry because the problem with our health sector is not so much the scientific problems, but the attitude, as was raised by Honourable Tjihuike, of service delivery and that should be taken into account.

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HON VENAANI**

The other issue is cleanliness and tidiness, coupled with service delivery and it is a deplorable situation within our health sector and it is not the fault that there are no washing powders or cleaning materials, but our staff sometimes are leaving these institutions to deteriorate.

The other issue that I also want to thank the Ministry for and the Government in particular is the roll-out of ARVs to HIV patients. It is a very commendable exercise, knowing the politics that is around ARVs all over the world.

The other issue that I want to raise that is also very important and Honourable Dienda has raised it partially, is the question of doctors versus the argument of sufficient funds. The other issue that I want to raise that is important, coupled with doctors not trying to help people because of financial reasons, is the special diseases that we find in Namibia. Often you would find a member of a family with a special disease and then people want to collect money. How does the Ministry envisage to address this anomaly where the country cannot come to the rescue?

And the last issue that I want to raise is on the disease control. This year, luckily, perhaps the winter has started a little bit early, it has rained for a long time and malaria might not be a big problem this year. However, tuberculosis is a serious concern to us and I think I would support all efforts of the Government to try to curb this very negative disease.

Another issue that is coupled to this disease is the question of infant mortality rate. Of course, our Governments have agreed on the Millennium Development Goals at the United Nations that we would reach these targets by 2015. It is, therefore, important for you to continue pushing for those rates to really come down. Otherwise, I have been very vocal on the matter of health in this country, but this time around I give a clean health bill and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much I refer the Floor to the Minister.

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HON DR KAMWI**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House, Committee and Honourable Members.

First of all I wish to thank all the Honourable members who took the Floor in appreciating the improvements that are forthcoming within the health sector. We appreciate and I should think it is so because of your persistent support and indeed, you being vocal and sharing the concerns with us. We will keep on improving where we can.

To come to some specifics, which are few, the attitude of nurses is something that I do not need to debate on. We have been experiencing the negative nursing attitudes by some, but not all. It is good to say some nursing attitudes are indeed a matter for concern to all of us. We are trying to address it, we have put up a programme to address it.

Recently, to be specific, about three weeks ago, the Honourable Deputy Minister invited all the nursing managers to talk to them. That is the answer to what we are doing. But as we always say, these are Namibian children and we all have a stake to talk to them where you can. We will do our best.

Honourable Kaiyamo, I wish I had the mandate to check on these contractors who are attending to some of our renovations. You are right, we have said it time and again together with the former Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, that there are times when you feel there is indeed a big cheat there, but the matter is being addressed by those to whom it may concern.

Honourable Moongo, plans are underway to renovate almost three-quarters of Oshakati Hospital. I am talking of three-quarters because a quarter of it is what you described as the new building. You enter at the casualties and the rest is receiving attention. There is a serious project not only for Oshakati but that includes Katutura and Windhoek Central Hospitals inclusive of Onandjokwe, Honourable Mushelenga.

The two major hospitals are receiving our serious attention together with the new Minister for Works and Transport. We have plans to meet and address the way forward and not only the two ministers, but we have received full support from Honourable Minister for Finance. Just give us time.

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Honourable Dienda, I answered part of your concerns. You spoke of an emergency, you went there and you found a water pipe had burst. This is not what you would expect me to share with this August House, since it is an emergency and I am grateful to note that you yourself acknowledged without reservation that yes, the leadership is in place, they were told to do.

On the other hand, I regret to advise you that inasmuch as I share your concerns, not only related to the Medical Aid, unfortunately this is something that somehow it is outside my mandate. The concern does exist, but unfortunately it is outside my mandate.

Chinese service: If you have a family doctor or you go through any Outpatient Department and there is a need for your neck or any of your parts that needs massage, you are at liberty, but you may not get there by your own choice but you may get there when you are referred by a registered medical doctor. Yes, that applies to the private parts that you spoke of. You spoke of potency and I do not know how true that is, but I understand they attend to such.

Honourable Venaani, as I said earlier on, we are attending to the concerns related not only to infant mortality but maternal mortality and that goes with tuberculosis. For tuberculosis, just for the information of the Honourable House, the concern does exist. We have as a result invited some technical support from neighbouring South Africa who has some experience. A year ago they experienced XDR TB and their experts were with us a fortnight ago.

We know exactly where we are in that regard and for us to inform the nation where we are, we decided then to consult with World Health Organisation to assist us with experts in the field of tuberculosis and I am grateful to inform the Honourable House that we received this assistance as of last week. As we are talking right now, they in the field. In a little while we will inform the nation where we are in terms of XDR TB.

I thank you most sincere for the support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Is there any discussions? Yes, Honourable Ipinge.

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HON IIPINGE**

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am talking on the Minister's speech, page 11, programme 2. I support the programme but I only have a concern because it seems here that the Ministry has taken care of the women and children, those women who are of reproductive age. Also according to the National Gender Study Report 2000 which looked at the health facilities and services available, it was revealed that the least services and facilities available for women are those of women on menopause and I would like the Minister to look at that. There are very little services and facilities available for women who are at menopause. Please look at that.

I am also aware that NANAWO and the University, supported by UNFPA, have just concluded research studies looking at that area, but while we are waiting for the findings, I just want the Minister to know that there is that concern and it is my concern as well. Thank you, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. .

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you. The Honourable Colleague has just given information and yes, indeed, we are aware that our women who have reached the menopause do experience some of these psychological problems, as we may put it. But fortunately, indeed, we now have some experts within Windhoek Central and Katutura Hospital who are specialising in this field. If you just go through the normal channels you will be assisted. Yes, in the district hospitals we do not have such specialised field of study, but at the two hospitals here, we do have. Thank you once again.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I now put vote 13. Any objections? It is agreed to.

Vote 19 – “**TRADE AND INDUSTRY**” put for Discussion. Honourable Venaani?

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HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: Chairperson, a very important Vote. Honourable Chairperson, first I would not like this opportunity to pass to thank the negotiators of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and in the person of the Permanent Secretary and his delegation for the EPAS negotiations. I think this was a marvellous job for the country and our industries. But with regard to trade promotion and facilitation my concern is that there is still a problem for us to promote and facilitate trade. We have signed an agreement called AGOA, but if you look at the actual trade, it is either non-existent or the levels are really down. I, therefore, wonder whether it is a good thing to negotiate the opportunities. What do you as the Ministry envisage to do in order to sensitise business people in this country to know that there are these opportunities available and people can trade?

I tell you there is a lack of education under this program, that very few business people know the purposes and intents of AGOA, even the MERCUSOR that we are trying to negotiate and so forth and so forth, and under this very important program, there is also one concern that I want to raise and it is a statement that was made last year about meat, that we should look for other markets. The people continue saying that it is the responsibility of our Government to look for markets to assist our farmers, it is not the primary responsibility of the meat producers.

On a question on SMEs, there is a motion underway that I hope will be supported by this House, that is going to give some recommendation on SMEs. So for that whole purpose I would not say much, but I want to say that it is a welcome move to increase the allocation under this program, program 2, but I would want to put my reservation that is not enough to address the question and the plight of SMEs, coupled with the problem of the conditions that are attached, the severe conditions that are attached to SMEs in order for them to be able to flourish. That is why we are planning the infrastructure development program 3.

I will support all that is intended, but my last two concerns on this vote – and the new Minister has spoken about it in length and I supported what he said, that competitiveness, the registration of companies, how people perceive our country and the Investment Centre. When you bring a foreign partner who wants to invest and you are told to queue, this one is doing this and this, I think that is one area that we need to talk about improvement. There is a problem there. (Interjection). I bring a lot of investors to this country and I go there very often. I support the vote.

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HON DIENDA**

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

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson during my contribution in the Second Reading, I asked the then Minister of Trade and Industry to please look into the issue of expanding the time of our businesses.

Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry there is no need for us to sit with him unemployment rate of 36% in the country. There is so much work to do here in Namibia but we are so lazy. All the shops close 6 o'clock. We go home, I do not know what we do at the home, because we are still on 1.8 million. I, therefore, hope you will look into that matter.

Honourable Chairperson, as Government we should continue to attract foreign investors, but we must also monitor foreign investors because we are signing deals with them and I refer to South African companies called Jet Stores, Markhams, Edgars, whatever. There are so many products available in South Africa and they are even contributing towards the social development in South Africa but they do not contribute towards the social development of Namibia while they have so many outlets here. I think it is time for them to plough back into this country.

And then on the Chinese people, they came in here, they got work permits to sell these cheap things but now they are selling *Kapanas*. I do not know what is this, there is a need to monitor them.

Honourable Chairperson, I like the idea of supporting small business development, but my question is how are we supporting them? We need to connect them with social partners who can help them. Training them is not enough, but making the money available to keep them on will help them. I really want to know from the Minister, are we only funding them annually or is it a continuous thing for at least three years or what is the situation? Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognize Honourable Tjihuike.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be brief because the Minister is very new and before I say something I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister.

Let us look at page 4 of your motivation and Honourable Minister, I want to talk about these programs at the Ministry of Trade. If you take each and every Budget submission since 2000, all these programs are appearing the same, exactly the same motivation. I am getting the impression that the staff is taking the same programs every year and change the figures here and there, putting it to the National Planning Commission who is supposed to be monitoring and looking critically at these development programs and they are just passing it through.

Program 2, SME and entrepreneurship development, if we look at the activities, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, these activities are not supposed to be done or carried out by the Ministry. The Ministry is there to facilitate, to create conducive conditions. You need an institution like the NDC or the Government development arm to do the actual development work. If you expect the Ministry officials to carry out these activities, as has been happening now, you cannot expect to see any results, Honourable Minister. I think you need to look at that critically. You are putting these officials in a very difficult position, while you know they are going to be accused of developing business plans and recommending these business plans for financing at the banks and if something goes wrong at the banks or with that business, the people to be accused would be the officials at the Ministry because they have submitted a business plan that did not work. This is not be the best way to go about it.

This also applies to the third program. A feasibility study was undertaken to determine viability and the requirement for establishment of a automotive manufacturer sector. I remember sometime back this feasibility study was carried out for a project in Ondangwa or Oshakati and the feasibility has been financed. It also happened with Agro Industries. These are things that, Honourable Minister, you really need to sit down with your staff and look at some of these things. Some of these programmes are paper tigers. You need to look at it critically.

There is mention of a study again in the North for Green Scheme to be manufacturing products, a lot of these feasibility studies, because from the look of things, the responsibility of the Ministry of Trade to facilitate, as I said, has

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been turned into the actual implementers and that is why we have the problem of the SME not moving. That is why we have a problem of not really getting development in the sector that we really want to develop.

I know that with current the Ministers that have been given the economic sectors, the President has created the best team to turn this economy around and that can only be done by doing the right thing and by doing right Honourable Minister of Trade, is for you to be at the helm of that Ministry. Get it moving and I believe that we will be able to see some results coming out of this.

Let me end here and I support this Vote, Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE: Thank you very much.
Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stand up to support the Vote because it would be remiss of me not to do so. Let me start by supporting the observation and the comments made by Honourable Tjihuike, because I think that is how we started, keeping the policymaking at the Ministry and the implementation through the agencies of the Ministry. But that was post-1995. It is an area which we need to re-look at and I support that observation.

I have two other observations to make. One is on program 1. It is on trade promotion and facilitation, firstly on capacity. If you look on page 245 on the staff complement, you will see under establishment there are 66 posts of which exactly half of them are filled.

Thirty-three are filled and of the posts which are not filled are 20 for the position of Trade promotion Officers. There are 27 posts on the establishments, there are only 7 filled at the moment. Now if you look at the Minister's motivation yesterday under program 1 on trade promotion and facilitation, at the moment the Ministry is leading the negotiations on behalf of SACU for a free trade area with India to start an export promotion agency, it has to put in place a board of trade and the SADC National Committee, etcetera, and there are only 10 or 12 professionals to do that. I know that the Minister has said that there is a 55%

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increase in the Operational Budget. For some reason that is not going into getting in the professional staff which will be expected, which will be required to drive program 1, which is a very important program. Therefore, that area needs looking into because without that capacity we will not be able to do what we are planning to do under program 1.

Honourable Chairperson, on Main Division 04 on industrial development: Again yesterday, in motivating the vote, the Minister has told us about the Cabinet decision to reverse an earlier decision which was taken to disband NDC. When I look at item 045 where funds are being provided for programmes outside the Ministry for NDC, at least on my Budget copy it says zero. Therefore, no recapitalisation is envisaged for NDC under this Financial Year and we all know that at the moment they do not have the funds. It has been agreed to keep NDC going, but no funds have been provided for this programme.

I have one or two other observations to make. I support what is being envisaged to strengthen our representation at Embassies and Missions through Commercial Councillors. They are doing an important job and I think the choice of places, the capitals and countries which have been selected are an important part of our trade promotion programme and countries from which we can source investment. We fully support what is intended under this programme.

We also support what is envisaged under bringing together the agencies under the EPZ Act and the Foreign Investment Act. Again, on ODC, there is clearly a duplication of institutions since that area is a post-1995 development which should not have happened.

So, we also support what is being done in that area because we need to rationalise what is being done to carry out the important work of trade promotion and investment attraction. We support this Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab said something on staffing that I was going to touch

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on, but not as elaborate as I wanted to do. It is about this international trade staffing under Division 3. I want to go further and compare with other main divisions. As Honourable Gurirab said that it is only half of this main division that is budgeted for in terms of staffing, I realised that other main divisions are quite well staffed. If you look at main division 1 on page 144 and division 4 page 145 and main division 5 at page 148, it almost 99% of the staffing. Are we now trying to send a message that it is only industrial development, investment centre and administration that are important and the international trade is not important and it is under-staffed compared to other main divisions?

The other issue that I also want to mention is that I welcome the Ministry's efforts to send the Commercial Counsellors to the cities that are mentioned here. In fact, these are already established positions, it is just that they have not been filled.

In also welcome the amount for the Competition Commission Act on page 193 of the medium-term expenditure framework document and the Minister in his statement mentioned that plans are underway to finalise the operationalisation of this Competition Commission Act. This was one of the recommendations that was made in this House by the report tabled by Honourable Hage Geingob, the then Chairperson of the Economics Committee, especially to look at the issues of the Motion on bank charges that was tabled here by late Honourable Kalla Gertze.

Honourable Geingob tabled that report, recommending that realisation of that Commission should be implemented.

I appeal to Honourable Minister Geingob that this Commission should, as one of its priorities, look at the report tabled here by Honourable Geingob, the then Chairman of the Economics Committee. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, I shall be brief. First of all allow me to congratulate the Minister in his new post.

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Under this Vote I want to mention the street vendors who need protection. What happens with the reshuffling of Ministers is that you advise one Minister and then he is gone and then there is another Minister. I appeal to the Minister to take the initiative and meet some of the street vendors and get firsthand information. They are pushed around and they need the Ministry's protection because they are Namibians.

When I was in SWAPO, I first used to think of the poor and the voiceless people, but I do not know these kinds of SWAPOs. They do not think about the poor. The municipality is only there to make money and do not care about the rights of people as enshrined in the Constitution. They are only after money and the street vendors are pushed around from this corner to at corner and they do not have a single right. I appeal to the Minister to assist these street vendors who are pushed around as if they are not Namibians. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I revert to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much. When I was motivating the Vote, I said it was my maiden speech and, therefore, our rules are very clear that you do not ask questions on a maiden motivation. But since you put some questions, I would like thank you all for showing great interest in what the first person referred to as 'your Vote', that we have to sensitise the business people in what we are proposing here.

