

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**SPEAKER**

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

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

Ms Loide Kasingo

**THE CABINET**

**MINISTERS**

*(21 March 2010 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)*

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs &amp; Attorney- General)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information &amp; Communication Technology)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands &amp; Resettlement)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>

Mr Isak Katali  
Mr K Kazenambo

*(Mines and Energy)*  
*(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)*

## **DEPUTY MINISTERS**

*(21 March 2010 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)*

Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i>
Mr Erastus Uutoni	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr S C Ankama Mr	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport &amp; Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr. D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>

## **SECRETARY**

Mr. J Jacobs

## **DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Mr F S Harker

**LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT**

**ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)**

Mr I Shixwameni *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

**CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)**

Mr B Ulenga *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

**DTA OF NAMIBIA**

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

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

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuko *(Chief Whip)*

**RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)**

Mr S Bezuidenhoudt

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H Lucks

Mr P Naholo

Mr K Nehova

Mr J Nyamu

Mr A von Wietersheim

**REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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

**SWANU**

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

## **SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

Mr B Amathila	
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr E Dingara	
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Mr U Herunga	
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P I Kapia	
Ms L Kasingo	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Makgone	
Ms A Manombe-Ncube	
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheaua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Mwaningange	
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

Mr A !Naruseb (Minister)  
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele  
Mr I Ngatjizeko (Minister)  
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah (Minister)  
Ms R Nghidinwa (Minister)  
Mr E Nghimtina (Minister)  
Mr U Nujoma (Minister)  
Mr P Shifeta (Deputy Minister)  
Ms D Sioka (Minister)  
Mr T Tweya (Deputy Minister)  
Mr Festus Ueitele  
Mr Erastus Uutoni (Deputy Minister)  
Mr Piet van der Walt  
Ms L Witbooi

**UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)**

Mr J //Garöeb (Party Leader)  
Mr S Tjongarero (Chief Whip)

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

Ms M Jankowski  
Prof. P Katjavivi (Mr) (Chief Whip and Deputy Chairperson of  
the Whole House Committee)  
Mr C Schleittwein (Deputy Minister)  
Mr S Simataa (Deputy Minister)  
Ms S Swartz  
Ms A Tjongarero

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
07 MAY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 15, 16, 17 23, 24, 27 and 29 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will now read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 15**  
**HON KATALI**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**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 last yesterday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 10, 11, 17, 18, 28, 30 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 13, 23 and 29 had been introduced.

**Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY”, N\$177,161,000** is put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as the custodian of Namibia’s rich endowment of mineral, geological and energy resources it is my honour and privilege to present to this august House Vote 15 of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Our Ministry promotes 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 the output of mineral and energy production is optimised for the benefit of Namibia;
- That mineral and energy production benefits the entire Nation;
- That the Nation is provided with an adequate supply of energy;
- That the negative impact of mineral and energy resource exploitation on the environment is minimised; and
- That the understanding of the geo-environment is enhanced.

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**HON KATALI**

The Ministry is engaged in activities that have a significant and far-reaching impact on the overall performance of the national economy and the well-being of the Namibian people. These activities were undertaken in line with Government policy to promote economic growth and uplift our people socio-economically. These activities involve mineral exploration and mining, diamond production and beneficiation, measures to mitigate the possible effect that the electricity shortage has on the national economy as well as running the high-resolution airborne geophysical survey programme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, with this in mind, it is a great pleasure for me to motivate our Ministry's Budget proposal according to the programmes outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The first programme being the:

In an effort to optimise the output of mineral and energy production, we have budgeted an amount of N\$36,119,000 to carry out the following activities:

During the last Financial Year, we have increased the coverage of finalised geological maps to 50% of the country, geo-chemical sampling to 13% of the country, and high-resolution airborne geophysical surveying to an almost complete coverage of 98%. We shall continue with the geological mapping programme in our efforts to make these data digitally available in an easy to use format. An internet-based metadata-database, which eventually will allow clients to view maps and other data products available from the Geological Survey online, is currently in the testing phase. However, it has proved that review and restructuring of the database is required to improve the structure and access of data. The interpretation of remote sensing data plays an important role, as our country is vast, and the number of geologists in our Ministry is small. They cannot visit all the remote places. It is, therefore, important that the Ministry continues with its acquisition of this data. We undertook an even larger high-resolution airborne geophysical survey compared to previous years, to ensure total coverage of the country. We are required to continue providing data of the highest standard, interpret the surveyed data and stay on the competitive edge. An amount of N\$12,000,000 has been budgeted for this.

It has been proven that exploration expenditure and availability of high-resolution geophysical data are directly correlated, and in these times of uncertainty, our data are essential for 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.

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. A total amount of N\$2,800,000 is budgeted for these activities.

Under the geological sample storage and database project an additional core-shed to the one in Windhoek was established at Tsumeb and equipping the facility has been completed. The new facility will store all the core samples from the northern, north-western and that of north-eastern parts of Namibia. The geological information stored in these facilities greatly promotes geological research, mining and exploration activities in Namibia. The earth data database is used to manage this valuable information. An amount of N\$1,000,000 has been budgeted to maintain, review, restructure and add new modules of the borehole data.

As an initiative of the Geological Survey, to establish environmental baseline studies and to provide information to stakeholders in Mining and decision-making sectors, a Regional geo-chemical sampling survey has been started. The target of the project is to depict natural geo-chemical distribution of elements all over Namibia to enable delineation of potential mineral deposits. An amount of N\$1,600,000 is allocated to carry out this programme. To be able to analyse the samples collected, the existing geo-chemical laboratories at the Geological Survey require a technical upgrading that includes specialised training of staff. The geo-laboratories upgrading and staff training requires an amount of N\$1,800,000 this Financial Year.

Mining has been one of the busiest and most productive components of the national economy, particularly in terms of minerals exploration. Exploration expenditure has surpassed annual statistics and our country has attracted

exploration and mining companies from all over the world, making it currently one of the most favourable destinations, not only in Africa, but also around the world. We will honour our commitments to the international community in terms of satisfying accords related to mineral sector, whilst also ensuring that investors are good corporate citizens.

In order to provide the required services to the industry and Government, we have budgeted N\$9,674,000 for staff salaries and other benefits for the Directorate of Mines. In addition, an amount of N\$1,752,000 has been budgeted for other related activities.

The mining sector was severely affected by the global economic crisis. Most commodity prices declined considerably, especially the copper prices and that sector experienced a total collapse with the Weatherly Mining Namibia mines being placed under care and maintenance at the end of 2008. The diamond industry also suffered a setback due to decline in rough diamond prices and low demand, recording production of only **939,916 carats** during 2009, and representing a 58% decline in output from the previous year. The industry experienced approximately 2,700 permanent job losses since 2008. In order to control cost escalation, some major expansion projects were either put on hold or cancelled entirely.

The diamond sector has further been negatively impacted on, as the cutting and polishing factories experienced difficulties in sourcing funds to purchase diamonds and thus are unable to maintain or increase the level of employment and production capacities. A number of them have already laid off several employees, but we have seen an improvement on this issue since the beginning of this year and late 2009.

Despite, the negative impacts of the economic crises, the uranium industry maintained its momentum and contributed 10% towards the world uranium output. The mining sector contributed 15.8% in 2008 to GDP and generated N\$9,077,326,262 in 2009 in export earnings. Royalties collected for the benefit of the State Revenue Fund from diamonds was N\$386,143,132 while N\$100,682,909 were from other minerals.

The development of the Ohorongo cement quarry and the construction of the plant are at an advanced stage. The operation is expected to create approximately 300 direct jobs and plus minus 2,000 indirect jobs. Areva's Uranium Trekkopje project is busy with trial mining and construction and plus 8,000 pounds of U3O8 (yellow cake) were produced during 2009. During the 2009 Financial Year, the Langer Heinrich Mine produced 2.9 million pounds of yellow cake - an increase of over 60%. At the end of June 2009, the mine had exceeded Stage I design of 2.6 million pounds. The Langer Heinrich Uranium Mine Stage II construction, which will expand production to 3.7 million pounds per annum, was completed in June 2009. Rössing South, a uranium project owned by Extract Resources is expected to complete their feasibility study by 2010, while a number of several other uranium exploration projects are progressing well.

Samicor Diamond Mining has informed the Ministry that it is busy with a sampling programme to delineate reserves totalling plus minus 5 million carats and to build and modify dredge mining and processing vessels at an investment of US\$280 million. NAMDEB also anticipates producing about 1,105,000 carats during 2010. Salt and Chemicals plans to expand its salt refining plant in Walvis Bay by end 2010.

Five small scale mining feasibility study projects were awarded to consultant firms, some of which were found to be technically feasible and are ready for implementation this year. All these projects are aimed at value addition, Regional economic development and promote self-sustainability.

The Ministry has encouraged the creation of Regional Small Scale Mining Associations in order to establish formal structures that can access assistance more easily. Committees were set up from the stakeholders to steer the implementation process of specific work plans for major needs such as improved marketing, understanding geology and environment, and health and safety matters.

Successful implementation of the Erongo Small Miners Association was achieved with the strong commitment of the Directorate of Mines, Rössing Foundation, the BGR-GSN (German and Namibian Geological Surveys Cooperation Project)-Project and high level support from the industry; in

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particular Rössing Uranium and Navachab gold mines.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, during 2009, about 170 Exclusive Prospecting Licenses and four Mining Licenses were granted.

Our Ministry implemented the Gazette to levy royalties in terms of Section 114 of the Act on the other minerals in addition to diamonds and dimension stones, resulting in substantial, though not fully as desired, contribution to the State Revenue Fund.

Due to some challenges in implementing the Gazette, and specifically with two companies that threatened to challenge the legality of the portions of Section 114 of the Act, an amendment was successfully tabled and with the support of both Houses passed, to remove the technical ambiguities and implement the section in its entirety. In order to recoup some of the funds that were due and payable up to the period when all mineral licence holders have accepted the levying of royalties, we have varied the rate levied on one specific company, to 6 percent as opposed to 3% applicable to all others. To date, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, all mineral licence holders have agreed to comply with the law and will pay accordingly. I am also proud to inform the House that during the first two months of 2010 alone, we have already collected more than N\$100 million in royalties.

Despite the economic downturn, Namibia continues to attract reasonable levels of interest in the mineral exploration and mining sectors, with notable interests coming from the expanding economies of China and India as well as Japan and Brazil, countries that have not historically had visible presence in the Namibian mining sector.

The Oshikoto Gold Project in the Grootfontein–Kombat–Otavi–Otjiwarongo area has had its own challenges due to the complex geology. However, I am now informed that a stronger technical and financial partnership will advance the project to feasibility stage to determine the viability of the project. The deposit is suitable for open cast methods but may also employ underground mining to optimally exploit the deep ore body.

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Exploration for base and rare metals, precious metals and industrial minerals throughout the country are progressing well, with notable interest in phosphate as an industrial mineral off the country's coast attracting several companies. Diamond exploration in Kavango and Caprivi areas continue, albeit at a much reduced pace due to the depressed diamond market.

I am also pleased to report that exploration for uranium remains strong, as demand for long term supply of uranium has been relatively stable over the last few years. Industry predicts that demand for uranium as an energy mineral will continue for a very long time to come.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the finalisation of the Minerals Bill and its Regulations are at an advanced stage and it will be tabled during the course of the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

Cooperation with strategic development partners to draft the Uranium Policy, Legislation and Regulations has been initiated to ensure the safety and security of this very strategic resource and to comply with the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This is particularly important in view of the fact that Namibia could become the third largest producer of uranium in the world within the next two years. Further options in consideration of the Cabinet directive to look into nuclear energy generation are also being undertaken.

Our Ministry will work on policies and other regulatory instruments to ensure that mineral rights are issued to the deserving, who will contribute positively to the development of the industry and Namibia at large.

We have a moral responsibility to ensure that mineral and energy production benefits the Nation. An amount of N\$21,170,000 has been budgeted to pursue the activities of Black Economic Empowerment is a noble tool in this endeavour. It aims at addressing 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. As soon as the TESEF is finalised, we envisage to have Black Economic

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Empowerment charters for the electricity, petroleum and the mining sectors in place.

In the award of both consultancy and contractors' work for the rural electrification programme over the last few years, we continued to place emphasis on Black Economic Empowerment 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 contractors residing in those areas that amounted to about N\$3.6 million in the last Financial Year. These measures are meant to enhance our Black Economic Empowerment Programme.

To address the persistent skills shortage within the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the industry, the Minerals Development Fund sponsored students to attend training at the Zimbabwe School of Mines to the tune of N\$810,150 and all the 15 intakes for last year are currently placed at various mines in Namibia for practical attachments. This is an ongoing programme aimed at building adequate Namibian capacity in the minerals industry for the next five years and another 15 students have already registered for the 2010 academic year.

In order to enforce the legislations and regulations, inspectors visit the operations to discuss issues related to, amongst others, health and safety. As a result of the ongoing engagements, our industry has had a relatively commendable record with only one fatality in the last year. We shall continue to improve this record to a fatality-free mining sector. We shall emphasise that mining companies should not put profits before human lives.

In the course of this Financial Year, we shall continue to increase resource allocation from the Minerals Development Fund to small miners. Through the Geological Survey of Namibia and its counterpart organisation, the German Geological Survey, we are also assisting the small-scale miners and a sales kiosk is currently being built for the sale of mineral specimen at the Spitzkoppe turn-off. The laboratory of our Geological Survey also assists these people with mineral analysis. However, I must reiterate that more needs to be done to develop this sector.

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The diamond industry has been in a depressed state for the past year and a half and we are realising a rebound and therefore consumer confidence. Diamonds will continue to play a major role in the country's economy, going forward. Clearly the global economy is recovering as economic confidence rebounds around the world. We are already witnessing increased sales, albeit at reduced prices, at NAMDEB, which is reflective of consumer confidence.

It is against that background that diamond security must continue to be a priority by our Ministry. We will continue to be vigilant by ensuring that we protect the rough diamonds at source by making sure that most of the diamonds are recovered in processes that are as much "*hands-off*" as possible. To do this we have to rely much on technology but more importantly, our inspectors who have been deployed on-site at operations onshore and offshore play an indispensable role as the eyes and ears of the Government by ensuring that all operators play by the rules and comply with all the statutory obligations.

I am pleased to inform the Honourable House that Namibia has served as the Chair of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme during the year 2009. The Secretariat was hosted at the Ministry of Mines and Energy. We held the Annual Intercessional in Windhoek, while the Annual Plenary meetings took place at Swakopmund in June and November of 2009, respectively.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, value addition to Namibia's mineral commodities is a stated policy position of the Namibian Government, which is in line with Vision 2030 and NDP III and SWAPO Party Manifesto. Already sixteen cutting and polishing factories have been established and commissioned since the promulgation of the Diamond Act in the year 2000. Unfortunately, much of the gains realised so far are being eroded by the ongoing financial crisis. Nonetheless, our Ministry will continue to monitor global developments that impact on this key sector.

An amount of N\$94,020,000 is required for the provision of adequate supply of energy to the Nation.

Oil and gas exploration remains a critical element to achieve security of supply of energy to the Nation and we continue to focus on these activities.

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Exploration and supporting activities, such as licensing, attract huge investments resulting in substantial revenue for the State. We expect an increase in petroleum exploration in Namibia during the next few years as we continue to lure international oil companies that are attracted by our stable legal framework as well as the information gathered by the junior exploration companies who have been active here during the past five years. As we speak, drilling for coal-bed methane is taking place in the Aranos area and we expect results to be announced in the next few months. If discovered, coal-bed methane can be utilised to produce electricity, which will go a long way to solve our energy shortage in the country. Other oil and gas exploration activities are continuing offshore Namibia as planned and we remain hopeful for a discovery of petroleum in the not too distant future.