Let me from the outset first make a statement and therefore, you will realise that I am not going to answer all your questions, as you can appreciate I am only in the office for about eight days before I had to present the Budget. Then I was also out of country. That is no excuse because when you take over an existing system, the structures are there, the people are there, that is why I presented the Budget. But our aim will be to be consultative, as we normally do things, to engage the actors, engage even the vendors, to actually have business people to be in touch, to advise us. They are the ones who are going to benefit from what we are trying to offer.

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Yes, it is true, we have to be facilitators, we also have to intervene in certain cases. After all, we are a developing state and a state must somehow come in to help where there is a need to provide help. So yes, we will sensitise the business people, inform them about the existence of these programmes because they must use the programmes and use the money. There you were right.

We also have to look for markets for people. It was discussed there at State House that we as a Government should provide markets, so that when it is rainy, people could have a place from where to do their business. Therefore, we are in agreement with what you are saying.

It was mentioned that the money for SMEs is not enough. Yes, the money is not enough but I think we got more and we must again sit down and plan with them to see how we can actually utilise the money.

Our SMEs have a problem if you look at SMEs in other countries. I was told in one meeting about the BBL concept, whereby there is a bonding, bridging and linking principle. You will see that the small Indian and Chinese business people first try the bonding principle, whereby they sell the idea to their immediate family, saying, "I want to go and open a small shop". Then you bridge it out to your friends and neighbours, to sell that idea again and thereafter you link it to the banks and financial institutions. That is how these people do their business and therefore, they are so successful because they have customers who come and buy from them because they sold the idea.

In our case it is a question of PhD, "Pull him Down" or "Pull her Down". Instead of supporting the new shop, your aim is to look at that shop and ask, "how did he get the money" – destroying! That is our problem and we should stand together instead of crying about the Chinese who are here.

When I got the statistics of Chinese persons who are here I was shocked. I was asking, "how did they come here?" But those shops are making money because they are bonding, they stand together and therefore, they are successful. So, let us learn from their example.

We all agree that Namibia's competitiveness has gone down, but the other day I was reading a book Honourable Tsudao gave me and according to that book we are doing very well. It is Mauritius, Botswana and South Africa now took over our third place and we are fourth and in other areas we are scoring very well. It is

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excellent, we could have been number one. Why not? Therefore, we agree, we have to be competitive.

With regard to the one-stop investment centre, we were travelling and invited people to come and invest in Namibia, we were talking big and said when they come to Namibia there will be a one-stop centre where they will get all the help. They will get help to get a company registered, they will be told about Namibia and walk out with a business plan and do business. That reminds of the structure functionalism principle.

Structures do not function the way they are structured. They are beautiful on paper but they do not necessarily function the way they are structured. I think some of the Honourable Members are nostalgic about their ministry, they can come back. There were maybe beautiful plans when you left, but they are still there as plans and it is now for us to activate them.

I do not disagree on anything with you, I will listen to you and learn and let us see how we do next time.

Honourable Dienda, I used to make a noise about the shops being closed on Sundays. I asked: "What kind of business people are you that you close your shops at one o'clock and five o'clock, but the workers who have money knock off at five. They are supposed to pass your shop and buy things for their homes." Otherwise we are encouraging laziness in civil servants and workers, because they have to sneak out of their offices to go and shop, otherwise the shops will be closed. If Saturday is the end of the month, open the shops. I agree with you, you and I will work to make them open the shops.

On foreign investors, you see if you do, you are damned, if you don't do, you are also damned. That is a difficult situation. We are inviting foreign investors because we have to enlarge the cake. I always say the only thing I used to agree with Margaret Thatcher is when she said you cannot redistribute poverty, you have to create wealth and redistribute that wealth. Therefore, we are trying to provide an investment-friendly climate so that these people can come and invest. We have been overlooking domestic investment and I am glad the Namibians now have confidence in their country and are investing. We see places Nice coming up from Namibians and they got funds from the Government too. It is one of the best restaurants. We are seeing the malls, Maerua Mall was done by

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Namibians, an excellent place; and Wernhil. We have Tilahun buying up hotels, we have Frans Indongo and those.

By the way, what happened that side to the formerly advantaged people? Are they holding a conference somewhere?

HON MEMBER: Herero Mall.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I am going to visit the Herero Mall and see what we can do to improve on the conditions.

So it is true, we are inviting these people to come and invest but I do not think it is that fair that they are having it so easy. In all countries some people have cheated, these things do happen. You have the fly-by-night investors and you catch them. Sometimes you lose money, but this happens everywhere. We must have a look at it after eighteen years and not be taken for a ride anymore. But all I am saying is that these things do happen.

If we monitor them and follow them around, then they are going to say there is no freedom in Namibia. Then you will be the ones on that side who will defend them and say, “what is wrong with the SWAPO Government?”

The Chinese are selling *kapanas* – firstly before you condemn the Chinese we should also know that we are not proactive people, we are only looking for a job like ours with suits and ties and air-conditioning and somebody must hire us, but we do not think of self-employment. It comes from our history.

I was in Burkino Faso and I looked at the place poverty-wise, developmental-wise and I asked the ILO, “you are saying they are better off than us when it comes to employment.” They said yes and I argued, “how come?” They said the problem of Namibia is that you all want to be employed by somebody, whereas that person is sitting there, selling those two bottles. That is regarded by the ILO as employment and they are better off. I said I think of quality jobs, we are different, because I cannot sell those two bottles to get ten dollars a day and that is the problem with all of us Namibians, we want to become rich overnight. We are too proud. Sometimes it is good for us, arrogance sometimes is good but sometimes it is better to be humble, to sell those things to get and income , but we

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are very proud. We do not even want to do dirty jobs, that is a problem.
(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is for Owambos!

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: No, I really cannot defend those who are saying that. The question of Owambos is that wherever you go, there will be Oshiwambo-speaking persons. When some people say only Owambos are given jobs, I say that even when you go to prison, you are going to get more Owambos there. Where people are more than others, you are going to get more Owambos. Therefore, you will get more Owambos in other places too. That is how I defended that.

Anyway, the Chinese are now selling *kapanas* because we do not sell them, but those people are hardworking, let us face it, and they are providing a service the people in the rural areas need and can afford. You as trader import things from South Africa, mark up and sell and it more expensive, not affordable. But the Chinese are selling the *tapa-tapas* and the people in those areas need them. Somebody on the other side the other day said that what they are selling is so cheap, apparently a blanket can only be washed once. But I bought a blanket in Tsumeb from a Chinese shop and I still have it. (Interjection). I must admit, I have not washed it yet. (Laughter).

Therefore, connect the small business people with investors. Yes, that is why we are also talking about investment promotion. We are going to work together. Our aim is to get them together – even MPs – so that we can discuss these things together. Do not get tired when we are going to invite you for discussions and planning together.

Honourable Tjihuiko, former member of the staff of this Ministry, I will count on your wisdom and also the first Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, because what you are saying is very interesting. You are saying, “these are the same programmes that were there when I left, nothing has changed.” You are right, we will now sit down and see the way forward since we have background information.

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If the poverty is still there, the same poverty, we are not going to have new problems. We have to answer the same problems, the same problems still exist. It is just like when you go to church, we still preach the same thing because there are still sinners around. It is the same thing.

On NDC you were saying that the Ministry was supposed to be a facilitator, but now we are doing the job. Maybe you are right, but we saw the Cabinet reversing the decision about NDC and we are now going to reshape it, looking at our neighbours and abroad and success models, how industrial countries are doing this. So, NDC can be re-looked at to do business, but there was corruption, there were problems and you know that. Maybe you know better. To answer you, Cabinet has decided to resuscitate NDB and we are together, we will discuss that.

Honourable Tjihuike said that there was no money voted, but this increase we are talking about is for this Budget. When you are going to approve to budget is when we are going to have the money, not before that. They have increased the money, which is in this Budget with me as the new Minister, because she knew I was coming there.

I think ODC and NCD will all be re-looked at and properly restructure and if they are not necessary, that they overlap, we abolish them. We are going review and one day I will come here and make a police statement. Therefore, bear with us.

Honourable Mushelenga, on the Competition Commission, we did a very serious job and we discovered, after we put these banks in a corner, that we were told that unless we have a Competition Commission, we do not have the mandate to investigate them. It could be that Commission only. Then we tried to find out whether there is a Commission and yes, a law was passed a long time ago, but the Commission is not properly constituted yet. Therefore, my people promised me it will be done, it will be our first priority to appoint the members of the Commission and I will give our report. I am still part of that.

Since you have already violated the Rules already, it was a maiden introduction but I was surprised you gave me so many questions but I tried to answer them. Next time I will be ready.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: There was one on street vendors?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Street vendors, I do not know, my uncle there likes to exaggerate sometimes. I think he saw it is correct, we all now agree with him. *When I was in SWAPO I used to care for them.* That took it away from the context in which we can rationally discuss as Colleagues in the Parliament.

But let me say that all of sitting here have our people's interest at heart – I think so. But sometimes we talk like some people do not care about poor people. Come on! Where do we come from? Seriously speaking, to think that we do not care about our own people, where do we come from? Let us sometime talk seriously about poverty of our people and you will see programmes that will be proposed to tackle poverty.

We just came from a conference in Mauritius talking about poverty in the SADC Region and again Namibia is not doing that bad compared to other countries. Therefore, I think this is where we can stand together. Let us work together when it comes to the interest of our people and give them what they deserve – goods and services. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any discussions? I now put Vote 19. Any objections? It is agreed to.

Vote 18 – “**ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**” put for Discussion.
Honourable Kaiyamo?

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Chairperson, I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Minister Ndaitwah with her new assignment. I know you have been there only for a few days, but I have a question on an important issue. Honourable Tjiriange also mentioned it a few weeks ago.

When some of us try to go to Etosha as Namibians to enjoy our resort, we are asked to pay one thousand something per person. Comrade Minister please, with all respect, how are we going to enjoy this Independence? This young man we

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assigned to do the job is doing a good job, but we, the poor people, are suffering because we cannot go there. Maybe you can create a third class for us. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Gurirab?

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you Chairperson. As usual, I rise to support this important Vote and also to note that in terms of global statistics produced Namibia is the leading country in terms of what we are doing in the area of tourism and it is because of that, that I am rising to speak briefly on Main Division 5 under which the Ministry gives support to the Namibia Tourism Board.

I know that under this Budget N\$25 million is budgeted for and at the same time the Minister is also saying that they are already starting to generate own revenue and that in the current Financial Year they have already generated about N\$20 million. I think we should commend them for that.

When we are promoting tourism in our country, inviting visitors from new and more country, again it is a question of capacity. We need to give them more resources, more than the N\$25 million that is budgeted in the current years.

In the next two years or so we will have two major international soccer events in our region, in Angola and South Africa, and also for those reasons we need to strengthen the Namibian Tourism Board to continue to attract visitors to our country.

Secondly and finally on Main Division 6, Environmental Affairs, I have made this plea to the previous Minister last year and I do so again, that we need to take care of the Namib Coastal belt. It is a pristine area, it is one of the main attractions for people from other countries, but it appears as if enough is not being done to protect the coastal belt. There are so many people who are destroying the beauty of our nature. We need to strengthen how we are looking after this and policing what happens in that area. We support this important Vote.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Moongo

HON MOONGO: Thank you Chairperson. Allow me to at the outset congratulate the Minister with her new office. I hope she will do her best. However, I would only like to inform the Minister that for eighteen years we have been calling on the Ministry to change their policy on the destruction of property by animals. They have been promising all these years to do so. Every year they say the policy is about to be completed. I would like to seriously appeal to the Minister this time around.

There is enough evidence that cattle are killed by wild animals, or elephants destroy property, but the poor community cannot challenge the powerful Government. This is corruption, which is the order of the day. I appeal the Minister to look into this. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Congratulations Minister. Honourable Minister you have been given a very important Ministry but there are two things that I wanted to touch on. The first thing is when going through your presentation and the documents, I have not seen a concerted effort to promote the beauty of this country.

We are fortunate that we are going to have the African Cup of Nations and the Soccer World Cup and I believe that our commercial activities should have started yesterday. I have not seen it and the benefits that we are going to get by doing the right thing are going to continue for the next couple of years to come. Therefore, I believe that these are the things the Honourable Minister has to look at. Let us all try to promote this beautiful country, so that those who are coming for the World Cup will come back twice of three times.

The second and last point is on point 11. Honourable Minister, yesterday you were congratulating the representation of females in the House and you also

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mentioned Honourable Kavetuna, whom I have not seen here, and I have also since when been looking for the Deputy Minister of Education, she is nowhere to be found, so the point I wanted to make here is that on page 11 it says: “The fast-growing tourism industry has raised opportunity to Namibian entrepreneurs, in particular women, who have been dominated in the sector as workers. Time has come for them to become not only workers, but owners as well.” I would like to know whether there are specific tailor-made projects for this section of the community.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Chairperson, we are already here. We are here. We are prepared, why are you asking that question?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, I would like to see special tailor-made, programmes or projects to benefit that specific sector, not only in financing but capacity building, own holding and training, professional support and I appeal to the Honourable Minister that this should be one of the area that we need to look at. I know that our women have the capacity and capability to deliver and would be able to do that with the necessary support. I appeal to you to look at this seriously and I support your Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Minister Hausiku.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am taking the Floor to congratulate the Minister for the new portfolio and of course also to appreciate her introduction on the vote. I have one question and one comment to make.

My question relates to what Comrade Kaiyamo has referred to in terms of pricing at our resort. Before the turnaround strategy, I was a regular visitor to our resorts. Last year I could not make it because of the cost. I was just asking myself Minister, as to whether you have made a comparison between your new prices and the prices at private sector lodges, because I believe that if our increase is so

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drastic, you may lose customers to those who are asking reasonable prices. I hope you have done some comparisons.

I also wanted to indicate on this question that previously we had a unit price for what is called a bungalow which, I understand, today when you book such a unit, you will pay for every individual you are going with. You do not pay for a unit and of course, it becomes so difficult to afford to those of us who have kindergartens and extended families.

My comment is on page 6 of your statement. In the last paragraph, you are talking about a very important programme that I think is assisting communal dwellers that is on conservancies. The Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry talked about self-employment. Once there is an income in every activity that you are carrying out, this is one of the activities that is addressing the unemployment situation in many of our Regions because you have a bigger group of people who join together and get a source of income, though it may not be enough. You are acknowledging in this sentence, saying: "However the popularity of this programme has led to a normalcy increase in the number of conservancies which now exceeds the capacity of the Ministry." I am emphasising the capacity of your Ministry, which is exceeded by the popularity of this programme.

Honourable Minister, I think this is a very important programme. As I have indicated, it is accommodating quite a number of people and I think you must concentrate on creating capacity in order to address more and more conservancies that you are indicating on page 7 are coming into being. We really need to support you on that one and I will be happy if you look at creating capacity and not to remain at the point where your capacity here is exceeded by the demand of the number of conservancies. Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Kazenambo.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much. I rise to support the Vote for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism wholeheartedly. I also want to stress the importance of tourism globally and I really think we need to prioritise this Ministry and give it the necessary support in future.

I am on page 10, I am at Tourism Development Information. A group of journalists from Finland, when they went back home, voted Namibia to be the most beautiful country on earth, and the reason they said, I think the Honourable Gam it is accommodated there. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Withdraw that word Honourable Member. Honourable Gam.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I withdraw it but I normally said, it is unconditionally withdrawn but I had not referred to anybody (Laughter).