As far as the Kudu Gas Field development is concerned, we have allowed the entry of a new role player in the upstream leg of the project. After the expiry of the previous four year petroleum production licence, the Ministry decided to issue a new license with Gazprom International, Namcor, Tullow and Itochu holding equity. Gazprom will apply to the ECB for an Individual Power Producer licence, in which NamPower will also have an equity stake, in the near future to build an 800 megawatt power station in Namibia to meet Namibia's electricity needs and to export the excess electricity to South Africa. These new developments give us more hope to realise our dream to move from a net importer to a net exporter of electricity in the next three years or so.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, our Ministry shall continue with rural electrification by providing village reticulation as well as connecting all wired localities to the main electricity grid in twelve Regions of the country. The Khomas Region is the only exception, as there does not seem to be a locality that needs to be electrified. During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, an amount of N\$56 million was budgeted for rural electrification and 38 villages, including schools, clinics and other Government institutions in twelve Regions have benefited from this programme. The budgeted amount for rural electrification has now been increased to N\$64 million in the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The Ministry is still committed to the Electricity Supply Industry Restructuring. We continue to do consultations with our stakeholders in order to arrive at an acceptable model in the distribution process.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the bilateral project through the Permanent Joint Technical Commission between Angola and Namibia to develop the Baynes Hydropower Scheme on the Kunene River is progressing well. The feasibility studies for Techno-Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment are underway. All studies are expected to be completed before the end of 2010. The Ministry has also engaged NamPower to investigate the possibility of constructing a Small Hydro Plant on the Orange River and progress on these investigations is at an advance stage. In an attempt to address the power shortage in the country, NamPower is currently constructing a High Voltage Direct Current line (Caprivi Link) to interconnect Namibia to its northern neighbours. Our reliance on cheap imported electricity from South Africa has put us in a vulnerable position and it might be necessary for us to make some tough choices in future in order to ensure adequacy, reliability and security of power supply to the country. This transmission line will serve as an import export route and, most importantly, will connect Caprivi Region to the rest of Namibian Electricity Grid.

The Ministry introduced an Off-grid Electrification Programme through which remote communities benefit via the solar electrification of their remote schools, clinics, police stations and agricultural development centres. In addition, the Ministry has a solar revolving fund, which is providing credit financing to private individuals for acquiring renewable energy technologies, to which it contributed an amount of N\$1,152 million that led to the sale of 97 solar systems around the country. The successful implementation of the Off-grid Electrification Programme would ensure that more off-grid communities would have access to basic alternative energy products and services.

We budgeted an amount of N\$620,000 for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices of which N\$600,000 was spent on the acquisition of promotion material to ensure increased awareness among the Namibian Nation. Training for solar technology installers to ensure that suitable capacity exists to support the implementation of the Off-grid Electrification Programme as well as training for wood-efficient stove manufacturers to combat deforestation has been conducted.

The energy sector has been doing very well during the past year, especially by ensuring that the Nation has been adequately supplied and continuous supply

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of electricity and petroleum products. The industry has witnessed crude oil prices crumbling as a result of improving expectations of a global economic recovery and higher oil consumption offsetting concerns about the high level of oil inventories which had been suppressing crude oil prices for the Financial Year under review to the levels of N\$5 to N\$7. With the onset of the sluggish global economic recovery, early this year, crude oil prices slightly picked up above last year's levels at N\$7 records. The Ministry kept the pump prices substantially low by subsidising the pump prices countrywide.

Our Ministry endeavours to make fuel provision to the far remote and rural areas a priority to enhance Government policies on socio-economic upliftment in such areas. The Ministry continues to implement an annual study/survey based on the methodology, which ensures that dealer margins remain sustainable where the driveway related operating cost should not be 80% of the gross profit for the year. A sustainable dealer margin, which is regularly revised, holds many benefits for the fuel retail industry. Concomitant to that, the Ministry also subsidised the transportation of fuel requirements to the rural areas to the tune of N\$500 million through the National Energy Fund Division.

**MINIMISATION OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF  
MINERAL/ENERGY RESOURCE EXPLOITATION ON THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

We have set aside an amount of N\$10,756,000 for the following efforts:

Our Ministry increased its activities in environmental geology as well as urban and Regional land use planning. All major mines in Namibia were monitored by the Division of Engineering and Environmental Geology of the Geological Survey. Our geologists collected hundreds of samples around the mines and analysed them. In some cases severe environmental problems exist around the roughly 200 abandoned mine sites in Namibia. Examples are Berg Aukas, Oamites as well as the active Tsumeb smelter. Our Ministry developed strategies to mitigate adverse and negative impacts on human health and solve these problems.

Uranium mining is booming, especially in the sensitive areas of the Central Namib. Beside the three existing uranium mines, Rössing, Langer Heinrich and Trekkopje, we expect three or even more additional mines to be opened within

the next years. This development will create thousands of jobs, but housing, infrastructure, as well as water and electricity supply have to be organised in a relatively short time and with a minimised impact on the Namib environment. To assess all those aspects, their cumulative or synergistic effects and to develop a comprehensive strategic management plan, our Ministry took the lead to conduct the first ever in the world Strategic Environmental, Economic and Social Assessment for the mining sector. A series of baseline surveys and studies of the highest standards and with the best available methodologies are undertaken by our Ministry through the Geological Survey and its cooperation partner, the Geological Survey of Germany. This will guarantee sustainable development in the coastal area, not only according to international best practice, but by setting a new standard. The Strategic Environmental, Economic and Social Assessment process is expected to come to an end towards the end of June 2010. At this point the Division of Engineering and Environmental Geology will take on the task of monitoring against collected baseline data. Until all other Governmental institutions are ready to take on some of the monitoring activities in Erongo, these will currently lie with our Ministry.

**ENHANCEMENT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GEO-ENVIRONMENT**

An amount of N\$15,096,000 will cover efforts to enhance the understanding of the geo-environment.

The geological aspects of new infrastructure developments, existing and new

waste disposal sites, and coastal zone changes 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 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 and the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth.

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Our Ministry has also been elected by representatives of all African Geological Surveys to represent the continent on the Steering Committee of the “*OneGeology*” project, a project under the International Year aiming at compiling a digital geological map of the world and making it internet-accessible. Our Ministry is the Regional Councillor, representing the African continent on International Association of Giant Ore Deposit.

Information on geological matters is continuously provided through the Ministry’s museum and library, which attract scientists, tourists, scholars and all other Namibians alike. We, therefore, fulfil our other role in earth science education.

The application of earth sciences in supporting wealth creation, quality of life, and laying the foundation 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 NDPIII and Vision 2030.

Honourable Chairperson, in conclusion, I would like to assure Members of this House that the N\$177,161,000 I request for appropriation to our Ministry will be utilised prudently to improve the quality of life of our people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and staff for a well-constructed Budget. Furthermore, I would like to thank the staff members of our Ministry for their dedication and hard work. Finally, let me express my appreciation and thanks to the companies in the mining and energy sectors who had been good corporate citizens. I thank you.

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

Thank you.

**Vote 16 – “JUSTICE”, N\$326,735,000** is put for Introduction.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 16  
HON NAMBAHU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of Parliament, it is an honour for me to stand before you, on behalf of the Minister of Justice, who is out of the country on an important national assignment, to motivate the Budget requirements of the Ministry of Justice, Vote 16, for the Financial Year 2010 to 2011.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and the Cabinet who availed additional financial resources to Vote 16 to address pressing issues which the Ministry of Justice grappled with for quite some time, key of which are the strengthening of the capacity of various directorates to efficiently render legal and judicial services.

I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the Minister for Presidential Affairs and the Attorney-General, the Chief Justice, the Judge President, the Ombudsman, the Chairman of the Magistrates Commission, the Prosecutor-General, the Permanent Secretary and the entire management and staff of the Ministry of Justice for having executed their various functions with dedication and professionalism, despite the many challenges they faced.

Honourable Members, the Ministry of Justice has adopted a Strategic Plan based on the Balanced Scorecard approach to implement strategic management. The implementation of the new Strategic Plan allows the Ministry to measure its performance against set objectives and implement strategic initiatives and programmes to transform the Ministry into a strategy-focused organisation as opposed to a Budget-focused organisation.

The Strategic Plan's additional spin-off is that the Ministry's staff now have a better understanding of how their everyday work links to the Ministry's vision and mission statements and therefore, takes a more balanced view to their work. The Strategic Plan is also a proactive tool that enables the Ministry to better identify problems, rectify them and then communicate action and progress to all its stakeholders in a simple format.

Through the Strategic Plan the Ministry has set progressive performance targets which will be met over a number of years. Performance outcomes based on the targets for the last Financial Year will be presented here today. The Strategic Plan has furthermore enabled this Ministry to designate both implementing and supporting components to monitor, evaluate and implement

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the strategic objectives. During the review period three monitoring and evaluating meetings were held to track the implementation of the Ministry's Key Performance Indicators.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of Parliament, during the review period the Ministry embarked upon various initiatives and programmes to improve organisational performance, meet stakeholders' expectations, and increase staff competencies. I am pleased to report that, indeed, the Ministry of Justice was able to meet a number of key performance targets.

With regard to the target set to measure the country's performance on African Governance covering the sub-sector: Rule of Law, Transparency and Corruption, the country improved its ranking from being in the top five to being in the top four on the continent. As per the set target, the Ministry of Justice also undertook eight awareness-raising public events all over the country to boost its public education drive.

In the area of learning and growth, the Ministry also achieved remarkable progress on its performance targets. The Ministry exceeded its target on the development of appropriate skills, knowledge and attitude of its staff members by organising programmes aimed at enhancing the competencies of its employees. In this regard, each employee received eleven days of training per year as opposed to the target of five days per year.

Equally, in the area of strategic leadership, the Ministry exceeded its performance target by 9% as it was able to launch a management development programme for both its established leaders and the emerging managers, which was delivered in partnership with the Business School of the University of Stellenbosch. The same training initiatives will be pursued during this Financial Year.

The Ministry also outperformed its target on the need to leverage Information Communication Technologies (ICT) to boost both organisational performance and staff effectiveness. During the reporting period 63% of the Ministry's staff members were provided with Personal Computers.

However, the Ministry's performance with regard to some targets, especially on the need to conduct accessibility and quality perception surveys, to

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streamline key business processes, to offer e-services and implement a customer care framework were not accomplished. The delay in implementing these worthwhile initiatives was caused by the late granting of permission by oversight bodies to engage outside consultants, given the complexity of these exercises. I am glad to inform this august House and through it the public out there, that all these initiatives are now at an advanced stage of implementation as all consultants are engaged. Accordingly, the necessary Budgetary allocations were made so that these key initiatives could be implemented during the current Financial Year.

It is also envisaged that the Ministry will implement a Balanced Scorecard Monitoring and Evaluation System to enable it to track on-line the performance of various strategic objectives, key initiatives and performance targets during this Financial Year. Most importantly, the Ministry's Strategic Plan will be cascaded to all its divisions and to those staff members with supervisory and management responsibilities for implementation and monitoring. This initiative will provide a solid foundation for the introduction of a performance appraisal system for the Ministry's staff.

The Ministry of Justice has been directed by Cabinet to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the NDP3 policy objectives for the Key Result Area, encompassing a cluster of eight Ministries and Government Agencies, such as the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Safety and Security. This cluster of Ministries is directed to advance peace, social justice and good governance in the country. NDP3 furthermore places of Justice the responsibility to make certain that fair trial and administrative justice is provided to the Namibian citizenry and to ascertain that all our laws are responsive to the needs of the Namibian population on the Ministry.

Honourable Members of Parliament, the total appropriation amount sought for the Ministry of Justice amounts to N\$326,735,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The appropriation sought for this Financial Year represents a 12.4% increase from last year's allocation. Of that amount, 88%, that is, N\$287,486,000 is intended for the Recurrent Budget, and the remainder, 12% is intended for allocation towards the Development Budget.

Having succinctly highlighted the various services and programmes being

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rendered under the ambit of the Ministry of Justice, I now wish to highlight some activities which I feel obliged to report to this august House on, before I summarily break down the total requested allocation figure per each service:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of Parliament during the past year the Prosecutor-General embarked on the implementation of Prosecution-Guided Investigations set out in the Ministry's Strategic Plan. The intention of introducing this initiative is to enable the Prosecutor-General to actively assist in the investigation of crime to enable the collection of adequate and relevant evidence that would ensure that crime is effectively prosecuted. This initiative will minimise the number of withdrawals and acquittals, which is often the result of poor investigations. In this respect, the Prosecutor-General and prosecutors will provide guidelines to police officers when investigating criminal cases. Additional advantages of this concept is that the backlog of cases can be reduced as cases will be investigated in the shortest possible time and matters can thus be speedily tried, without having to be postponed for the purpose of further investigations.

The Government is firmly committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, Rule of Law and democracy – the three key principles that underpin Namibia's world-acclaimed democratic Constitution. In this regard, the Government is mindful of the invaluable role that the Superior Courts play as the judicial guarantor of the realisation of these noble ideals in pursuit of good governance and transparency in public management.

An improved and expanded administration of justice, particularly at the High Court level, is indispensable for the realisation of the abovementioned notions of human rights, Rule of Law and democracy. The strengthening and expansion of the High Court facilities and services are, therefore, aimed at the greater realisation of those three important goals in Namibia's national life. Furthermore, the strengthening and expansion of the High Court facilities and services will also contribute to the delivery of quality and effective services to all our citizens as well as meeting our many international objectives.

In this respect, a second High Court building was inaugurated at Oshakati on 25 September 2009. Although at the moment the primary focus of the Judges based at Oshakati is the criminal roll of the Court, the High Court sitting at Oshakati will, ultimately, as is the case in Windhoek, deal with the full spectrum of cases.

The High Court bench was increased to ten Judges with the appointment of four additional permanent Judges on 1 December 2009 and one additional permanent Judge to the High Court Bench on 15 March 2010. The Supreme Court Bench, consisting of the Chief Justice and one permanent Judge of Appeal, was also increased by one additional Judge of Appeal. In addition, a Chief Registrar was appointed for the High and Supreme Court during March 2009 and two Deputy-Registrars were appointed during January 2010.

It is also apparent that crime in the country is on the increase and as a result, the workload of Magistrates is also increasing. Apart from presiding in Criminal Courts, Magistrates are also responsible for other specialised Courts and quasi-judicial inquiries, such as Children's Courts, domestic violence inquiries, inquests, Civil Court and various other quasi-judicial and administrative functions.

For too long the Magistracy's performance was negatively affected by the lack of professionally qualified adjudicators. As a result, seven Magistrate Courts had no fulltime Magistrates. It is for this reason that the Ministry of Justice introduced an Aspirant Magistrate Training Programme during the 2008/2009 Financial Year. During the period under review another group of eleven Aspirant Magistrates was recruited and trained for a period of four months. Four of them were appointed as Magistrates and the rest took up appointments as Public Prosecutors and legal aid counsels.

Furthermore, the Namibian Magistrates Courts Information System (NAMCIS), which automates both the cash hall functions and the Court Roll in the lower courts, has been extended to Magistrates' Offices in Swakopmund, Omaruru, Usakos, Karibib, Walvis Bay, Okahandja, Rehoboth and Gobabis during the reporting period. The NAMCIS roll-out will be extended to ten more magistrate courts during this Financial Year. Training of magistrates and support staff operating NAMCIS is conducted on a continuous basis to ensure the smooth roll-out of this system to other Courts.

The purpose of the Community Courts Act of 2003 is to provide for the recognition and establishment of Community Courts. The Act further provides for the appointment of Justices, Clerks and Messengers of the said Courts. Traditional communities may apply to the Minister of Justice for the recognition of their courts, who shall recognise a Community Court by publishing a Notice in the Government Gazette.

Certain groundwork had to be done before the Act could become fully operational. To date, 32 Community Courts were recognised and assessors and justices were appointed. An organisational structure has been created for the Division: Community Courts on the establishment of the Directorate Court Services, consisting of seven posts. These posts were advertised and the Ministry is in the process of appointing suitable candidates. Additionally, several forms have been developed and an Administrative Manual is being printed for use in the proper administration of these Community Courts.

A workshop is also planned for all Clerks of Community Courts to train them on quasi-judicial and financial matters which are of relevance in the operation of Community Courts in terms of the Act and Regulations. This training is necessary to ensure that the various records are kept in order, as such records will be examined and audited annually by the Auditor-General.

The provision of legal aid entails the provision of financial assistance to enable persons with inadequate means to engage the services of legal practitioners for purposes of legal representation in various Courts in a variety of cases.

Parliament passed the Legal Aid Act, 1990 to facilitate implementation of the constitutional promise in Article 95(h) of the Constitution for the State to promote the welfare of the people by, among others, providing free legal aid in defined cases. Pursuant to the Act, a number of eligible applicants were assisted during the period under review.

During the reporting period the Directorate received 6,039 applications. 4,277 of those applications were approved, translating in 71% of applications being approved.

The Caprivi Treason Trial remains the highest cost driver of this Sub-Vote as it takes about 50% of the total Budget for legal costs.

### **Deceased Estates, Trusts and Guardian's Fund**

The Master of the High Court is required by statute to serve the public through the supervision of the administration of deceased estates, liquidations (insolvent estates), registrations of trusts, appointments of and administration pertaining to tutors and curators, and the administration of the Guardian Fund in respect of minors and mentally challenged persons.

The Master of the High Court administers the Guardian Fund. This Fund is created to administer funds which are paid to the Master on behalf of various persons, known or unknown, such as minors, persons incapable of managing their own affairs, unborn heirs, missing or absent persons or persons having an interest of a usufructuary or fideicommissary nature, in the money.

The Master introduced two projects during the previous Financial Year to raise awareness of the functions of the Directorate in respect of deceased estates, insolvencies, trusts, curatorships and tutorships, liquidations, Guardian Fund and to engage with stakeholders and also raise awareness amongst those stakeholders that deal with the public at large. Two thousand pamphlets were also distributed at various police roadblocks in Windhoek, Oshakati and Lüderitz to raise awareness of the mentioned functions of the Master of the High Court amongst the public.

The Ombudsman reports separately on its activities. The following is, therefore, only a very brief summary of its activities during the reporting period. The Ombudsman is responsible for the investigation of complaints relating to mal-administration, human rights violations and protection of the environment. The Ombudsman defends human rights and initiates and provides public education in the said field. The Ombudsman is also formally recognised as the National Human Rights Institution of Namibia.

During the period April 2009 to March 2010, the Office received 1,694 complaints. 365 of these complaints were received during complaint intake clinics which were conducted in all Regions of Namibia to extend the Office's reach and accessibility. These include complaint intake clinics at all the prison facilities throughout Namibia as well as visits to police cells. Of the total complaints received, 75% were resolved.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2010, the Ombudsman celebrated Constitution Day by honouring the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Namibian Constitution with a dinner where the original Members of the Constituent Assembly and the First Parliament were brought together.

The Ombudsman also hosted a National Human Rights Conference in May 2009, where the need for a National Human Rights Action Plan was identified. The drafting process for such an action plan was started and the Ombudsman was appointed by the Prime Minister at the end of 2009 as the focal agency for

the drafting process. This process is to continue during this Financial Year and it is envisioned to formally launch such a plan during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. Substantial inputs and resources will, however, be needed to realise this effort.

Namibia recognises the need to adhere to internationally agreed norms and standards in the conduct of its relations with foreign states and organisations. In this regard, our legislation needs to be reviewed and/or amended in order to facilitate domestic implementation of international instruments which we have ratified or acceded to.

Namibia is party to a number of international treaties and agreements and has assumed obligations to give effect in domestic law to such agreements. The world is becoming smaller in terms of criminal networks, which pose a serious threat to a healthy global economy and global safety. Namibia cannot be regarded as a safe haven for foreign criminals neither can it be regarded as a gateway for trans-national organised crime.

Namibia is also party to a number of bilateral and multilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance and extradition. We, however, need far more treaties of this kind with a number of countries in order to form a closer network of cooperation in order to combat trans-national organised crime; ensure effective enforcement of reciprocal maintenance orders and rendering and receiving of effective and timeous mutual legal assistance.

The Directorates Government Attorney and Legal Advice resort under the Attorney-General. The Government Attorney is a public law firm as all its clients are public institutions and Political Office-bearers. Its mandate is to provide the State with quality and cost-effective legal practitioner's services.

During the review period the Government Attorney acted on behalf of the State in various legal matters and is expected to continue playing the same important role in the current Financial Year.

The Directorate of Legal Advice is mandated to furnish legal opinions to the President, Ministries, Agencies and statutory organisations, such as Regional Councils and municipalities. The Directorate furthermore scrutinises various international agreements and treaties in order to make sure that the same are in compliance with the Namibian law. Therefore, it is vital that the necessary

resources be made available to enable this important entity to operate optimally.

### **Capital Projects**

A total amount of N\$10,255,000 was allocated under the Ministry's capital Budget for the upgrading and construction of Magistrate's Courts. The allocated funds were earmarked for the construction of a new Magistrate Court at Tsumkwe, upgrading of Okakarara Magistrate's Court and the preparation of documentation for a new Magistrate's Court at Otjinene.

Additionally, funds were utilised to renovate the magistrate's courts at Khorixas, Omaruru, Karibib, Windhoek, Otjiwarongo, Swakopmund, Opuwo, Ondangwa, Oshakati, Rehoboth and Bethanie. In addition, feasibility studies were carried out for the construction of additional courtroom facilities at Outapi and Eenhana.

### **Supreme Court Renovation**

A total amount of N\$8,600,000 was allocated towards the renovation of the Supreme Court building. This particular amount of funds was based on preliminary geo-technical investigations carried out to assess the structural condition of the building, which indicated that a foundation settlement had occurred, and suggested that major underpinning works should be carried out around the building.

However, after further investigations were done, it turned out that only minimal underpinning activities would be required during the envisaged renovations. Although the Ministry had requested the Ministry of Works and Transport to implement the renovation project in March 2009, the contractor was only appointed in March 2010, which was too late to utilise any of the allocated funds.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of Parliament, 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 to achieve the Ministry's vision: *"To be a model provider of accessible and timeous justice for all"*.

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HON NAMBAHU**

To summarise, the following amounts are required for each of the programmes that are administered by the Ministry of Justice under Vote 16:

**Administration of justice**

Court services	N\$187,216,000
Legal Aid	N\$30,765,000
Prosecution of crime	N\$44,559,000
Deceased estates, Guardian Fund and Trusts	N\$10,277,000

**Provision of legal services**

Legal services and litigation	N\$28,774,000
Law Development and Legislative Drafting	N\$13,337,000
International Co-operation	N\$ 2,724,000

**Promotion of Good Governance**

Fair administration Natural resources and Human Rights (Office of the Ombudsman)	N\$ 7,561,000
Protection of fundamental Human Rights and freedoms	N\$ 1,522,000
<b>Totalling:</b>	<b>N\$326,735,000</b>

I now seek the indulgence of the House to approve the allocation totalling **N\$326,735,000** for Vote 16. I thank you!

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

Thank you. Honourable Members, may I at this stage just deviate slightly from the agenda before you and on behalf of the National Assembly I would like to recognise the delegation from the Catholic Women's Movement, an umbrella body for the Catholic Church under the Namibian Bishops' Conference who are visiting us and they are in the public gallery. Among them is Mrs Elma Dienda, a former Member of Parliament who served in this National Assembly. I just wanted to recognise them.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 27  
HON KAZENAMBO**

I put **Vote 27 – “YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE”, N\$459,260,000** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is my distinct honour to present to this august House the Budget request for Vote 27: Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

First of all allow me to congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, and her entire team, for having managed to allocate resources to programmes that stimulate economic growth.

The proposed Budget allocation for this Ministry the 2010/2011 Financial Year amounts to **N\$459,260,000**.

This amount represents:

N\$411,180,000 for the Operational Budget; and  
N\$48,080,000 for the Development Budget

The Budget of our Ministry as expressed in the Medium Term Plan comprises of four programmes:

**PROGRAMME 1: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The main purpose of this programme is to empower, encourage and support the full and effective constructive participation of 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 under this programme are as follows:

- Youth Volunteerism
- Youth Health Development
- Juvenile / Child Justice
- Capacity Building

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- Environmental Education
- Youth Exchange Programme
- Youth Gender
- Rural Youth Development
- National Youth Council
- Youth Training
- Youth Expo Activities
- Administration of loans of the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme:
- Consultancies

The proposed Budget allocation for these activities amounts to N\$290,000.

**Provision of Facilities**

The following are the Capital Projects under this activity:

- Katima Mulilo Multi Purpose Youth Resource Construction Centre;
- Frans Dimbare Integrated Rural Youth Development Construction Centre;
- Construction of Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth Centre;
- Relocation of Farm Duplessis RDC to Otjinene-Upgrading;
- Mariental Multi Purpose Youth Resource Centre Construction;
- Construction of Gobabis Multi Purpose Youth Resource Centre;
- Construction of Okahao Youth Skills Training Centre;
- Construction of Maria Mwengere (Rundu) Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre;
- Construction of Okahandja Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre;
- Construction of Opuwo Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre.

**Youth Opportunities – National Youth Service (NYS)**

- **Relocation the headquarters of National Youth Service (NYS) from Berg Aukas to Rietfontein**

The proposed Operational Budget for these activities is N\$237,231,000.

The proposed Budget allocation for these Capital Projects amounts to N\$32,080,000.

The total Budget requested for this programme is **N\$269,311,000**.

**PROGRAMME 2: SPORT**

The main purpose of this programme is to encourage and enable all Namibians in all the Regions to participate in the sport codes of their choice, to expand participation in sporting events and to raise the international profile of Namibia in all sporting areas, to ensure that all Namibians have the opportunity to participate in sporting events and enhance national sporting image and pride in the country.

The programme is responsible for: provision and maintenance of basic sports facilities in all thirteen Regions with sufficient population densities to justify the establishment of such facilities, sports equipment and transport to facilitate attendance of Namibians in sports events at all levels.

I must admit here, that providing modern sport infrastructures and facilities of quality is an extremely expensive business. The same applies to the provision of quality training. Budgetary allocations from Government sources alone cannot and will thus never be sufficient, therefore I urge and at the same time thank the private sector, donor agencies and other stakeholders who assist in this regard.

**MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS PROGRAMME ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- Mobility Facilitation

This is one aspect that exhausts the Budget of the Directorate of Sport in our Ministry. Geographically, Namibia is a very vast country and it requires a great deal of resources to access all communities and schools. To involve all Namibians in sport activities and to provide all communities with sport equipment, transport is greatly needed. Therefore, our Ministry relies heavily on rental of buses from the private sectors and Government Garage, which makes transport a very costly exercise. The magnitude and the frequency of the events both nationally and internationally lead to the early depletion of the transport Budget.

Sport is an activity which necessitates a great deal of travelling, both locally and internationally. This travelling puts a great deal of demand on the resources allocated for transport and travelling and subsistence allowances for both officials and drivers. Therefore, if sport has to flourish in our country, due consideration should be given to the financial guidelines of the resources allocated to the Directorate of Sport in our Ministry.

Despite the challenges our Ministry managed to provide transport to its stakeholders, starting from grassroots activities to international events.

- Provision of Sport Equipment;
- Provision of Conducive Sport Environment in the Regions;
- Encouragement of Excellency in Sport;
- Financial assistance to national and international sport bodies where we are required to.
- Establishment of a body for People with Different Abilities;
- Preparation and participation in the 2010 World Cup Soccer Competition;
- Preparation and participation in rugby competitions;
- Participation in Olympic Games;
- Preparation and participation in Commonwealth Games;

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- Preparation and participation of athletics in all African Games and
- Provision and Maintenance of Basic Sports Facilities.

Construction of the **Eenhana Sport Complex** has already started and phase two is about to be completed. This stadium will be the first that is user-friendly for people with different abilities.

Phase two of this facility, as well as the Swakopmund Sport Complex phase five were supposed to have been completed in the previous Financial Year 2009/2010. However, money budgeted for this project was viremented to renovate the Independence Stadium in Windhoek. The stadium in Windhoek had to be renovated to prepare it to host the celebrations for the 20<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary of our country.

The renovations were also done with the hope of attracting teams which had qualified for 2010 FIFA World Cup in neighbouring South Africa, to come to have training camps here.

The first four phases of the **Swakopmund Sport Complex**, which include the main pavilion, caretaker house and synthetic track, has been successfully completed. Phase 5, which includes abolition block, safety fence and a second pavilion, is still to be completed. Since this was an ongoing project, the tender for this Financial Year has already been awarded.

The purchasing of the plot for the **Windhoek Centre of Excellence** is in the process. The project was delayed due to difficulties in acquiring the plot. Construction is to start during this Financial Year, 2010/2011.

The total Operational Budget for these activities is N\$66,538,000.

The total Capital Projects amount to N\$9,000,000.

The total Budget request for this programme is N\$75,538,000.

**PROGRAMME 3: ARTS**

The Arts Directorate is responsible for the identification and development of the creative skills of Namibians and for the promotion of Namibian arts and artists on a national, regional and international level.

This contributes to the development of the creative arts industry as a means to create employment and to alleviate poverty.

An increase in the creative capacity of the Nation paves the way for it to become a manufacturing, rather than consumer-oriented country, and also for the building of creative capital through intellectual property, registered designs, trademarks and patents. This is a reliable indicator of economic prosperity and the entrepreneurial capacity of a country.

The Directorate of Arts, therefore, strives to develop Namibia's creative artistic capacity in terms of the use of available resources and new technologies, so as to empower Namibians to design, compose, produce and manufacture unique, marketable art products of quality.

**The main activities under the arts programme are as follows:**

- Research, Documentation, Data Analysis and Strategic Development;
- Arts Education and Training;
- Arts Promotion and Creative Industry Development;
- Promotion of Visual Arts and
- Promotion of Performing Arts

The total Operational Budget for these activities is N\$51,026,000.

**Development of the Infrastructure**

- National Theatre and National Art Gallery upgrading
- Boiler House Theatre upgrading: Katutura Community Arts Centre (KCAC)

The total Budget for these Capital Projects is N\$3,000,000.

The total Budget request for this programme is N\$54,026,000.

The main purpose of the heritage and culture programme is to identify, develop and promote the culture and heritage of Namibians for the purpose of nation-building, employment creation and the nurturing of national pride, identity and unity in diversity.

The main activities under this programme are as follows:

- Exchange Programmes on Culture

Namibia is part of a global community. Therefore we share our diverse cultures by receiving culture groups from friendly sovereign states and we send our own people to do so similarly. In this way we build good and cordial relations internationally. We become enriched by learning from world cultures and we hope that those sharing our cultures become similarly enriched. We put a lot of emphasis on this, particularly since our liberation from political oppression was made possible through international solidarity – among other things. During the year under review, we had cultural exchanges with Cuba and South Africa by sending culture groups there. We also participated in the AU Culture Festival in Algiers, Algeria with most African States.

Under Cultural Activities the following important

- Increase the number of cultural groups
- Purchasing special equipment for the National Museum and to;
- Optimise availability and conditions of cultural heritage, museum collections and exhibitions;

The National Heritage Council of Namibia was established in March 2006 in terms of the National Heritage Act, (Act 27 of 2004). It is responsible for in-situ conservation of national heritage in all its diversity.

There is also a particular need for training professional heritage workers in cultural disciplines such as archaeology, anthropology, conservators and cultural officers, for which bursaries should be made available.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

In addition, new sites have been declared as national monuments, some others are soon to be declared. To this end, human remains found in Lüderitz will be buried at Shark Island according to the Cabinet decision, which will bring additional responsibilities with financial bearing to the heritage sector. Again, already established shrines placed under the custody of the Heritage Council, such as, Eenhana, Omgulumbashe, just to mention a few, also need second phase development projects that are halted because of financial implications.

Heritage conservation without public appreciation of their heritage would be a losing battle, thus the National Museum and National Heritage Council have initiated public educational programmes to promote awareness.

We have developed more than four hundred School Culture Clubs for Development since Independence. We want one for every school by the end of 2015. Most of the clubs concentrate on traditional culture. However, we want to broaden the scope to include history, traditional research and music. We need to empower the Namibian youth with a smart partnership between parents, teachers, learners and Government bureaucrats.