Namibia was voted the most beautiful country on earth and the reason it got that vote was because of its scenic features and the topographical features. You will find different features in different Regions across the country and these features could not be identified in many of the countries across the world, but come to Namibia, you will find many different topographical features in one country and then that makes it to be the most beautiful country on earth.

Those scenic environmental features mean that there is potential for tourism development because it can attract different people who are looking for different topographical features in a country. That is one.

Because of these features, I am convinced that we need to pump money into tourism development and because of that nature.

It tells you that tourism can have an impetus to unlock our economic development across the country and it can supplement or complement mining, it can complement agriculture and tourism is one of those few products that are

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consumed on the scene. You need to travel to a place in order to consume a tourism product.

Let us, therefore, support tourism. Let us come up with funding like we are funding agriculture to fund tourism. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mushelenga?

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Moongo spoke about something that I really wanted to touch on.

We talk about peaceful coexistence between human beings and wild animals. Inasmuch as I support the principle of peaceful coexistence, the Ministry should really look into the issue of compensation, because when a wild animal attacks domesticated animals, your cattle or goats, you are not allowed to kill it and at time the Nature Conservation officials would take long to arrive at where you are. They would not be able to find this wild animal, because it is a wild animal and it goes into hiding. The Ministry should come up with a compensation policy as soon as possible.

The protection and management of key species and natural resources are very important. Our national parks are our pride. Last year, as part of the Economics Committee, we went to see Etosha. The monitoring system mentioned on page 265 should really be strengthened. I am told animals are disappearing from our national parks. At some of the lodges alongside the fences of our national parks, there are some holes in the fences and the animals disappear.

Now we do not know whether these holes were manmade or whether it is due to the fence being old. I only want to stress that the monitoring system should be strengthened, otherwise we will be losing our species from the national parks into the hands of private entrepreneurs through some irregular means. I support the Vote.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: I rise to compliment my mother with her new assignment and support this very important Vote. Honourable Minister, through you Chairperson, I want to thank you for the Community-based Natural Resources Management and Conservancies programme. It is really doing a good job, it is giving an income to people. (Interjection). I am talking about rural conservancies, not commercial conservancies.

The other issue that I want to raise is that of game meat. The whole world is talking about food shortages, but we have game meat in this country and we are not utilising the game. In some of the conservancies, the number of Springbok, Oryx and Eland are surging but we are not utilising this meat. Coupled to game meat is the importance for us to look for an international market for game meat, in whatever form, because it is also a component that could inject some more money into conservancies.

The other issue that I want to raise – and it is a very serious matter – is that the current tourism sector is dominated by one group of our population in terms of tour operators and we really need to open up some of these facilities and opportunities to our people in order for them to play a meaningful role in the tourism sector. (Interjection). Our party believes in a very honest policy, honesty breaks no friendship.

The other issue is the question of marketing. We see countries such as Botswana, Dubai and the others marketing themselves at the airports of Canada and Singapore as tourist destinations.

Namibia is not marketing itself proactively around the globe and if we were voted the most beautiful country in the world, we should do more in that regard.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Venaani, may I ask you a question?

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While you are on marketing which, I agree with you, is very important, be it on game or be it on marketing, are you aware that globally there are companies, even in London and New York, that can team up with Namibia and market us without asking us a penny and we will be benefiting? Are you aware of that marketing networking?

HON VENAANI: Well, I am not aware of that but there are some companies that are ready to do that.

We spoke about the World Cup and in business, another person's death is your bread. Kenya is one country that was attracting many tourists and now, because of the mayhem that was there, there has been a very serious drop in tourism numbers and I thought that it is an opportunity and the only other viable destination should be Namibia. We should really do more in bringing people here.

Our tourists are mainly coming from Central Europe and the Americas, but there is also a greater market now because the Asian Tigers are creating wealthy citizens and there is also need for us to bring the eastern colleagues here to experience the beauty and spend money here for the benefit of our people. With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Muharukua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you. I rise to support my former Minister in her new post. Honourable Moongo has already elaborated on my point.

The animals are not only killing other animals, they are in some instances also killing people, especially elephants. Is there nothing the Government can do for people suffering in that way?

Coming to my second point, yes, we have our foreign tourists that come to see Namibia. I am however worried about these people when they goto Kaoko.

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They go there and take pictures of Himbas. (Interjection). No, I am not comparing Kaoko to other places, I am talking of Kaoko as the Constituency where I am come from.

They go there to take the picture of Himbas without even consulting these people. They go there to take the pictures and they go back and make money, not giving the money to the people in return. If you can look into that, I thank you and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I also would like to join others to support Vote 18 of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. It is a very important Vote, and I agree with the Minister when she said that the environment is life.

On page 4 of the Minister's Budget speech, she mentioned the status of protected areas, the expansion thereof and increasing ecological integrity, which is very much commendable. However, I would only like to make two points.

My two points are more on environmental impact assessment and nature conservation, which I think is significant to the environment as sustainable management of the natural resources is very important.

Environmental impact assessment encourages sustainable good management with land, water and physical environment in general from an ecological and socio-economic viewpoint. This is very important.

The last one is the need for our environment impact assessments, such as bush encroachment to be done on an individual basis, Otherwise, I fully support the Vote 18, I thank you.

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HON REV KONJORE**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Konjore.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson. Let me at first congratulate my Colleague and register my wholehearted support for this very important Vote. There is no doubt about the importance of this Vote.

People are mainly talking about tourism and its potential, which is very good, but we must remember that there will be no tourism potential without proper conservation. Therefore, conservation of our natural resources is very important and this must not be overlooked.

Having said that, I know the Honourable Minister is competent enough to answer to the questions, but I would like to make a few remarks concerning the contributions that were made, one of them being the issue of compensation, which is, indeed, a very sensitive issue. It was my appeal and it is still my appeal that we should not discuss the issue of compensation lightly. I am saying this because, how do you compensate someone who has lost a dear one? This is not to say that the loss and suffering of people are light.

One Honourable Member was saying that for eighteen years there were promises that a policy will be put into place. It is a question of lawmaking and when you make a law, it has to be a law that would really stand the test of time and that will also be able to address the purpose for which is promulgated. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, the policy is at quite an advanced stage now.

Particularly through the conservancy programme, animals are declared problem animals and these problem animals are offered for trophy hunting. The funds generated from those trophies are going to the communities through the conservancies.

Secondly, conservancies are yearly provided with quotas of different animals, which means a number of animals are allocated to different conservancies for the purpose of trophy hunting or hunting for own usage and different purposes and this is also a way to assist that very difficult situation of people coexisting with wild animals.

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I know as of late there is a scheme, which is assisting, particularly in the instance of death, with funeral arrangements – not to compensate but to assist the families who have lost dear ones.

There is also a scheme, which provides for the restocking of game in the communal areas, particularly for communal conservancies, and also a scheme which would kick off soon that would provide for the game stock loans.

Therefore, as far as I know, the Government and the Ministry is doing its level best to address these needs and problems experienced by our people, particularly in their coexistence with wildlife and game. I support the vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would at the onset like to echo the Minister's words of homage when she referred to the late Niko Bessinger, who was the first Minister in this Ministry, and whose footprints will indeed remain edged in the history as far as this Ministry and the Government in general is concerned.

Honourable Chairperson, I have a few questions directed to the Minister regarding detail. Of course, I must also congratulate her for her appointment to this very important Ministry. I am sure you will remember just a few years ago (Interjection). There is still enough time I think, a lot of time. I am almost there. Next time we shall go on the trip I will follow you.

I am getting the impression, especially taking into consideration the length of time that has now passed since the introduction of conservancies that perhaps there is not sufficient progress in this regard and I can understand the questions regarding compensation within that context. Very soon it will be the twentieth year of our Independence and the idea and concept of getting communities directly involved, deriving income from the management of wildlife has now been there for quite some time, yet I miss the detail here especially in the Minister's speech. Most probably there is some distance between the Ministry and me.