The total Operational Budget for these activities is N\$56,385,000.

**Capital Projects are geared to:**

- Develop culture industry and training facilities;
- Establishment of Cultural Centres and Villages countrywide;
- Construction of Omuthiya Multi Purpose Culture Centre and
- Brandberg National Monument Construction

The total Development Budget for these activities is N\$4,000,000.

In conclusion I would like to thank the team of our Ministry, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary, Management and all the staff members for assisting me in compiling this Budget motivation speech.

I now request this august House to approve the expenditure request of our Ministry amounting to N\$459,260,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year and I thank you.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 24  
HON NGHIMTINA**

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

Thank you.

**Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT”, N\$1,308,829,000** is put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I stand here today to present Vote 24 of the Department of Transport in the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Vote 24 caters to ensure the development of efficient and effective transport infrastructure which promotes economic development and social upliftment.

The Ministry is mandated, amongst others, with the task of ensuring that the mobility needs of people and industry are met. After meeting these needs, it is expected that these expensive Government assets are managed to the benefit of the Nation.

The Honourable Members of this august House and the public at large will agree with me to say that transportation infrastructures such as roads, rail, air and water transport are the catalysts that facilitate smooth flow of people, goods and services for the betterment of any Nation. The Namibian Government continues to ensure progressive development of the much-needed means of transport for our economic emancipation, the Ministry of Works and Transport is expected to ensure that the development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure ought not to be compromised.

Transport corridors are geared towards facilitating Regional economic integration. Investments within a Public-Private Partnership approach have resulted in increased cross-border trade and traffic volumes on the Walvis Bay Corridors, namely the Trans-Kalahari, Trans-Caprivi and Trans-Kunene.

They include, among others, the rehabilitation of the Trans-Caprivi Highway, construction of the Sesheke Bridge over the Zambezi River, upgrading of the Walvis Bay Airport as well as upgrading of the Port of Walvis Bay. The socio-economic spin-offs accruing out of transportation corridors within the context of spatial development initiatives cannot be over-emphasised.

There is no doubt that Namibia is well on her way towards transforming the Port of Walvis Bay into a competitive port of choice and major gateway to East-European markets and the Americas and into southern Africa.

Honourable Members, as you may be aware, the Government of the Republic of Namibia already decided in 2006 to move from project-based development assistance in the road sub-sector to a Sector-Wide Approach in the form of sub-sector Budget support. Based on the study and the input from stakeholder workshop, a tentative Policy Matrix, an Action Plan and an Implementation Schedule was compiled.

The Policy Matrix proposes actions to work towards short-term achievements in line with Government's own processes and reform efforts in order to improve existing procedures and to contribute to the successful implementation of the Sector-Wide Approach. To this end, various development partners that are active in the Namibian roads sub-sector support the sector-wide approach, namely, Germany, the European Commission, the Chinese, Japanese, etcetera.

Subsequent to this, particularly in line with the White Paper on Transport Policy of 1995, the roads sub-sector prepared a Medium to Long Term Roads Master Plan upon which the annual work plans are prepared. That is the Medium to Long Term Roads Master Plan combines the result of various Regional Roads Master Plans that address road development needs in the Regions and in particular for the previously neglected areas of Namibia. The purpose of the Medium to Long Term Roads Master Plan is to:

- Achieve the integration of development, rehabilitation and maintenance funding in line with best practices;
- Expand the planning horizon to a period of 20 years;
- Address the existing backlog in road preservation;
- Provide for the needs of specifically rural access roads and to
- Achieve sustainability concerning the levels of road user charges.

In essence, the aim of the Sector-Wide Approach in the transport sub-sector is a policy shift which comprises seven assessment areas, namely,

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HON NGHIMTINA**

Macroeconomic Framework, Sub-sector Policy and Overall Strategic Framework, Medium Term Expenditure Framework, Accountability and Public Expenditure Management Systems, Donor Coordination System, Performance Monitoring, Client Consultation Systems as well Institutional and Capacity Issues. The Sector-Wide Approach aims at strengthening Government-owned strategies and contributing to the development of a sustainable sub-sector with efficient institutions and a coherent policy framework and donor coordination system.

To this end, a performance and governance contract with State-Owned-Enterprises which resort under our Ministry has been completed and the date for the signing ceremony has been set for the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. This institutionalisation of a performance monitoring system is the initiative aimed at raising accountability services delivery, predictability and confidence in the manner of doing business with these State-Owned-Enterprises.

Namibia cannot ignore the significance of infrastructure development and maintenance because this will plunge the country in poverty and hunger resulting from limited movement of goods and service. I firmly believe that the Namibian transport infrastructure can boost our potential to prosper even during the world economic downturn. It is, therefore, necessary for us to open up the existing and untapped markets through the provision of adequate and world-class transportation infrastructures. This remains at the core of service delivery for our citizens.

Investing into the development of the transportation infrastructure has far-reaching benefits that can trigger the creation of employment opportunities and can keep all economic sectors afloat in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Countries that are prospering in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are the ones that take cognisance of the positive impacts of well-developed and well-maintained transportation networks throughout their communities.

It is our wish as a Ministry responsible for transport matters to deliver on the expectations of the Namibian people and execute the responsibilities entrusted to us in this portfolio. We, therefore, demand from the Honourable Members to render necessary support in order to realise this important national dream and pride.

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Below are some of road infrastructure developments that have been carried out over the past few years, in an effort to eliminate challenges that are prompted by lack of transportation networks.

Allow me to enumerate the Ministry's achievements attained in the preceding 2009/2010 Financial Year in the Road sub-sector as relates to a number of road construction projects that were carried out over the past years:

**District Road Muyako – Ngoma 36 kilometres in Caprivi Region:** The road was completed in March 2010. It was executed by one Plant Contractor in partnership with four Small and Medium Enterprise contractors. Three Small and Medium Enterprise contractors were managed by women and the contract amount to N\$32.4 million.

**Eiseb- Gam -Epukiro in Omaheke Region** The project was divided into four sections.

The first section is 73 kilometres; it runs from **Gam Junction – Benjamin Post – Eiseb 10 Post**. The construction for this section was completed in September 2009.

The second section is from **Epukiro (Okatumba Gate) – Benjamin Post**. The total length is 75 kilometres. This section was completed in January 2009.

The third section is from **Gam Junction – Gam Settlement, Gam Junction – Eiseb 10 Post**. The total length is 87 kilometres and was completed in January 2009.

The fourth section comprehends a final layer of gravel of 100 millimetres thick additional on top of Project 1 and Project 2. The construction of this section will be completed in June 2010.

**Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu road (370 kilometres):** This project is co-financed by the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation and our Government. The project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru covers 134 kilometres and out of that 120 kilometres have been completed and is open to traffic. Phase I will be completed in November 2010.

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Phase 2 of the Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu (236 kilometres) Road has commenced with the construction in May 2009.

**Rehabilitation of Okahandja-Karibib:** The project is co-financed by Government and German Technical Cooperation through the new Sector Wide Approach Mechanism. The total length is 77 kilometres and out of that 75 kilometres length is completed and opens to traffic. The project will be completed by August 2010.

**Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi:** The total length is 220 kilometres. The project is divided in three sections. The total length for Section A is 70 kilometres. The construction commenced in February 2009 and 18 kilometres length out of 70 is completed. The project is expected to be completed by June 2011.

**Maintenance of the Aerodrome:** During the last Financial Year the Ministry did the blading works on Tsumkwe, Okakarara, Kamanjab, Sesfontein and Opuwo Aerodromes. while on Mariental cracks sealing and slurry sealing was done. The maintenance works of sealing cracks and slurry sealing was also done on the road between Katutura State Hospital and Windhoek Central State Hospitals.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me now to introduce the ongoing Budget programmes under Vote 24 of the Ministry of Works and Transport for which the Ministry requires funding under the current Financial Year.

**PROGRAMMES 1, 2, 3: ROADS CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADING,  
ROADS REHABILITATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT  
OF THE NATIONAL ROADS NETWORKS:**

The purpose of this programme is to construct rural gravel roads, to improve rural roads to bitumen-paved roads and to upgrade trunk and main roads to bitumen standard. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the continuation of the construction and upgrading of the following roads:

Okahao–Omakange (83 km), Gobabis–Otjinene–Grootfontein Link (157 km), Oshikuku-Okalongo (23 km), Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu (370km), Tsumeb–Tsintsabis–Katwitwi (220 km), Liselo–Linyanti-Singalamwe-Kongola (205 km), Mangetti-West branching off from Oshivelo/Ondangwa

main road at Casa Blanca to link with Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi Road (52 km), Ekamba-Onkani (55 km), Ohakweenyanga-Omagongati Road (11 km), Tondoro-Kamupupu (13 km), Rupara/Muveve-Gcangu (13 km) as well as commencement for the construction of the following labour-based and gravel roads.

Labour Based:

1. Ngoma (Izimwe) – Nakabolelwa 23 km (Caprivi Region);
2. Kamupupu to Mbururu 26 km (Kavango Region);
3. Kaisosi to Cuma 35 km (Kavango Region);
4. Tjova to Divayi 26 km (Kavango Region);
5. Okatana–Ongwediva–Onamutai 19 km (Oshana Region);
6. Outapi-Okapalelona Border Post 45 km (Omusati Region);
7. Oshikuku–Ekangolinene 26 km (Omusati Region)
8. Oshandi–Eembahu–Oshiweda 33 km (Ohangwena Region)

Gravel roads

1. Onalulago–Epembe 46 km (Ohangwena Region)
2. Oshapapa-Epumbu 25 km (Oshikoto Region)
3. Onayena–Onankali 24.4 km (Oshikoto Region)
4. Omuthiya–Onanke 33.4 km (Oshikoto Region)

Another purpose of this programme is the rehabilitation, maintenance and management of the most valuable asset of the Nation – National Road Network. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the rehabilitation of Okahandja–Karibib Phase II (35 km).

I, therefore, request for an amount of N\$629,583,000

**PROGRAMME 4: RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT,  
REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE:**

Under the National Development Plan III framework of Highly Developed and Reliable Infrastructure the expected outcome of this programme is an Upgraded, Expanded, Reliable and Efficient Rail Network that ensures provision of safe, secure, effective infrastructure and services to the Namibian Nation and beyond.

The programme focuses on multitude of factors, which include design and construction of new railway lines, conducting feasibility studies for new rail lines, upgrading, rehabilitation of aged railway lines, acquisition of new locomotives and rolling stock in order to provide efficient and effective rail transport services to the Nation, setting up of inter-modal trans-shipment facilities etcetera.

**Some of the programme objectives are:** To extend the Namibian Railway Line System to connect to neighbouring countries; ensure continued provision of railway line services by maintaining; upgrading and rehabilitating aged railway line sections; increase maintenance of railway infrastructure, equipment, radio control systems to ensure efficient; effective and trouble-free rail operations, to modernisation and upgrading the rolling stock to higher speed and to acquire new rolling stock to boost rail transportation services.

With regard to ongoing activities I would like to state the following:

The construction of the Ondangwa to Oshikango (Northern Railway Line Extension Phase II) earthworks embankment, sleeper manufacturing, ballast stone crushing components are completed. Work is ongoing at the two road-over-rail bridges and access roads. Construction of the station buildings at Oshikango, acquisition of rails and construction of the permanent way is anticipated to be completed by 2011.

Rehabilitation and upgrading of the Aus to Lüderitz railway line is also ongoing, with earthworks embankment for the remaining 70 kilometres planned for completion mid-2010.

Inspections, scheduled repairs and emergency repairs is ongoing on 2,419 km of track, including turnouts, loop lines, station yards, track signage and geometry:

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Sleeper, turnout, rail wear, rail joint, road and level crossing signage, broken rails, welding repairs, etcetera and tamping of ballast. Maintenance on 192 steel bridges and 5,335 rail culverts is undertaken. Station building maintenance and signalling systems (train control system) is also being done.

**Sleeper Manufacturing Factory:** The Ministry, jointly with TransNamib Holdings Limited, issued a call for an Expression of Interest to set up a sleeper manufacturing plant in Tsumeb. A successful bidder was found and an agreement to set up and start concrete sleeper production before the end of the year is concluded.

The factory will have a capacity to produce 500 concrete sleepers per day, but it can be upgradable to 1,000 sleepers. Approximately 100 people will be employed.

Likewise a Call for an Expression of Interest for the Consultancy to Rehabilitate the Walvis-Bay to Tsumeb railway line section was issued.

Several companies submitted their bids and evaluation still needs to be completed.

A pre-feasibility study for the Trans-Kalahari railway link between Namibia and Botswana, funded by the World Bank, was commissioned. A final report is expected before November 2010.

A full feasibility study for the Trans-Caprivi Railway link to the envisaged Cape Fria harbour was also commissioned. The Final Feasibility Study Report is expected by mid-May 2010.

A Call for Expression of Interest to Supply GPS Based Fleet Management Systems for vehicles and locomotives was issued. Trains are still controlled by means of an antiquated radio-based system. With the implementation of a modern train control system, we will be able to track the positions of our equipment at any time of a day. In addition, two locomotives were refurbished in Namibia and two were refurbished in South Africa. This is ongoing with another fourteen to be refurbished during the next two years. Five accidents damaged locomotives were repaired and put back in service, while some cattle wagons were converted to other uses.

Negotiations between the rail operator and Local Authorities to provide speed

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humps at level crossings are taking place. Speed humps are the most practical solution to improve safety for vehicle. Two level crossings were provided with traffic calming measures at Swakopmund and Tsumeb.

For this programme I am requesting an amount of N\$187,131,000

**PROGRAMME 5: AIR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

The purpose of this programme is to ensure a safe, secure and efficient civil aviation infrastructure that contributes to national security, the economy and that promotes aviation safety in Namibia, by fostering the planning and development of air transport that ensure a safe, orderly and efficient growth of Civil Aviation to develop its infrastructure.

Other activities under this programme are:

- To regulate air transport services and
- To promote aviation safety through the conduct of independent and objective investigation into accidents and incidents in line with the convention on Civil Aviation and in accordance with the Civil Aviation Act, as well as the provision of Government Air Transport services for schedule & non-schedule flights for Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

The Tower at Hosea Kutako International Airport is constructed and the radar system is installed. The Eurocat X display system at Eros Airport is installed and the Site Acceptance will be done in June 2010. The Wide Area Multi-Lateration is progressing very well. The Site Acceptance is scheduled for May 2010.

In the construction of air traffic control towers at Katima Mulilo and Swakopmund Airport, the Tender for the Construction of the Tower at Katima Mulilo has been awarded by the Tender Board, and the construction is expected to start soon. The Ministry is in the process to appoint a consultant for the Swakopmund Tower.

The construction of the Walvis Bay Airport has ended in the Arbitration Court in Paris. The Ministry is, however, confident that all actions taken by the

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Ministry was in the interest of the Government of Namibia, and therefore the project should be completed shortly.

For the construction of the Directorate: Civil Aviation Headquarters, the International Civil Aviation Organisation experts currently in Namibia had raised some new requirements, and therefore the drawings had to be revisited by the architects. The project is anticipated to start within this Financial Year.

The Ministry continues to collect en-route and approach charges. The total funds collected during the previous 12 month period was N\$48,6 million. This is a great achievement for this Ministry.

In addition, International Civil Aviation Organisation experts assigned to the Ministry are rendering valuable services by providing advice in the setting of high civil aviation security and safety standards, resulting in minimising aviation incidents and accidents.

**Work in Progress:**

1. The new Government Hangar is 70% near completion
2. The dispatch rate was 98% in 2009/2010 Financial Year
3. All the flights that were requested and confirmed were completed successfully
4. The acquisition of the Falcon 7X is 50% in progress.

As a result of safety recommendations generated by the investigators, there has been a reduction in aviation occurrences observed during the year 2009 and the first quarter of the year 2010, when compared to the year 2007 and 2008.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$365,958,000.

**PROGRAMME 6: METEOROLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT**

As the Ministry's mandate is huge and above all, multifaceted, it is expected of the Meteorological Service to have a proper and adequate meteorological

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infrastructure to conform to regional and international expectations, therefore the purpose of this programme is to extend and upgrade the Meteorological Infrastructure to ensure compliance with the World Meteorological Organisation Convention and with the SADC protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology as well as contribute to the safety and well-being of the citizens in the reduction of property losses and added values, sustainable economic growth by collecting and analysing of weather and climate data and the provision of predictions and warnings, information and advice.

This will enable Namibia to adequately respond to the ever-growing demands of users of meteorological data, information and services in the aviation, tourism, agriculture, fisheries and so on.

The extension and upgrading of the facilities of the meteorological services, Automatic Weather Stations, Upper Air Observations in some towns have been established as well as Meteorological Offices in almost all the Regions. Katima Mulilo, Grootfontein, Ondangwa, Walvis Bay and Keetmanshoop now have specialised Regional offices to give the much-needed information to the wider public.

For the 2010/2011 Financial Year, an amount of N\$16 million has been budgeted and allocated for the Development Budget to Namibia Meteorological Services. Two Capital Projects are earmarked for this Financial Year, namely the Meteorological Radar System and Meteorological Office Complex in Rundu.

The work of the Meteorological Service and its significance to the public and the Nation cannot be over-emphasised as it has been witnessed during our rainy season. Information and warnings pertaining to or caused by weather have been adequately given.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$34,889,000.

**PROGRAMME 7: MARITIME AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT  
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY**

The purpose of this programme is to ensure the fulfilment of the Ministry's objectives regarding safety of life and property at sea, protection of the marine

environment from pollution by ships and the promotion of national maritime interests.

The following activities in the maritime sector were undertaken during the year under review:

- Draft Merchant Shipping Radio Regulations was completed and ready for promulgation by the Ministry.
- The revised draft Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill is with the Cabinet Committee on Legislation for perusal and advice on the way forward.
- The Merchant Shipping Fees Regulations of 1998 have been amended and repealed by the new Regulations.

Safety awareness among seafaring communities in the country continue to improve drastically due to the Ministry's consistent efforts to enforce maritime safety rules, through conduct of safety inspections, surveys and verifications not only on board ships, but also the competence of seafarers on handling emergencies at sea.

Further, the remaining new shore-based navigational aids (racons) for safety guidance of ships and boats along the Namibian coast have been fully installed at various critical positions, including the Sylvia Hill near Holland's Birds Island and Oranjemund.

Accession to the Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping of Fishermen was effected.

The following activities will be embarked upon and carried out during this Financial Year:

1. Completion and commissioning of the Zambezi River landing craft and related matters.
2. Completion and promulgation of the revised Merchant Shipping Radio Regulations, repealing the old regulations of 1998.
3. Construction of new offices for the Directorate Maritime Affairs in Walvis Bay, with a view to enhance delivery of maritime services.

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4. Drafting of new regulations for safety of small vessels/boats at the sea and on inland waters.
5. Upgrade the emergency radio communication equipment to serve the National Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre in Walvis Bay.
6. Acquire and install a maritime radar system that will cater for the ships' safety and security, as well as monitor ships' operations in the national waters.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$48,674,000.

**PROGRAMME 8: GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

The purpose of this programme is to provide Government with reliable and safe road transport services. The allocated amount will be used for personnel expenditure as well as for goods and other services.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$42,594,000.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in light of the above outlined programmes, I humbly submit Vote 24 for the total amount of **N\$1,308,829,000** for your consideration and approval.

Last but not least, I wish to express my sincere appreciation towards the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Honourable Deputy Minister and staff for their efforts in putting together an inspiring Budget for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. I thank you for your attention.

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

Thank you very much. I would like to thank the Honourable Ministers and Deputy Minister for introducing their respective votes.

**Vote 13 – “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”, is put for Discussion.**

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, first let me congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the staff members of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for a well-motivated Vote. Congratulations. I have only three contributions to make.

On page 11, under Programme Tertiary Health Care mention is made of provision of pharmaceuticals and other commodities. This bulk provision costs a lot of money and as much as they are expensive, they also keep on disappearing and we will keep on replacing them unless something drastically is done about security services at the entrances to all health facilities. It seems that the security officers at the entrances do not know what their duties are. In short, they are inefficient.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I suggest that we seriously look into the issue and even take appropriate measures about the security services. I have been passing through there and I have been asked to open the boot of my car. The boot of my car is a mobile office, there are so many things in there. When you open, they peep in, they close and you may proceed. Then what is the good of opening the boot? I suggest that something serious must be done because we are losing many commodities through those gates where the security people are, doing nothing.

On page 12, the second paragraph, upgrading and renovation of hospitals. Our hospitals do not have intercom systems in the wards. Most of the time it is difficult for the patients to call the nurses when they need them. Not all patients have relatives with them and most of these hospitals mentioned here are referral hospitals, which means these patients are from other areas. I want to suggest that while we are doing this upgrading and renovations, we look into the issue of installing intercom systems in the wards, but not in paediatric wards and not in the acute psychiatric wards.

My third and last point is on nursing care services. On page 6 we are given the number of health personnel who completed their training and those who are in the service of the Ministry, but it is also a well-known fact that the numbers do to render the service. The numbers are good, congratulations, but something serious and drastic must be done about our nursing care services. I am reliably informed that when people in some areas have an emergency during the night, the person on call who is supposed to be there is absent and the relatives are

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HON TJIHUIKO**

told to go and collect the person. If they do not have transport, what happens? This is not good and I would urge the Minister and the Deputy Minister and everybody to seriously look into these issues because it is a disservice to the Nation.

With these few words, I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Tjihuiiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Let me start with the commitment of the Ruling Party mentioned on page 20 of the Election Manifesto: *“Upliftment of our people’s health.”*

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, health, education and the economy have been declared as priority sectors. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** And housing.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** It is not here, that is why I did not mention it. When one looks at the Ministry of Health and Social Services, one should not only look at what the Ministry was supposed to have done, we should look at the past couple of years that I have been critically looking at the efforts of the Ministry. One can see that there is a political will, no question about that, for the Ministry to improve services. One can only look at the cleanliness of the hospitals right now, but one thing that I have not seen is the commitment by us to support the Ministry. If one looks at the Capital Budget of the Ministry while we expect an improvement in all the referral hospitals in this country, then we have not done any justice to the funding of that Ministry and, obviously, this Budget is water under the bridge, there is nothing we can do about it. However, let us look at next year’s Budget, let us see whether we cannot increase the Development Budget, specifically to support the Ministry’s efforts mentioned on page 12, namely the upgrading and renovation of Katutura, Oshakati, Rundu Hospitals, Windhoek Central and the Maternity

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HON DR ANKAMA**

Ward at Windhoek Central Hospital. Honourable Minister of Finance, we need for. I am not the Minister of Health, but I want to be treated in a proper hospital. All of us have reached an age where we cannot say we will not go to hospital and I do not want to be treated in South Africa or Botswana or Zimbabwe because we do not have facilities in Namibia. We need to do it now. That is my call.

The N\$2,4 billion put aside for the new nurses to be trained, keeping up the morale and providing good services is not bad, but I feel that for one or two years we should look at increasing the Budget of the Ministry of Health to not less than N\$3 billion. Let us cut somewhere just for one or two years as a priority.

I only had those two points that I wanted to emphasise and I hope that next year we will make this Ministry a priority and if nothing happens, then I think it is without our rights to ask His Excellency the President to fire the Minister, because we have provided him with all the necessary support and if he has failed, then he does not deserve to be the Minister.

In conclusion, Honourable Minister, I want you to look at the second paragraph on page 2 of your statement and answer this question: I do not know whether you were serious about what you said here and I will read it to you: *“We have just celebrated twenty years of Independence while commemorating the SWAPO Party’s 50 years of tested leadership for the Independence struggle, reconstruction and development.”* I do not know whether this is what you really meant or perhaps it is something that was put in by the officials. With that I thank you very much and I rest my case.

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Ankama.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is a question.

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HON DR KAWANA**

I have gone through the documents and I have probably overlooked where it mentioned cancer treatment. Cancer has become a problem in Namibia and I think it is coupled to El Nino and climate change, but there is no mention of cancer treatment and facilities in the motivation speech.

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-**

**GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 13. Honourable Minister, through you, Comrade Deputy Chair, I have a few questions.

My first question is with regard to health services in Impalila Island. Comrade Minister, you are aware of the outcry in that part of our country and this issue was taken up by the former Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Libertine, and subsequently, Veteran Toivo Ya Toivo. That community requested that they be provided with at least a health centre, because whenever people need treatment, they have to cross the border to either Botswana or Zambia and since they are not citizens of those countries, they have to pay. They even depend on those two foreign countries for mortuaries.

I want to know, Honourable Minister, whether, as per your promise, you are prepared to station two nurses there, at least one of whom must be a registered nurse and in addition, to have a doctor periodically visiting the island to treat people who are sick in that part of our country.

Secondly, I would like to thank you, Honourable Minister – and I am speaking on Programme 2 – District and Health Services – for the wonderful job you did with regard to the massive expansion of Eenhana Hospital. You will remember that after visiting Onandjokwe Hospital I was very depressed because that hospital was in a terrible state of dilapidation and I thank you that you took up that challenge and today I am a very happy citizen. I went back there to check at Onandjokwe and I was definitely very impressed.

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RT HON ANGULA**

You may also recall that when I visited the Oshakati Hospital, because when I visit some of those areas, I visit the facilities to see how the Government is rendering services to our Nation, I was also depressed at one point about the Intensive Care Unit. I phoned you, Comrade Minister, while you were abroad about particularly the equipment in the Intensive Care Unit, but when I went back to check, I found some contractors busy expanding and upgrading that hospital. I thank you very much for that and also with regard to the Tsandi Hospital. My request is that you also consider Outapi and Onesi Hospitals.

I also want to thank you for the ambulances. When I went to the North, I counted about 40 ambulances heading north. I do not know how many ambulances you have received, but I would like to commend you and your staff for a job well done. Otherwise, I support Vote 13.

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

Thank you. Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Of course I support Vote 13. On page 7, paragraph 8, mention is made of Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality. It is a well-known fact that maternal mortality in Namibia has increased and very disturbingly so. I am happy that this programme has been launched to fight this preventable occurrence. However, I am still concerned about child health and child mortality, because if we do not do anything about this, we will never reach the Millennium Development Goals and there is a review of the Millennium Development Goals by the United Nations in September and I hope that the Minister will have a programme to address child mortality, as he is trying to address maternal mortality.

It is a well-known fact that child mortality is sometimes a consequence of malnutrition and it is further a well-known fact that malnutrition in Namibia among the children below the age of five is close to 30%. This is really disturbing and I hope that all of us, Parliamentarians, communities, the private sector and good citizens will put our heads together to fight malnutrition.

A National Alliance for Improved Nutrition has been founded and I hope that we will all become members and also that the private sector will contribute to

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HON NAMOLOH**

that. Without improving nutrition, child mortality is likely to continue to be very high. With those few words, I once again support Vote 13.

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

Thank you. Honourable Namoloh.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First I would like to wish my brother the best in whatever they are doing to improve the health services in our country.

Mention is made on page 3 of the outbreak of diseases. I know it is a matter of environment and I have spoken before about the use of plastic in this country. Why can we not use paper bags? Can we not have a law to restrict the use of plastic bags? In India and many countries they use paper bags, but when people come here, they know we have no law and make use of plastic. Honourable Minister, I think the outbreak of diseases can be the result of an untidy environment.

On page 6 mention is made of human resources and capacity development. I would want to congratulate you and I urge you and your team to work hard to improve on the attitudes of some of the health personnel. You need to establish very good nurse-doctor-patient relations. We have spoken about it and changes have taken place, but still we need to do more. If you go to the hospitals unannounced and listen to the conversations between patients and nurses, you do not feel comfortable and this situation needs to be improved upon. People should be there to save lives and not only for the cheque. It is fundamental that they understand they are there to save lives. Some patients die while waiting on benches or stretches and they need to determine which patients need urgent attention. I know they are trying to improve the situation, but we need people to save lives and to have good relations with the patients. With these few words, I support Vote 13. Thank you.

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HON NGHIDINWA**

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Nghidinwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As a nurse who spent 31 years in the nursing profession, it is obvious that I need to support Vote 13, the Vote of all human beings from before birth to their departure from this planet.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health and Social Services to register all babies born in their facilities.

I also want to congratulate the Honourable Minister, his Deputy and all colleagues in the health sector for a job well done during this time of critical and chronic diseases being dealt with on a daily basis.

On page 7 the Minister deals with the HIV patients and clients. They look healthy as a result of Anti-Retroviral Treatment. Even the death rate, according to the death certificates issued by the Ministry, has decreased.

Honourable Minister, I am really very happy about the establishment of the Medical School mentioned on page 5, because it will address all the health problems in rural areas. I therefore wish all the medical students well and they should work hard for the future benefit of the Namibian people and the African continent at large.

My third point is the information I have that plans are in an advanced stage to bring the Nursing Directorate back to the system, because only the Nursing Directorate will address the problem of nursing care in the Ministry of Health. The Directorate will ensure proper supervision of nurses.

I would also like to request that we again have the third category of nursing, which is that of nursing assistant, because the nursing assistant's job description is to wash, feed and stay close to the patients, while the professional nurses are doing the administrative work and close supervision of the implementation of all the programmes in the hospitals or health facilities.

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HON NGHIDINWA**

The post of assistant social worker should also be brought back because of the social problems we have in the country. If we have to wait for the social workers to graduate, the people will not get enough help. Let us use the assistant social workers to address the social problems.

Comrade Minister, I want you to have another look at the nursing syllabus, which is mostly theoretical. It is not as practically oriented as the training we received those years. As a result the professional nurses do not work closely with the patients and this affects the love and care of the new nurses for their patients.

Another point is on advertisement of vitamins and medicines on the radio by business people. It seems that all the business people are now dumping all sorts of vitamins in Namibia and this also affects those people on Anti-Retroviral Treatment, because sometimes they are told these vitamins are better. I think Comrade Minister needs to approach those business people. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information. I know that everybody wants to speak, everybody wants to appear on television, but it is unfair that people who have been privileged to approve the Budget in Cabinet are now the ones who are holding us hostage here. It would be good if the Vote is introduced and those who were not privy to the information make comments and we move on.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, I thought you were speaking on a Point of Information, but the point you are advancing is not for information, I think it is more Out of Order. Honourable Minister, continue.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you for protecting me from the Honourable Member who is always fighting us on this side. With these few words, I once again congratulate you and your team and I wholehearted support Vote 13. I thank you.

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HON DR NAMWANDI**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I am now calling on Honourable Namwandi.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 13.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Minister, the Deputy and the staff members of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I am going to speak on resource mobilisation on page 9 and human resources and capacity development on page 6 and other issues.

I believe the whole House is delighted to note that the Global Fund has approved the HIV/AIDS and Health System strengthening Budget, support to HIV/AIDS and TB, but when you page to page 10, it seems that the amount approved will be reduced by 10%. I do not understand what is meant by that. If the Global Fund has approved the Budget and then again suggesting a cut, I do not know what the reason is.

On page 6 I am delighted to note that 278 students completed their studies, I believe, at Keetmanshoop, Onandjokwe, Katima Mulilo, Otjiwarongo and Windhoek. Of the 278 students, about 75% are enrolled nurses. It is an open secret that upon completion of their studies, enrolled nurses resign after two years and go to the University of Namibia to register themselves for the registered nursing programme for four years. It is also an open secret that about 50% of the students who are studying in this programme are former enrolled nurses, thereby creating a shortage at our clinics and hospitals. Now my question: Is it not possible for the Ministry of Health and Social Services to upgrade health training centres in Keetmanshoop, Windhoek, Katima Mulilo and Onandjokwe so that they could be at the same standard as the University of Namibia in order to train as many registered nurses as we possibly could, because the enrolled nurses seem not to be satisfied to remain at that level.

Secondly, we should alternatively increase the capacity of registered nurses at the University of Namibia for them to enrol for a four-year degree programme, which I think is good for the country.