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Last year I was travelling in the area of Sesfontein and I saw beautiful herds of Springbok and others. I do not see this growth, the spreading of wildlife into communal areas, evenly spread throughout the country.

Areas which used to be game areas in the past, let us say thirty, forty years ago, still await to have the benefits from this game in terms of income.

Reading from the Community-based Natural Resource Management and Tourism document, I fail to see the detail in terms of which parts of the country are now covered by conservancies. Where has the income been improving and which areas are still to be affected, so that we can have an idea of what progress is being made, how much is still to be done.

I was stopped at Oshivelo a few weeks ago as I was travelling through the Oshikoto Region. A few members of the Haikhum community were selling bows and arrows, knives and so forth. I asked these people whether they have started to benefit from game directly and they said no, they are living next to farms which are owned by white people, the white people continue to invite hunters to their farms and the income derived from these hunting activities are going directly to the farmers. At least that was the perception of these people who had traditionally been the owners of these wildlife resources. This is the perception they have. Perhaps there is something else happening that they are not aware of and I am not aware. Perhaps the Minister can talk about the details of these issues, specific Regions where I do not see any benefit coming from conservancies, I do not see any sign of conservancies, such as the Ohangwena Region, Omusati, Western Kavango Region where the elephants used to transverse right from the coast to Angola, areas which used to be *the* game areas.

The people who are 80 years old tell you that since the white people put up the fence, the game has gone. Why can we then not understand in this regard the attitude of alienation that people are expressing? I think it is easy when you look at it this way to understand why people are still asking for compensation, because they do not see how these animals become a part of their economic life.

Nowadays when people die in a car accident, then the people approach the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, and they say that if a person dies in a car accident they get compensation.

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The argument put forward by the former Minister that no, people get this and that assistance, people want a similar kind of approach if a person gets killed by an elephant and they are told to be happy with a funeral assisted by the Government. (Interjection) No, I am encouraging another perspective to these issues. In fact, I think it should be straightforward compensation.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I apologise to Honourable Ulenga, but I just wanted really to share information to help him also to make his case. The Motor Vehicle Accident Fund is an insurance scheme and you have drivers and owners of motor vehicles paying a premium through a fuel levy into that fund.

It is a third person insurance scheme. You do therefore not really have people being provided with social assistance of compensation. It is an insurance scheme just like any other. In this case there is no such insurance scheme that people contribute. I am sorry for interrupting but it is very important to know that.

HON ULENGA: Thank you very much and I appreciate that information, but the issue is that my sister-in-law will not understand that approach. As far as she is concerned, if a person dies in a car accident they get compensation but if an elephant kills them, they are not compensated. They understand this money comes more or less from the public funds, they think it comes from the Government. Of course they are right because the arrangements are done through the policies of the Government. I definitely support the Vote, Honourable Chairperson and I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Chairperson, I would need a little bit of guidance because we are dealing with Environment and Tourism and at the same time under Vote 20 we have Forestry. My question will most probably be touching both bases. I do not know how it would be.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Just base it on the motivation of the Minister.

HON KAURA: Yes, on the Environment. First on the issue of Environment and Tourism, as Honourable Ulenga has said, we have areas that were earlier populated by wild animals, but even now in the sale of game, the people who own farms that are fenced off, are the ones who are benefiting from the sale of wildlife from Etosha. The ordinary people in communal areas do not benefit from there. There are areas, such as Aminuis, that were teeming with springbucks but today you hardly see any. What can the Ministry do to repopulate these areas with springbok so that they can also become tourist attraction areas in the near future?

When it comes to the issue of environment, we have a serious contradiction in environment in Namibia. We have deserts, we have areas with heavy bush encroachment and we have areas that are heavily deforested, such as the area of Oshana. Traditionally people built their homesteads with wood, so they continued to cut down wood in an area, which now has a very low availability of bush.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kaura, you are talking about the bushes.

Are you are aware that sometimes some people drive their cars between the places of our holy fire and the kraal's somewhere there? Are you aware of that?

HON KAURA: Which people?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Our visitors or the tourists.

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HON KAURA: I do not know about this, but that would be a serious violation of our tradition and the ancestors' wrath would be visited upon them if they do that.

My concern is that our people in certain areas need fuel from wood which they use for their own domestic necessities, but the wood is very scarce in those areas. In the Tsumeb area the bush encroachment is so much that there is plenty of wood there, but it is not exploited to be provided in areas where wood is scarce, like the Oshana area for example. If we could provide that wood to areas where the wood is scarce, we can deal with bush encroachment in those areas and at the same time improve the environment especially for grazing. What can be done in this kind of a situation?

People with money are burning charcoal, but that charcoal is sold abroad for barbecues there, but our own people inside the country, in areas such as Oshana in particular, are not benefiting from this charcoal business or even buying it from our own local people.

What could be done, at the same time to improve grazing and at the same time to deal with the scarcity of wood and fuel in some parts of our country? What could the Honourable Minister do in that respect?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, can you respond now?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you Honourable Members for your support for Vote 18. Since thirteen people have spoken, I hope you will also give me a chance to speak.

Unlike the Minister of Trade and Industry, at least I have backup and we will be able to respond to all your questions. I might pass some to the Deputy Minister because he has been there longer than myself.

Before I respond to the questions, Comrade Chairperson, I would like, for record-purposes, request the Honourable Members to make some corrections to the figures in my motivation statement. I am doing this to ensure that what we have

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in the statement corresponds with what is in the book. There were some typing errors.

For example, on page 3 of my motivation the amount for the Operational Budget reads N\$150,922,000 and I request you to replace it with N\$153,903,000. The amount for the Development Budget in my motivation is N\$58,368,000 and I request you to replace that with N\$55,387,000. In the following paragraph, it is stated that N\$30.6 million were allocated to special projects and that has to be replaced with N\$40.6 million.

The first figure in the first paragraph of page 4 reads N\$92,584,000 and should be replaced with N\$93,520,000. On page 8 under Programme 4, the first figure there reads N\$12,317,000 and should be replaced with N\$12,300,000. Then on page 12, the second-last paragraph, it reads N\$16,036,000 and should be replaced with N\$16,117,000. Thank you very much for your understanding and I can now turn to the response to your questions.

The first person who took the Floor is not here, but the question he raised was repeated by Comrade Hausiku, so may I therefore respond to the question raised by Comrade Hausiku which relates to the prices of the NWR.

Comrades, because this issue has been raised on many occasions, I might take a few seconds just to try to explain the situation. Of course, we all know that the Namibian Wildlife Resorts was established by an Act of Parliament to with a mandate to run the company according to general business principle and as a commercial entity.

For many years the NWR has adopted a pricing regime that was financially unsustainable and in essence amounted to Government subsidising holidays for both local and international people. It was for this reason that in April 2006, the Cabinet appointed a new Managing Director in the person of Tobie Aupindi and I already told you yesterday about the wonderful job this young man is doing in order to turn around the company.

In June 2006, Cabinet approved the turnaround strategy and called for its immediate implementation. The turnaround strategy focused on improving facilities and services to cater for a different market segment and different products to satisfy the demand according to the market analysis. The upgrading of the three facilities in Etosha was necessary to enable us to celebrate the Etosha

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Centenary in a very friendly atmosphere in 2007, as well as to address the poor state of the facilities, which continues to be criticised by the local public in Namibia as well as internationally.

I should remind this Honourable House that the Namibia Wildlife Resorts is one company that is not operating as a monopoly, it is operating in a very competitive environment and hence, there is a need for some business principles to drive that company. I must tell you that the new rate structures have therefore been determined and implemented, considering the market as well as the facilities that were upgraded. That is what we really need to pay for.