While the Ministry is working around the clock, particularly the Minister and the Deputy Minister, some doctors are using State equipment and facilities to

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HON MANOMBE NCUBE**

treat their private patients. I believe this is not acceptable and I would like to urge the Minister to investigate and to nip this practice in the bud.

I am aware, and I believe the Colleagues are aware, that there are some doctors in the country, particularly private doctors, who are issuing false medical certificates in order for the employees to get leave from work and this is creating very unacceptable work ethics in the Nation. Is there any possibility for the Minister of Health to investigate this and if so, bring the culprits to book.

It is evident from pages 6, 7, 9, 13 and 14 that the Minister, his Deputy and the staff are working tirelessly to ensure that the Namibian people benefit from N\$2,593,039,000 allocated to this Ministry. It is my advice to the Minister and the staff members that this money must be utilised for what it was intended and not to be used by people for their own selfish ends. I support Vote 13.

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

Thank you. Honourable Ncube.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Comrade Minister, your Ministry plays a critical role in improving the lives of the Namibian population and your Budget speech is testimony of this. In particular the establishment of medical aid for State patients will enable those who cannot afford the expensive medical funds. This is a very welcome gesture, Honourable Minister.

On page 9 mention is made of the amendment to the Hospital and Health Facilities Act. This is a regulation which makes provision for the exemption from user fees at State facilities. Thank you very much for that, Comrade Minister, as well as the establishment of the Medical Schools, just to mention a few.

Programme 4 deals with social development and I am extremely grateful for the allocation of N\$4 million for the operations of the National Council on Disability, which was established by Act of Parliament, (Act No. 24 of 2004), whose function is to coordinate and facilitate activities pertaining to issues of

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HON UEITELE**

people with disabilities. I believe this will greatly benefit people with disabilities individually as well as collectively.

In my own capacity as Chairperson of the Council and on behalf of the whole Council, I can give you the assurance that the Council will become operational in full swing as soon as possible and that its functional secretariat will be established to run the day-to-day affairs very soon. Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Thank you and I support the Vote.

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Ueitele.

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Honourable Members, my contribution is on page 12, Programme 2 – Regional and District Health Service. For this programme to be realised, a sum of N\$1,396,448,000 is allocated for the operational expenditure, for the upgrading, renovation and construction of clinics, health centres and district hospitals.

Comrade Minister, I want to congratulate your Ministry for its response to the outbreak of the Influenza A H1N1 in 2009, the first pandemic of the century, and cholera, measles and meningococcal in some Regions. In Omaheke Region we have clinics in Eiseb Block which are plus minus 500 to 600 kilometres from Gobabis and these clinics do not have mortuaries and the communities are forced to travel long distances to Gobabis. I would also appreciate if the Minister, either in this or the next Budget, will provide mortuaries at those clinics. The nearest mortuary is at Otjinene, but most of the time that mortuary is full and the people are forced to travel to Gobabis. I support Vote 13.

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

Thank you. Honourable Dingara.

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HON DINGARA / HON IILONGA**

**HON DINGARA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to support the Budget and also thank the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I have been working for the Ministry since 2004 and I have learned during that time that the Minister of Health and Social Services and his Deputy are true leaders who can lead the Ministry of Health and Social Services and they need to be congratulated and applauded.

Even if you look at the submission, the front page has pictures of the Ministry and I can tell you that those pictures would not have been the same five years ago, because they were not as beautiful then. This is a show of pride, that the Ministry has really improved the hospitals and the head office and undertook renovations at many other facilities throughout the country.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, there are clinics in Kavango Region which were constructed many years ago by the colonial regime with corrugated iron. The Ministry has been doing a lot of renovations and I hope that new clinics will be built at those areas, because the nurses can only fetch a very limited number of medicines in a cool box. I know that the Ministry is doing much, but it is only that it is not indicated here that the situation will change, however we are looking forward to the total replacement of those clinics so that the nurses do not have to and fetch medicines every week from the hospital.

With those few words, I support Vote 13 and I thank you.

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

Thank you. Honourable Iilonga.

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

**FORESTRY:** Let me join those who thanked the Minister and his Deputy. Comrade Minister. I would like to know, what preparations are the Ministry making to implement the instruction which was publicly given that from 1 April 2010, our senior citizens are no longer to pay user fees at the State Hospitals? What arrangements has the Ministry put in place at the hospital and clinics for a dedicated area for the senior citizens?

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HON NAMBAHU**

I want to thank the Ministry for the speedy action taken to curb the outbreak of measles as well as the H1N1, which they do not want to call Swine Flu because they do not want to scare the pork lovers.

I want to reiterate the question I usually put and it is on page 4, the establishment of the Medical School. Comrade Doctor, we are always saying that we have a shortage of doctors in the State Hospitals, however we have many doctors in Namibia. What is the reason that only a few of the Namibian doctors, especially black doctors, who have private consultation rooms are not assisting at the State Hospital while other Namibians are the ones you find there? Is there any law which prevents these people from helping their Government?

We are now establishing a Medical School to train our doctors. These students have to study seven years, do internship and then start practising. We have noticed that when our doctors receive their certificates, they rush to open private practices. We cannot train people and thereafter these people without assisting their Government.

Lastly, on nursing. It is true that sometimes we unknowingly make mistakes. Nursing already had a structure in the Government, they used to be trained through the hospitals and received an allowance to study. Nursing is caring, you cannot compare nursing with teaching. In nursing you deal with life. Nurses resign because we equalised nursing with teaching. Nursing is caring and these nurses need counselling so that they can be oriented. Maybe if you look at that question we could reduce the burden.

You have been given a touch responsibility and you need to have the staff. You cannot have a senior citizen just sitting there together with those who pay user fees. Please consider that and with those few words, I support Vote 13.

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

Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I want to congratulate my Colleague and be very brief.

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HON NAMBAHU**

Allow me, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to register my support for this important Vote. I only have one point to raise on the challenge facing the Ministry.

I am on record in this House to be concerned about the practice of advertising in the papers by the likes of the Dr Moyo's, the man who catches ghosts and also chases them. They advertise that if you have a problem with your husband running away, come and see Dr Moyo. Honestly, I know we are Africans and in some countries they say they have consultants and maybe these are also consultants. However, when are we going to put regulations in place to control these colleagues?

The people in the profession of Dr Kawana are not allowed to advertise their services. You cannot advertise that if you have marriage problems, come and see me, I am an expert in these kinds of things. You are not allowed to do that. (Intervention). The pastors are a different thing but I also have a problem. They do not say if you have a spiritual problem, go to the next church, they say come to me or us. Why is it that they do not say go to the next church? However, that is a different topic.

I do not know what needs to be done, but I have a problem because sometimes when a person comes to a clinic, having already consulted this person or Doctor and given all kinds of concoctions already, these things are incompatible with modern medicine. There are legitimate ones but they do not advertise. What can be done to reign in these people? We fought for this country, we want our people to be protected and not to be abused. If our own doctors are not allowed to advertise, why is it that these others can advertise with impunity? We should put in place mechanisms to regulate these colleagues and their advertisements.

That is all I wanted to say and for the time-being I look forward to seeing some regulations on this aspect.

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

Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND**

**CULTURE**: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I thank the Minister, his Deputy and the staff for the great work you are doing at Onandjokwe and Oshakati Hospitals. It is a process of restoring the dignity of our people and the environment there is really wonderful. A few years ago you could not compare what you see there with even the Peter Nanyemba Hospital in Lubango which was run by Dr Nickey Iyambo and Dr Shangula. That was a world-class facility and I thank you for what you are doing. It is restoring the dignity of our people.

Again in the same vein as the previous speaker, I would like to see how the Ministry intervenes by monitoring private hospitals, such as the Catholic Hospital and others. I got the shock of my life when I was referred there by my doctor for an X-ray. I was being treated and handled like a cow being loaded in a truck by an unprofessional farmer. It was as if the person had no time to attend to me, she was just experimenting with me, finish with me and let me go and it was unprofessional. I was very disappointed because you pay a lot of money and this person has no time for you. I was not told where to go and wash and this gel was all over my body and I had to dress myself and leave, and because I did not want to cause havoc, I just swallowed my pride and left and wondered whether this can really happen in this country. Can we imagine vulnerable people receiving this treatment and also foreigners who cannot speak the language? We really have to check on these private facilities, to be honest, because some of the staff are unprofessional. With those few words, I support Vote 13.

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

Honourable Kazenambo, these kinds of cases do occur in a number of places and I know the Minister will address this, but from our own personal experiences we need to document these things to be made known, so that appropriate action will be taken. This could become a sort of deterrent for uncaring officials. It is extremely important, it is a very sensitive issue. There are also cases where loss of life occurred due to neglect, so it is something that has to be taken up in a very careful manner. I do not want to elaborate on that, I will leave it to the Minister to take care of that. Honourable Schlettwein.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to, obviously, support the Vote and I am saying that because the Ministry of Health and Social Services is not only dealing with life and death matters of citizens, but it is also a very important institution that is used by investors to see whether Namibia is a proper investors' home or not. Health indicators are often used as important tools for investors to make decisions whether to come or not. Therefore, our image can only be improved through efficient and proper health services. I do think that the Honourable Minister, with his enthusiasm and commitment, is to be congratulated, he is trying to do exactly that and I find his enthusiasm inspiring.

Let me turn to page 3, health related challenges that were pointed out by the Minister. There are a number of diseases that he quotes have risks of outbreak and I want to relate that to an observation that is disturbing.

Even here in Windhoek I see people relieving themselves in public places, on streets, all over the place and when the Minister of Defence is worried about plastic bags, I am more worried about the contents of those plastic bags that are lying around. The question I have is whether we are not sitting on a time-bomb if we are at risk of an outbreak of diseases such as cholera, meningitis and polio if our sanitation and our public toilet facilities are not upgraded?

I also do not think that relieving yourself in the capital, which calls itself the cleanest city in Africa, goes down well when portraying the image of the capital. My question to the Minister is whether my fear is justified that we, with poor sanitation and lack of public toilet facilities, significantly increase the risk of outbreaks of these rather nasty diseases?

My second point is on page 6, human resources capacity-building, and I am talking to the Medical Board. The Medical Board, in my understanding is a semi-autonomous institution that has as its prime function the supervision and quality control of ethical and professional behaviour of the medical profession. I think many of the questions that were asked have regard to the quality of that service. Is that Board really doing its job? I think health service delivery is crucial and we must have a strong body that ensures that consumers are protected against unethical or unprofessional behaviour. Therefore, the Medical Board's functions need to be strong and I would like to hear the Minister's brief on how that Board functions.

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HON MUHARUKUA**

Page 16 talks about donor assistance. If you calculate, 12% of the total expenditure envelope is received from donors and that is only the grants portion. That is significant, it is over N\$300 million, but the question is, how sustainable is that, if we use donor funds for absolutely essential services in the health sector? Do we have a backup plan in place? How long-term are these commitments with regard to donor funds? I am sure the Minister is aware of that, but I would like to hear what plans do we have in place to secure these crucial services.

Lastly, I think there was a question whether we are providing enough finances to the health sector and I just want to take this opportunity to remind the House that a number of crucial and rather expensive infrastructure development programmes in the health sector are actually funded by foreign loans which you will not see in the expenditure envelope of the Budget, but they are catered for through external funding.

Secondly, the PSEMAS Medical Aid attracts an allocation of close to N\$1 billion every year and it is a purely health service related matter. If you look at the total envelope of expenditure for health, it is probably closer to N\$4 billion than the N\$2,5 billion you see. So, it is an indication that we do put our money where our mouths are.

With those few words, Comrade Minister, congratulations again and I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Honourable Muharukua.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:**

Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 13. Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I stand here to thank the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the whole Ministry for the actions taken during the outbreak of measles in Opuwo, Epupa and Sesfontein. It could have been serious, but the Minister and Deputy Minister themselves took action and they went from village to village, from house to house and I thank you so much for that. If I do not thank you for that, I am going to be

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

guilty to the SWAPO Government. I support Vote 13 and I thank you.

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

Thank you. Finally, Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I want to remark on what the Deputy Minister of Finance just said on this external funding. I see you get quite a lot of support from GTZ, the Global Fund and many others. My problem with external funding is this issue of consultants. People give you money with one hand and they just take it with the other. You basically bring in these many foreign consultants who are in fact even paid more than the locals. The question that I am asking is, how reliable is this whole project? How much money reaches the people for whom it is intended? I would like to see that we make use of nationals and consultants and in the case where you bring in foreign consultants, the principle of equal pay for equal work should apply to the people who are working on that particular project. We cannot bring in foreign consultants who basically are paid the salaries they are paid abroad, but then our local people suffer under that. I would like the Minister to elaborate on this. It cuts across the Government and maybe we need a policy on this whole issue of consultants taking out money that comes with donor funding.

The other issue I want to raise is the long queues at State Hospitals. At every single hospital and even Katutura Hospital, people complain that you wait for hours. My question is, why do the doctors only come to the hospital at around 10:00? Where do they spend their time in the first instance that they basically only arrive at 10:00 to attend to patients? I would want the Ministry to develop a plan that would ensure that queues are cut at State Hospitals. Even if we have to get old nurses to back to hospitals to help, as long as there is a plan to make sure that when you arrive there, you would wait at least wait an hour or two to be attended to. However, to wait four, five hours to be attended to is unacceptable and it is something we need to do away with.

The third issue I want to raise is on malaria control. I would like to congratulate you for doing a good job around the whole issue of malaria control, but as we know, mosquitoes do not know boundaries. I want to know

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HON DR KAMWI**

whether there are joint efforts being undertaken with neighbouring countries, such as Angola and Botswana and probably Zambia to contain this. I believe as noble as your intentions are, that we would be able to eliminate malaria, as long as on the other side of our borders is no malaria control taking place, we would basically be fighting a losing battle, because the mosquitoes would be able to come from across the borders.

The last issue I want to talk on is AIDS organisations. I see there is quite a proliferation of AIDS organisations around the country. Almost each and every village has its own AIDS organisation and all these organisations need staff. This brings me back to the issue of whether we are really spending the money on the people that need assistance or are we creating employment for ourselves? I form my own AIDS organisation so that I am able to get a salary.

Lastly on that is the story of Lironga Eparu. I have been following it for the past three months, it seems to be controversial and I think the Minister needs to clarify this so that the public is clear as to what is exactly happening with Lironga Eparu. Has the Government taken it over or what is the actual position and what are the difficulties that Lironga Eparu is facing? With that, I support the Vote.

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

Thank you very much. I will call on the Minister to reply to some of the questions raised.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I wish to state from the beginning that I am overwhelmed by the way Honourable Members had tackled Vote 13, their interest and the realisation of the fact that for us to meet the intended objectives of Vision 2030, the health of the Namibian people has to be in place. For that I am extremely grateful. However, my Deputy Minister, Comrade Petrina Haingura, and I are humbled by your kind words, acknowledging the efforts that we, together with our staff members, are trying to do in order to change the health of Namibians for the better.

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HON DR KAMWI**

As a politician in this Chamber I feel good. I feel good in the sense that I am very comfortable. I am encircled by a team of professionals, a team of seasoned nurses and I am talking of registered nurses who, when they left the profession, were either holding ranks of control registered nurses or chief control registered nurses. Behind me we have a registered nurse and former matron, on my right my Deputy, herself is a former control registered nurse. Right across there, Honourable Agnes Tjongarero is a former senior matron and behind there is another registered nurse. I am trying to answer, this is my chance to respond, please my seniors, give me an opportunity. I want to say on my right I have my mentor, Dr Nickey Iyambo. Now I want to respond to individuals.

*Honourable Agnes Tjongarero*, thank you for supporting the Vote and your kind words. I can only say I share your sentiments. We are looking at this matter of security. Even as early as yesterday it was on the agenda of our Steering Committee. We are not happy with the security services and it is not only at Windhoek Central and Katutura, but the whole country. I only know of only one that is trying its best and that is at the Health Training Centre.

We are working around the clock on the issue of intercoms, but there are competing priorities in terms of resources.

Regarding this issue of nursing care, following the terms of reference that we received from His Excellency the President, I decided to entrust my able Deputy Minister and I advised her that there is a need for us to re-look at the whole curriculum and syllabus for nursing training in this country. I cannot agree more that you, the nurses that I cited in this Chamber, cannot be compared to the nurses that we are producing at the University of Namibia. Thus, we have decided that the Deputy Minister will invite almost all of you whom I cited in this Chamber and I am talking of the seasoned registered nurses, including the First Lady of this country.

*Honourable Tjihuike*, when you were talking, my neighbour here was saying it is good to have in-laws in the Chamber, even if they are members of the Opposition. I want to thank you for your observations and I cannot agree more. You spoke sense.

I want to be honest with you and my Deputy Minister can bear me witness, I

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am a person who panel-beat my own statements and this was crafted by the man talking. I asked my officials to provide me with information and I sat and I crafted this. Therefore, this came from my hand and there is nothing wrong in saying we have just celebrated 20 years of Independence. What I tried to say it was that we celebrated 20 years of our Independence and at the same time we in the SWAPO Party were commemorating the SWAPO Party's 50 years of tested leadership, meaning we have quality leadership in SWAPO who have come a long way. Some of them have been in that leadership for 50 years and you are talking here about people like our Founding President and the current President. They had been there for some 50 years, including my mentor, Dr Nickey Iyambo, amongst others. This is all tested leadership and indeed, reconstruction and development is what we are seeing.

*Comrade Ankama* raised concerns related to cancer. The Ministry of Health and Social Services is one of the most complex Ministries that you have. There is a lot that one can write, but if I try to include everything, I may talk the whole day. For your information, we have been looking at this issue of cancer and in particular at areas like Sarcoma. We came to find out that on the globe there is one country – and fortunately that country is a friend to Namibia – namely Cuba who have found a drug that is going to assist, if at all they will succeed. They are now working with South Africa and soon our own team of experts, under the leadership of Dr Katjitae, will be leaving for Havana. We want to join hands with Cuba in the research in finding some solutions in areas such as diabetic Melitus, Cuba has gone a long way in that area and I think they will assist us.

*Honourable Dr Kawana*, thank you. Looking at the population of Impalila Island *vis-à-vis* the isolation and following the directives of His Excellency, the President the Cabinet, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and yourself and all those you mentioned, we decided that we will build a bigger primary health care clinic for Impalila, which will accommodate up to four nurses. We have now put in place two nurses, one registered nurse and one enrolled nurse. At the same time we have put in place a medical doctor who is driving to Impalila on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Although they are using Botswana's network, we asked them that they should be using that one to inform Katima Mulilo. There is an ambulance ready for Impalila as long as it is from 07:00 to 17:00 when the borders are open.

That is what we have put in place.

Regarding the mortuary, we do not have power in Impalila Island and we are talking to the colleagues. The former Minister of Mines and Energy is aware of that and fortunately, Comrade Katali, will follow suit.

Eenhana, Engela, Onandjokwe, Oshakati Intermediate Hospitals: I want to invite the Honourable Members, in particular the Opposition Parties and the media, to come and find out what we are doing with Oshakati Intermediate Hospital. We are building a state-of-the-art hospital. In fact, as I speak, our private ward is like a hospital on its own, it is complete. We are waiting for His Excellency the President to find time. Soon that ward will be competing with any of the best private hospitals that you can think of in this country, be it Rhino Park or MediPark in Ongwediva.

The challenge that we are faced with is the mushrooming of private hospitals and I want to warn them that we do not want them to ask for resources, because we want to deliver and we want to cater health services for all Namibians, irrespective who they are.

On ambulances, as I speak, whether you travel to the east, west, south or north of this country, you are seeing these red and white ambulances with the cross. I can only thank the Minister of Finance and the former Minister of Transport. For the past two years we have been receiving something like 50 to 70 brand-new ambulances and as I speak now, there are fifty brand-new ambulances still standing in our Warehouses. Some of them are being converted from brand-new Kombis into ambulances. We want composed ambulances which have all the medical equipment, including the nurses, to serve longer distances, such as Katima Mulilo, Karas and Lüderitz.

***Right Honourable Prime Minister***, I want to thank you. Obviously, with your interest that you are giving us with regard to child health, we have put in place a roadmap which is similar to what we have with the acceleration for the reduction of maternal mortality and I invite the Prime Minister to read this document. We are on course, we are working around the clock. That one includes the Neo-natal as well and we have a team in place under the leadership of Matron Nghatanga, they are working around the clock. We may not reach our goal, I want to be honest, in terms of the Millennium

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Development Goals, but we are already seeing a considerable reduction in both maternal a child morbidity and mortality in the whole country.

The ambulances plus the brand-new medical equipment are assisting us in our quest to reduce this, but as you said, what will address this is food of nutritional value.

*Honourable Namoloh and Honourable Schlettwein*, sanitation in this country is worrisome. There is littering wherever you go, but for your information, we are working on a Bill and next week Matron Nghatanga will be leading a team to Swakopmund where they are going to look at the draft bill on the environment, which will address, amongst others, what you mentioned. We recommend that we do away with plastic bags and replace them with paper bags.

The doctor-patient relationship cannot be over-emphasised, but as you know, we are dealing with human beings and the Honourable Deputy Minister is addressing that, of course with the support of her Minister.

*Honourable Nghidinwa*, we are awaiting the report of the AU on Anti-Retroviral Treatment. We have already surpassed the targets as set by the Heads of State and Government way back in 2001. We are already ahead of the targets for the Millennium Development Goal 6, but that does not mean we should rest on our laurels. I would invite the Honourable Members of this Chamber that come the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, we will again be having our National HIV testing day. It is important for us to know the prevalence rate that would help us to assist those who are found to be positive to receive the services already in place.

The Nursing Directorate: There is a Committee that is looking at the restructuring of the Ministry under the chairmanship of the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Dr Foster.

We are addressing the issue of bringing back assistant nurses by complementing it with what is now termed by the World Health Organisations as “*Task shift programme*”, where we are going to train a middle-class between a cleaner and an enrolled nurse. These will be a category that would not be attending to the patients, but theirs is to assist the nurses. They will take

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over some work that was done by the assistant nurses. It is already working in Zambia and Ethiopia. Botswana has adopted it, we are going to adopt it and South Africa is doing the same and they will be trained.

Advertisement of health products is a concern to this Ministry. I made a statement in this Chamber last year that the Ministry of Health and Social Services detests the bogus doctors who come from elsewhere on the African continent and claim that they can cure impotence, they can give you wealth, they can cure HIV/AIDS, when we know too well there is no magic cure for AIDS globally. We are only asking the Namibians themselves that whilst we are still working on the Health Bill, please not to listen to these bogus doctors. They left their countries, not even driving, they hitch-hiked, they are themselves poor but they want to make you rich. How will they do that when they themselves are poor?

*Honourable Dr Namwandi*, thank you for your support. We received a letter from the Global Fund, which I shared with the Minister of Finance yesterday, where they are warning those Member States which were fortunate enough to receive the round continuation channel that the possibility may arise in the next board meeting that 10% will be cut on every item. Unfortunately these are not our funds and we remain grateful for that assistance, but should they cut, what should we say? Nothing, other than to appeal for support.

I want to appeal to the recipients out there to take care of the funds that we are receiving from the Global Fund. The Global Fund has put in place auditors that we cannot dictate to. If it is found that there has been some embezzlement of these funds somehow, it may affect the whole programme and that we do not want to entertain. I will not elaborate more, but it is not good news.

One of the African countries, Uganda, is a good example. When embezzlement of funds was found, the Global Fund immediately cut support. Can you imagine in our case the billions that we are receiving? Therefore, I want to appeal to the recipients out there to handle these funds properly. These funds must be used for what they have been requested for. They must reach those who need it most.

Honourable Dr Namwandi, at Independence Dr Nickey Iyambo was taking care of the training of both enrolled and registered nurses and I can tell you,

that programme produced the best. However, since the transfer to Education, we are faced with the situation that they are not doing sufficient practical training in the wards, whereas during the time of Dr Nickey Iyambo, they had time for theory and time for practical in the wards. At the moment almost 90% is theoretical and that is a challenge that needs to be addressed and we are already addressing the matter, we cannot allow it to go unabated. Education and Health must discuss this matter.

Private doctors using State medical equipment and issuing false sick leave certificates: Comrade Deputy Minister, I think we need to investigate on the medical equipment being used, but I am aware of the sick leave issue. I have addressed it and I said this is where the Medical Board has to come in. The Medical Board is not assisting us on this one. There are some Namibians out there who, when they feel tired, they just go to some private doctor and they get sick leave. It came to my attention and we are addressing it. Should it be found, such a doctor will be taken to task by the Medical Board, we will not let it go.

*Honourable Manombe-Ncube*, I cannot thank you more and I am grateful that you are now aware that the N\$4 million is in place.

*Honourable Ueitele*, thank you for your information. We are already addressing the issue of a mortuary for the Eiseb Block, but just like what I mentioned earlier on, the stumbling block we are faced with relates to electricity. We have a brand-new mortuary in Aminuis and we are talking to the Colleagues and Honourable Katali is taking care of that.

*Comrade Dingara*, the corrugated iron sheet clinics are receiving attention and I can give you some information. The clinics you were talking about are at Oruha, Shigaru, Shamaturu, Ncaute and Shadikongoro. The feasibility study for all these clinics commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010 and we are looking forward to receiving the results. In a nutshell, those clinics are outdated and once resources are in place, they will be replaced.

*Comrade Ilonga*, as we speak the senior citizens are already exempted from paying the user fee and not only the senior citizens, also the veterans. A circular has already been circulated by the Permanent Secretary and I want to repeat, in case there is still a clinic out there, we said no senior citizens, no

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veteran, no orphans or vulnerable child will pay user fees in all the health facilities of the SWAPO Party led Government.

Comrade Ilonga referred to the Medical School and we are working with the Ministry of Education. Cabinet has already approved in August 2008 that there should be bonding. We remain concerned and I spoke to the new and former Ministers of Education that we are not happy that we train these students with Government resources and after that they leave and this should be addressed.

*Comrade Nambahu*, I have addressed the advertisements in the newspapers, that we are not happy with that. I think I need to talk to Comrade Kaapanda that this advertisement must stop and we will need your support. We are still working on the Health Bill, but the two Ministries should consult on how we can stop these advertisements. I detest it with the contempt it deserves.

*Comrade Kazenambo*, I can only reiterate what Professor Katjavivi said. When you are confronted with these types of incidents, please take it up immediately with the superiors who are there. Whether it is at a clinic or hospital, there must be a supervisor. If the supervisor is not there, call me or the Deputy Minister or Permanent Secretary, we are at your disposal 24 hours around the clock. It is not a good thing and it must be addressed forthwith.

*Honourable Schlettwein*, your observations are valid. Truly speaking, some men are doing us a disservice in this country. You find a man standing, urinating against a wall, on a tyre, on a tree and it must stop. It is not a good thing. Can you imagine if we were to have a cholera outbreak in Windhoek or elsewhere? It must stop and the bottom-line is sanitation. We will talk to the Medical Board, they are to assist us in this regard, I think something is amiss.

Overall, Honourable Members, I want to thank you all for the maximum support.

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

Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 13? Agreed to.

I put **Vote 29 – “INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY”**, for Discussion.

**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to make some comments on Vote 29.

I am very happy that the West African Cable System is going to be rolled out and we will be able to access information, but I will be disappointed if it is rolled out and then we are asked to cough up extra costs. I hope it is going to be cheaper for us as a Nation to access the connectivity, because in many countries it has become cheaper. I know when there is a monopoly, prices are set and you do not have the option of another service.

On page 4 you are saying information should be made available to each and everyone, including broadcasting information on television and so forth. In a family like mine, I have a house here, I have a house where I was born, I have children and in the house I have two television sets and another two in the North and I must pay licence fees for all four. I cannot sit together with my children and watch television, but why I should be punished to pay the licences for four televisions? I think something must be done. Either I pay for two or I do not pay anything. Television licences is a very old system, not many countries have this system, very few pay television licences. If I watch news on my computer, will I still pay? I will not pay because it is a computer not a television. You need to look into this issue of paying television licences every year. To pay for four television sets is exploitative and a disservice to our children.

On page 7 I just want to comment on the system that is being used now for e-health, e-education and so forth. It has taken time, but I thank you that it is now going to be used here. West Africa is using it, Ethiopia is using it and we have taken too long to bring it to Namibia.

With regard to MTC, I want to speak on behalf of the area where I come from, namely Odibo. For 20 years the communication there has been very bad. There is a hospital, there are schools, but when I go home, I must go outside my house to find a network and to speak to Windhoek or use my landline. When you go to a hospital or school, the communication is very bad after 20 years. MTC must provide services to these very crucial areas. I use the Angolan mobile service, Unitel, which is stronger than MTC and I want you to look into this, Comrade Minister. I think there has been a petition by the

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people in that area to MTC that they should provide them with the communication network.

With these few words, I would want to support and congratulate you. Thank you very much.

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Ncube.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister and thank him very much for a job well done, particularly the impressive service to the people during the elections of 2009 and that we could all see that the election was transparent. That was very fair coverage to all the Political Parties and I thank you very much for that gesture, Honourable Minister.

My first question is whether there is any programme in place or any attempt to ensure that public internet, including privately-owned websites, are accessible to people who are visually impaired.

We have to appreciate the slot for the hearing impaired people, but we would like to suggest that the same be done with the Parliamentary Report and other programmes of public interest.

Honourable Minister, is there any National ICT governing regulatory body for communication that includes people with disabilities? I am simply asking this question because people with disabilities also need to be capacitated in ICT and benefit economically from ICT.

Another issue is on page 3 regarding the media. I would suggest that the Ministry puts programmes in place that would encourage the media to portray people with disabilities in a manner consistent with the legal instruments in this country, so that we must discourage misinformation of disability coverage by the media, because that undermines the policies that we have adopted in this country, Honourable Minister.

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Recently there was an article in one of the newspapers about a child with a disability. They said this child is wheelchair bound. Is there anybody who is wheelchair bound? We all have the right to come out of the wheelchair and sleep or eat at a table. Those are the things we want to be eradicated, because this Parliament has adopted policies. Thank you, I support the Vote.

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

Thank you, Honourable Ncube. I think you drew special attention to us to come to terms with the use of terminologies and I think that is really the responsibility of the Ministry of Information. Honourable !Naruseb.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to thank my Colleague and dear friend, Comrade Kaapanda, for the job he is doing in his Ministry and I shall confine myself to pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Honourable Minister's statement.

We support the activities of your Ministry, Comrade Minister, and as SWAPO leaders we do not want to be placed in such a situation where we question activities of some of the functionaries within your area of jurisdiction. We would not really want to do that, but sometimes things are manifesting themselves and we are left with no other option than to question some of the actions, particularly with NBC coverage.

You as a national leader are assigned by the people and the State to carry out national responsibilities and your staff in good time take up your assignments with the NBC, but they do not show up and when they show up, they probably think with your Otjimbingwe English, or Namlish, you are not good enough to be captured, they paraphrase you and then you are left with no other option than to wonder what is going on. We do not want to question you, because I know you were put there by the Party, you have to fulfil a responsibility, but perhaps the people who carry out the responsibilities are the ones who are probably letting you down, as they are letting many of us down anyhow, by advancing their own agendas.

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The same is also applicable to the print media, *New Era*, which is a Government newspaper, funded fully by the Government. Sometimes they are spearheading articles they should not have spearheaded, distorting facts and Honourable Minister, when you have meetings with your senior management, tell them that these things are being observed, but because we do not want to rock the boat we are keeping quiet. We are observing that some of us are deliberately not being covered and they know themselves. I thought I needed to say that and I support the Vote. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My concern is on pages 4, 9 and 10. My concern is more on the income of NBC. I was trying to figure out from the five programmes of NBC, but there is nothing that sheds light on the income of NBC. I do not know whether Programme 4 is catering for that.