It has been argued that the Namibians cannot make use of these facilities. Of course, I hope Honourable Members are aware that NWR does provide a 25 percent discount to Namibian citizens and those with Permanent Residence. Similarly, our pensioners are given 25 percent discount and in order to encourage and to allow Namibians to relax, there are even special programmes for Namibians that run from December to March, where you can get a 50 percent discount. Why can we not make use of that opportunity?

Comrade Chairperson, maybe I also need to give some statistics for the sake of comparison. We know the new rates have now been running for five months and during that period 60,948 bed nights were sold by NWR to Namibians, which is 42 percent more than the 42,850 beds sold to Namibians over the same period before the introduction of the new rates and before the facilities were renovated.

In the same vein, a turnover of accommodation in those five months stood at N\$36.5 million compared to N\$19 million before the turnaround strategy. Therefore Colleagues, I think we need to support this institution. It is not a welfare institution, but I understand the importance for Namibians to also enjoy their scenery. But we need to pay for our relaxation. Of course, if we improve our revenue, we can try to build something cheaper, but would you like to be there?

I am also informed that this month of May all the beds of NWR are booked. People are using these facilities and we should not discourage them from using NWR facilities. We should instead encourage them and it is not good for us as Members of Parliament to be negative on this upcoming industry. I hope that you will help us to explain.

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With regard to the Namibian Tourism Board we fully agree with you and this one I want to answer together with the issue of marketing, because this is the body that we are using to market Namibia and that is why even in my motivation I mentioned that they currently have programmes to market Namibia not only to attract tourists from Europe, but also from other parts of the world.

For Namibia to protect its coastal belt is very important. Yesterday I had a meeting with the directorate responsible for this which has a comprehensive programme on this and with your permission, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I would really want the Deputy Minister to dwell on this issue for you to understand what is happening. (Interjection). No, you asked the question this year and we are going to answer this year.

Thank you Honourable Minister, for your response on the human-wildlife conflict. This question has been adequately answered and whoever has asked it, I am sure got the answer. We really need to coexist with these animals, they are part of our lives and their absence could affect us negatively. The policy is on its way and in fact, on page 5 of my motivation I have mentioned and the former Minister of Tourism also mentioned that we are now increasing the quota for hunting difficult animals. It has however to be controlled.

I informed those people present at Etosha when we were doing the groundbreaking for the new camp that Namibia is now a popular tourist destination because of our scenery and if we continue talking about wanting to make money and destroy the environment, our facilities will not be used because we have nothing to attract the tourists. Therefore, I am asking for your cooperation in whatever investments you are doing, whether you are putting up a factory, whether you discover a mine somewhere, allow our Ministry to come in and tell us how best we can exploit those resources with minimum damage to our environment. We will regret if we fail to do that. You will have your millions for the next fifty years, but after that you will regret. Therefore, we are going to be careful and very strict in protecting our environment.

Honourable Tjiuiko, I have talked about the importance of the Namibia Tourism Board and how we want it to be supported.

You are saying you want tailor-made programmes for women. Yes, we could do that but we are encouraging women to initiate their own ideas, because if the

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programmes are always tailor-made, they might end up always being dependent on you. I know there are already some projects coming up.

There are already women in Namibia who are manufacturing these small bottles of cosmetics you find in hotels and lodges, using Namibian products. We want them to benefit. We should encourage those who own those facilities to use these local products instead of importing – using the *Ontanga*, using the *Omagongo*. It is something they have initiated themselves and we just want that partnership between those who are doing this and those who have the facilities. Therefore, we can build their capacity through sensitising them.

The conservancy programme is very popular and the Ministry does not have the capacity and that is why we are restructuring the Ministry, but there are positions, which have not been budgeted for. You will find that we do not have enough people in the department to provide the necessary services. Comrade Konjore has started the restructuring and it will come to Cabinet after consultations with the Minister of Finance and the Public Service Commission and then we will need your support on that. The process is on, we are restructuring and that is the capacity we are talking about.

Comrade Kazenambo, I think you were merely underlining what I have said and it is very true that the topographic features of Namibia are attracting people to Namibia. This good bio-diversity of Namibia is attracting the people.

Honourable Mushelenga, I agree with you that the movement of animals should be monitored and the department is going to look into that very seriously.

Honourable Venaani, thank you for welcoming the community-based natural resources management, which will strengthen the conservancies. This will be done with care in order to sustain the environment and to benefit the Namibian people.

I would like the Deputy Minister to elaborate on the question of game meat. We are planning to export it but there are certain things to be done.

It was mentioned that the tourism industry is still dominated by one section of our community. Yes, it is true. We all know that this Ministry was a department before Independence and this is part of our history which we cannot run away from. The majority of the people who were serving in this department happened

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to be whites and as the Ministry was growing and more people were coming in, some of them had to leave the Ministry and now they are running the industry.

Therefore, a strategy is going to be developed so that every Namibian, black, white, coloured, should benefit from this. This is what we are trying to do and we will need your support. What we need is for all of us to be positive and not always negative and understand our history and based on that, correct what has been wrong in that history of ours.

The Namibia Tourism Board does marketing. On page 11 of my statement, I said they are even positioning themselves for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. There was a consultative meeting on this particular issue and what transpired is that we cannot only position ourselves for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, we have to look beyond that, because that is only going to be a short-term event and if you develop your facilities, targeting the FIFA World Cup, what would happen after that? We need to sustain our tourism industry and that is what the Namibia Tourism Board is working on.

Honourable Muharukua, thank you very much, I have responded to the human-wildlife conflict. You mentioned the tourists visiting Kaoko and taking pictures of the Namibians there without their permission. We have to look into this issue because we have even noticed it within the film industry. Some people go there and take photos or visuals without telling the people and we have to take note of that and look into that very seriously. There is a trust or something and we have to see how the trust is operating, which to a certain extent is maybe exploiting the people in the area. We need to see how it works.

Honourable Amweelo, I have underlined the important environmental assets and we really have that in mind. In my motivation, I said that all six programmes are linked to environment management.

There is nothing we can do without considering environmental management. It is the core function of our Ministry, the others are linked to that, and this is how we have been handling it.

Thank you, Honourable Konjore, for helping me, I appreciate that you are a good neighbour, a good person to follow.

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Honourable Ulunga used to be a Deputy Minister of Tourism and he kindly invited all the Deputy Ministers on a tour. (Interjection). No, it was not corruption, it was to introduce the Deputy Ministers to the beauty of our country and to be marketing agents wherever we are. I will not be able to give you details as to where the conservancies are and how many they are but my Deputy Minister may be able to do that. I can only give you the principle.

The establishment of conservancies is a voluntary activity. The community must show willingness and put up a programme so that the Ministry could help them to do so. Currently there are fifty communal conservancies and twenty coming up, but the Deputy Minister will give you the exact locations.

I think the Minister of Finance answered the issue of people getting compensation after accidents and I thank her very much.

Then on the sale of wildlife who are still benefiting the people who have fenced off the land. Maybe here we need to explain the issue of loaning animals to communal conservancies and I want the Deputy Minister to elaborate on this, because that is how the communities are benefiting from our wildlife.

I would like to agree on the issue of the different trends in Namibia, that we have desert, we have bush encroachment, deforestation, some people need firewood, the question of charcoal being sold on the international market and that we need to improve grazing.

I concur with you that we are in a dilemma in that we do not know whether it will be the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Tourism, but I want you to keep this question on deforestation and charcoal production until we come to Agriculture as the Minister here told me he is ready to respond.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, could you give the Floor to the Deputy Minister to answer those three questions, because people need clarity. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Deputy Minister?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will quickly touch on those issues and just fill in some areas maybe where the Minister left out some details.

Firstly, Honourable Gurirab, on the Namib Coast Conservation. We have launched a programme called NACOMA sponsored by the World Bank and it is an abbreviation for the Namibian Coastal Management Assessment, which will eventually lead to the development of a White Paper and a Policy for the management of the entire west coast.

I think you were specifically concerned about what we saw in the media with regard to the damage by off road vehicles over the big holiday seasons.

The other issue is that Cabinet has approved a proclamation of what is currently called the West Coast Recreational Area as well as within this the Sperrgebiet in the South. This will effectively mean that the entire Namibian coastline will be under dedicated conservation under the Ministry. That will soon become a thing of the past.

A quick comment on human wildlife conflict and this recurring issue, you know that every year it is the same questions and the same answer. I have only been here for three years and it is hard for me to understand that.

We have completed the policy, it has to be approved by the Management Committee, and after that, we would like to take that to Cabinet and make it a national policy document.

Another issue is that we are preparing a scheme and it is a livestock self-insurance scheme. In the Northwest currently where members of communities insure their livestock it is currently run by an NGO but we will take it over if it proves viable. It is similar to the Road Fund, it is self-insurance and if an animal is proven to be killed by a predator, that person are compensated. Therefore, no, Government is not compensating yet. If the scheme proves to be viable we will consider taking that up as a national programme.

Honourable Venaani, on the game meat, which is critical, we are not adding any value to what is a delicacy in the global market and we have seen this for some

time. We have started a process, some consultative workshops have been held.

We have already met some of the major international stakeholders, we are going through this process and will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and ultimately we see this as purely for the export market.

The good news is that only the prime parts are exported and the rest will be for local market demand. We, however, see potential for huge value addition to the product. You are right. There some of the conservancies, particularly the Torra Conservancy in the Northwest, where they have a population of more than 100,000 Springbok. They have a quota to remove 10,000 annually, which potentially has a huge value for those communities.

Honourable Venaani briefly on the NTB, the Namibian Tourism Board is underfunded. As a comparison, Government has allocated N\$25 million to them this year and they should be able to generate another N\$20 million from their own sources.

The South African counterpart this year has a Budget of more than N\$600 million, escalating to one billion over the next two years. These are our competitors in the region.

Just to give you an idea, you mentioned Kenya and we are already capitalising on that. 2010, obviously the former Minister has alluded to that, we have some firm strategies on the table already. On the East, China in particular, we have allocated money specifically for the Chinese market and so we stand to benefit greatly.

Within the next five years, the Chinese will become the largest travelling country in the world, surpassing America, North America, it is a enormous market for us.

Honourable Ulenka mentioned conservancies. I was surprised to hear you talking about insufficient progress in the conservancy programme. The conservancy programme is the most renowned community-based conservation effort in the world, without any doubt. It started only eleven years ago and there are fifty conservancies today, twenty more waiting to be registered, already involving more than 200 000 people directly. I do not think it is insufficient progress at all. The restocking programme is continuing within the Ministry to restock all conservancies. We annually publish a publication called "The State of the

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Conservancies Report” which contains all the details you asked for – the income derived, the number of animals within the conservancies, etcetera.

It is important for all the Colleagues to know that the initiation of a conservancy is not from the Ministry, it is not from Government. It is a process, which starts within a community. The community approaches us if they want to register a conservancy and then we go through the process. Therefore, your way of referring to the geographical distribution of conservancies currently and that maybe not being adequate is not up to us. It would be inappropriate for us in most ways to approach a particular community and tell them that we want them to register a conservancy. That defies the logic of the legislation and the whole programme in a great way.

The Hai-Khum people that you met at Oshivelo, it is a good observation, but once again, our Government and the Party is extremely proactive. There is a programme under the San Development Programme of the Deputy Prime Minister where we are purchasing some farms south and to the east of Etosha National Park. The ones to the east will specifically be created as a conservancy to resettle the Hai-Khum and to develop such tourism opportunities for them. We are already working on that as well.

Honourable Kaura referred to game sales and that was addressed. We have launched what is called the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme, which is specifically aimed at resettled farmers. They have to comply with certain conditions, apply to the Ministry, go through a verification process, after which we will assess the habitat and infrastructure of a farm and then allocate particular species of animals according to the assessment for a period of five years free of charge. After five years, we remove the same number from the property and the owner of the farm keeps the excess. Therefore, you effectively have the opportunity to become a game farmer free of charge.

I want to make the last remark just to complement what the Minister has said.

I comment on what Honourable Venaani said. Probably one of the most critical issues that face the Tourism Industry in Namibia now is the question of transformation of the industry. My opinion, and it is shared by the Ministry, is that this has been a constant issue, but once again, we can do a lot more to facilitate such a transformation. We have already done a number of things. The whole conservancy programme is part of a transformation process.

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If you look through the documents, you can see the Bed and Breakfast Development Programme and then another one called Small Lodges Development. Both of those are in line with getting us ready for the 2010 World Cup, where we help people with actual equity to join the tourism industry. We are going to do more and hopefully by next year this time we will report on one or two major new tools which we are thinking of to transform the industry. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Honourable //Garoëb?

HON//GAROËB: Thank you Chairperson, I only have a small thing to say. May I, although already belated, congratulate the Honourable Minister with her new position?

Honourable Members, I still believe that the question of compensation of people and properties lost because of wildlife still needs to be seriously reconsidered. I believe that there is merits in what the people say, that when people are killed in a car accident, there is the Road Accident Fund, but when wild animals kill these people, there is nothing.

I want to go one-step further by saying that if a car there kills a person is the Road Accident Fund; if a person is killed by wildlife, there must also be a Wildlife Accident Fund. Now the question is: Who is going to pay the levies for that insurance?

There are possibilities, which can be explored. There are international institutions such as CITES. I have twice been to meetings of CITES and you would never believe how adamant they are to prevent people from killing any wildlife. Institutions such as CITES, Green and other institutions and Government are putting up resistance when we ask permission to kill certain animals. They can also contribute to this fund and the conservancies may contribute a certain percentage of what they are earning from wildlife to establish such a fund. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Chairperson. Honourable Chief, as to your last comment that people are resisting that wildlife be killed is a fight which is there for your own interest and the Government does not want to employ this saying which says, “*if a child is crying for fire, give the child a fire.*” If people are crying to destroy the environment, no responsible Government can really allow that to be done and that is why an understanding needs to be reached between the Government and the people.

When I asked the Deputy Minister to give supplementary answers, he informed this House of a pilot programme currently being run by an NGO, because as it has been said in this House several times, we should really not discuss this issue of compensation lightly because it is a very serious issue. Do not think that we who are in the Government do not have feelings and we also become victims of this human-wildlife conflict, but we know the consequences if we have to open it for all. Why can us not give each other time, we continue to coexist with animals and then we may find a way out. You cannot live without these animals, they are necessary and that is why we were both created to be on this earth. Therefore, give us time to see how we can go with this programme.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection?

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I just want to correct a possible misconception. I am not against conservation. If you peruse your records, you will see that I am one of those people who are on record for having gone an extra mile on the question of conservancies. What I want to reach is an understanding between human and wildlife.

HON MEMBER: They do not understand each other. (Laughter).

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HON //GAROËB**

HON //GAROËB: There must be an understanding. (Laughter). If you say *Voertsek* to a dog, it goes, it can understand. What I want to say is we do not want to kill the animals we conserve the animals. Most of the nations that are today crying that we are killing animals are people who have already erred. They have already destroyed theirs and they are now crying as if they are innocent. (Interjections). Now what I want to say is, there can be insurance and that definitely can be arranged.

If you are so adamant to prevent something, you must also be adamant to pay for that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Any objections? It is agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

HON SPEAKER: Animals and humans can communicate. They have sense.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Speaker, I report progress and ask leave to sit again

HON SPEAKER: That brings us to the end. I agree with my Chief, animals and humans do communicate, it is a question of approach. The House stand adjourned until tomorrow 24 April 2008 at 14:30 hours.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:50 UNTIL 2008.04.24 AT 14:30