NBC, in my own personal view, is struggling, because I do not see a clear line when it comes to income generation. Had there been a clear line NBC could have been a rich institution today. I portray NBC as an institution with lot of potential when it comes to income, but at the moment they are depending too much on Government. We know NBC has a social responsibility, but it is supposed to strategise. The commercial division is totally ignored, it is not doing anything.

After 20 years of Independence the NBC could have had two channels, but today we are still relying on one channel. If they had a proper marketing strategy, the NBC could have been a rich institution. Of course, we praise the NBC for some of the positive things they do, but when it comes to income generation, something is wrong. If they have a strategic plan in place, somewhere something is wrong, somebody is not committed to generating income for the NBC. I appeal to the NBC to start generating income. I think some of the print media are making good money or maybe they are being sponsored, but they are managing. Many of our people do like the NBC, however the NBC is failing to attract them to its programmes.

Next year we want to see a second channel for the NBC, but not through the funds given by Government. Create your own income for your second

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channel. Do not neglect the NBC, it is an institution that we like very much. I support Vote 29.

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

Thank you. Honourable Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OR EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to support this Vote, Vote 29. I have one question on page 10 under Programme 5, called Increasing the Beneficial Use of Information Communication Technology and here an amount of N\$14 million is requested to allow Namibia to become part of the information society.

Honourable Minister, would you agree with me that if Namibia has to become part of the information society, as alluded to in your speech, we need to have radical changes in our approach to information technology. Would you agree with me that we should start somewhere and that somewhere is to start with primary schools? Do you agree with me that there should be radical change so that we start with primary schools if we were to have an information society?

Secondly, on page 7 it is indicated that the Communication Act provides for a Universal Service Fund to support rural telecommunication services, which I am very happy about. Your speech further says on the same page that the overall mandate and mission of the Ministry of Information is to lay the foundation for an accelerated use, promotion and development of ICT in Namibia. Again, based on that, would you agree with me that that can only happen if we start with the primary schools, for us to promote accelerated usage?

You are saying that our vision is to transform Namibia into a knowledge-based society. For that to happen, would you agree with me, Honourable Minister, that we should have radical changes and start with primary schools?

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If you agree with me that we should start somewhere and have radical changes in this area of ICT to ensure an information-based society, would you agree that there is a need a joint effort, starting with the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, as well as the Minister Katali responsible for electrification, as well as the Minister of Information and Communication Technology to ensure that every Namibian child at the level of primary school should have access to a tiny computer, even a cheap one? That is what many of the successful Nations have done. If you go to Singapore, Malaysia and other countries, they have started at the primary stage where each school has computers and these children have access to the computers, not expensive ones but computers deliberately designed for education purposes. Would you, therefore, agree that we should join the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Mines and Energy and the one of Education for us to find a solution for Namibia's ICT area? If you do, Honourable Minister, then I support the Vote.

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

Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Vote 29 is very important. This is the Ministry that has the mandate to reconcile our people, to educate, to inform and to entertain our people, which are so crucial for the development of our community.

Let me start at page 2. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry of Information has the responsibility to see that the NBC is functional, *New Era*, etcetera, but what we are seeing on the ground ever since you took over that Ministry, with due respect, are things that we have never seen happening in that Ministry. The NBC is without a Director-General, an institution like the NBC that is being run by acting Director-Generals, being fired every now and then. An interesting thing I have seen, Honourable Minister, is that every time that the acting Director-General is being fired, the Directors are ones fighting for the position. When you see an advertisement being placed, the very same Directors are the ones applying for this position.

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We have seen a situation where there is too much political interference in the running of the NBC. Therefore, you cannot expect an institution like the NBC to have a professional management to run this institution on business principles in order for them to turn around the income of that institution. That is why we are relying on Government and will continue relying on Government as long as there is this unending political interference in the day-to-day running of the institution. If one wants to become the Director General, apply for the position. They should be given a chance to prove themselves, otherwise you will continue blaming them but the problem is with the political interference.

Secondly, I agree with Honourable Uutoni for the first time and hopefully we will continue agreeing on these things, that the ability of any institution to finance itself is the prerequisite for any successful institution. There is no way where we can have a situation where we put money into an institution and next year they ask for more and we continue funding that institution. It is a serious problem and I will tell you the reason why we continue doing that.

Look at what happened during the last elections. Apparently one of the Political Parties threatened to take NBC to Court or has taken them to Court. They took a unilateral decision to ban all the Political Parties from making use of the NBC and that is with the money that has been approved by the Political Parties in this august House and there was only one Political Party that benefited from the services of NBC under the cover that this Political Party is paying. I challenge the Minister to produce a receipt of that Political Party that paid for all these services. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. We cannot mention things which are with the Courts, this is the Parliament.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Can I appeal to Honourable Members, let us move rapidly and finish the business of the day by observing order and respect and let us concentrate on the issue before us.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On page 4 it says: “*The Namibia Broadcasting Corporation completed the construction of high power and low power radio and television transmission stations.*” We have the information here, I am not going into that, but Honourable Minister, there was a very informative programme called, “*Prime Minister’s Question Time.*” The Prime Minister is not a member of NUDO, I do not like the Prime Minister because he is the Prime Minister, but it was very important for the Nation to be able to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister direct questions. I do not understand the reason why this programme has been taken away. Maybe you have an answer to that, unless it is a political reason, because the Right Honourable Prime Minister that is in office today is the Right Honourable Prime Minister Nahas Angula and you do not want him to answer questions. That is a different story altogether, but he must answer questions.

There are some other informative programmes that the Nation wants to see. There are no proper political Debates on issues on our television. People want to be exposed to different opinions and views and every time you see the same colour on television, the same Minister on television, talking about exactly the same things every day. That is not what needed on television, people should be able to know the policies and programmes of the APP, people should know the programmes of SWAPO on Education, the policies of NUDO, so that people can be educated and know exactly what is good for them. This thing of excluding other Political Parties must come to an end. (Interjection). It is the democratic right of a person, it must be there. (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I am honestly getting worried, there is a dialogue across the Floor. Honourable Tjihuiiko, you referred to questions to the Prime Minister and I am wondering where is that in the Minister’s statement. This is actually a question that you could raise directly to the Minister to answer in the normal way and not link it to the motivation speech because it does not appear here. If you think the Minister should reply to that, I will leave it to him to use his time to reply, but that eats into our time by having this kind of dialogue. Can I respectfully ask you to take the Floor and conclude?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I am just about to conclude. Let me say something about this newspaper, Southern Times. I understand that this is a joint venture between Namibia and Zimbabwe and I have been wondering whether the other party is putting money into this project. I want to know from the Honourable Minister what purpose does this newspaper serve? What is it that Namibia is getting out of this joint venture? I know during that time there was a need for propaganda, supporting a certain Political Party and we paid for that. Should we continue with that? Is there a need for us to continue with this paper? We need that N\$4 million that you are spending on this paper to spend on something else more critical than propaganda for other Political Parties.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for the sake of time I will stop here now, but I appeal to the Minister to answer questions professionally and not to try and hide behind political missiles firing towards me.

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

Thank you, Honourable Member. I ask the Minister to reply to some of the questions.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

**TECHNOLOGY:** I thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I would like to thank all the Honourable Members for their very supportive comments and also the interest in the activities of the NBC and that of the Ministry in general. I will try to answer some of the questions posed by the Honourable Members.

The first question was by *General Namoloh* who supports the work that we do in the Ministry, particularly that Namibia has signed up to join the West Africa Cable System that provides Namibia with a landing point at Swakopmund.

The construction of this cable system has already begun and the completion date for this project is next year, 2011, when we will be having a broadband connectivity that will provide the country with a bandwidth that would enable us to connect with the internet faster and also to provide us with volumes of data that we require for research. Having secured a cable, that means the cost

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of ICT products will be radically reduced and it will also enable us to sell capacity to other countries such as Zambia and Zimbabwe. We will be able to do business in this sector because of the ownership that we have on the cable system.

Of course, watching television on a computer, what you call Skype, is possible. You can also talk through Skype. The Communication Act provides for the opening up of the playing field for competition, so the restriction on Skype will be lifted. Every ICT provider would be able to have their own gateway for international connectivity, because all the leaks that existed have been lifted because of the convergence of technology that we have now introduced since the enactment of the Communication Bill.

The Honourable Member is very much concerned why one should pay for more than one television set and why these television sets cannot just be lumped together in one licence fee. Every television set has its own serial number and it is an entity on its own, therefore you have to pay for each and every television set that you own. I do not know whether there is any exemption in this regard, but for now that is the case and maybe we can look into that later.

The Honourable Member also thanked the Ministry for having acquired the Indian satellite connectivity that would provide Namibia with e-education and e-medicine. Namibian institutions of higher learning, like UNAM and Polytechnic, will be linked to their counterpart institutions in India. Therefore, a lecture at UNAM or at Polytechnic can be conducted by a professor in India and they have interactive sessions where the students here in Namibia can ask questions directly. Likewise, a surgical procedure at Central Hospital or Katutura can be directed by a surgeon from India on an interactive basis, directing where to cut and where not to cut. The diagnosis can be made right in India. A doctor here can take an X-ray and put it on the screen and an Indian doctor can say that spot is malignant, do an operation, here it is not malignant, you can just address it by applying medication. It is very cheap, very effective and very modern. Therefore, this is definitely a step forward in the right direction by Namibia.

You also had a complaint that you do not have network at Odibo and I will consult with MTC.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL : DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON KAAPANDA**

*Honourable Ncube*, I thank you very much for your contribution and I appreciate your concerns. Your concerns are very real and need to be addressed, that we need to have publicity on people with disability to inculcate a new culture that do not embrace a negative connotation to people with disabilities. I think we need to sit down and work out the right terminology that we need to inculcate in the minds of the Namibian people, so that we can treat our people respectfully and we can do that.

You also wanted to know whether ICT accommodates people with different abilities in terms of accessibility and affordability. At the moment we have ICT that is available to visually impaired people, computers equipped with Braille systems.

When I was with the Ministry of Works and Transport we had a UNAM graduate who was trained in ICT. We employed him and we bought him a computer with Braille and he did everything that was expected of him. He could type, he could do research, everything.

This Ministry has just been established and even the Budget we have been allocated does not cover computers equipped with Braille system that can be used by visually impaired people, but as we are building up ourselves in terms of resources and capacity, we will have that equipment and accommodate people with visual impairment.

The Commission for the African Union has issued a legal directive that advocates the inclusiveness of ICT, so that people with disabilities can also be included.

*Honourable !Naruseb* mentioned discrimination in the NBC coverage and also the methodology of not allowing the speaker to be heard. When a reporter is reporting on a function, the principal hardly appears to articulate what he is talking about, they paraphrase and sometimes the principal does not even appear on the screen. It happens and I equally detest this. The reporters should allow the principals to articulate what they are talking about and not put words in the mouths of the principals.

About *New Era* publishing articles that may not serve the interest of the Government, since they are a Government sponsored newspaper, I have also

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**APPROPRIATION BILL : DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON KAAPANDA**

observed this and we are working on this. It is no secret that when something is not in the interest of a newspaper in this country, they do not publish it.

*Honourable Uutoni*, the NBC at the moment is not capable of generating the revenue they need. Despite the fact that they have huge infrastructure, they do not have the ability to generate income to sustain them so that they do not rely on Government sponsorship. Strategies are in place to equip NBC in many ways, considering the current state of affairs.

*Honourable Dr Iyambo*, if Namibia is to become a knowledge-based society, if Namibia wants to reach that dream of Vision 2030, we need to start at the primary level to equip our children with ICT skills and we have to talk about this. There is a good programme in India called, “*A Hole in the Wall*” where they have computers which are designed for burglars just to play with and discover the magic of computers. Right from the beginning we are going to talk about that.

The African Union has appealed to the Ministers of ICT to work together with their respective Ministers of Finance to ensure that ICT is adequately funded. They must also give exemption to computers, so that this equipment could become cheap and affordable, so that they can give them to every school. There is a programme in many African countries, including Senegal, a computer for every child, in Nigeria a computer for every child and we have to work together to ensure the availability of power. We already have a Joint Technical Committee of my Ministry and the Ministry of Mines and Energy to plan together in terms of roll-out of rural electrification and ICT projects.

In conclusion, I thank all the Honourable Members for their support and I thank you.

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

Thank you very much. I now put Vote 29. Any objection? Agreed to.

**Vote 23 – “WORKS”** is put for Discussion and agreed to.

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07 May 2010

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** I thank the Honourable Members for supporting Vote 23. Thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Members, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House is adjourned until Tuesday, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:13 UNTIL 2010.05.11 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
11 MAY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**TABLING: 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT:  
ROADS AUTHORITY**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the 2008/2009 Annual Report of the Roads Authority.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Report. Any other Reports or Papers? Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the following Offices and Ministries:

- Office of the Prime Minister;
- Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry;
- Ministry of Mines and Energy; and
- Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development

11 May 2010

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**RT HON ANGULA / HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Reports. Any other Reports or Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I give Notice that tomorrow, the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, I shall move –

That this Assembly endorses by resolution –

The Contract of the Public Service Commissioners, Mr Festus U Muundjua and Mr Aaron H. D Shihepo, expires on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010, given the fact that His Excellency the President indicated that their terms of office not be renewed. Further, that they be given six months notice, effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2010, that their terms expire on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

In terms of Article 112(3) of the Constitution, appointments of members of the Public Service Commission are nominated by the President and endorsed by the National Assembly by resolution. In addition, the Public Service Commission Act (Act 2 of 1990) stipulates that every member appointed shall be entitled to hold office for a period of five years. I hereby recommend that the National Assembly endorses the expiry of office of Mr Muundjua and Mr Shihepo on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010. This will enable the President to identify some suitable candidates for nomination and appointment by the National Assembly once the posts become vacant. Those affected have been consulted and are in agreement with this recommendation. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion, Right Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Minister of Finance.

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11 May 2010

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow I shall move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Transfer Duty Act in order to determine the rate of Transfer Duty payable by juristic persons; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion. Honourable Dr Amweelo.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**HON DR AMWEELO:** I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 09, 15, 16, 19, 24, 26 and 27 of the Appropriation Bill will be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration by 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion, 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 Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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

11 May 2010

**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 19  
HON DR GEINGOB**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Dr Amweelo, will now take the Chair.

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES:** The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported on Friday, 7 May, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 23, 28, 29, 30 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 15, 16, 24 and 27 had been introduced.

**Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY”, N\$490,689,000** put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, I have the pleasure to present to this august House, Vote 19 for the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

I am privileged that during the State of the Nation Address, His Excellency the President gave such a comprehensive and resounding coverage of the trade, industry and investment sector. I will thus not attempt to improve on what His Excellency had said, but go straight to Budgetary allocations.

The Ministry has been allocated a total of **N\$490,689,000**. This total allocation consists of:

- An amount of N\$235,871,000 for the Operational Budget, and
- An amount of N\$254,818,000 for the Development Budget.

This allocation reflects a total increase of N\$145,944,000.

The bulk of this increase is on the Capital or Development Budget, which has increased by N\$130,280,000.

The Operational Budget, on the other hand, has increased by N\$15,664,000.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 19  
HON DR GEINGOB**

The mandate of the Trade and Industry Ministry is divided into the following five key programme areas:

- Trade promotion and facilitation;
- SME and Entrepreneurship development;
- Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment Promotion;
- Domestic Market Competitiveness and
- Industrial Planning and Infrastructure Development.

An amount of N\$171,471,000 has been allocated to the programme of Trade Promotion and facilitation. This allocation represents a 71% increase from the previous year.

The Ministry will use the Budget allocated for 2010/2011 to carry out the following activities:

- **Hosting of the SACU and SADC Summits in Windhoek**

As the current Chair of SACU, Namibia has recently hosted the first SACU Summit of Heads of State and Government and the Centenary commemorations on 22 April 2010.

Namibia will assume the Chairmanship of SADC in August this year. As such, we will also be hosting the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in August 2010 when SADC will also celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As the national focal point for SADC, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will be at the forefront of the envisaged preparations for the SADC Summit and anniversary celebrations.

In response to the lack of appropriate trading and trade exhibition facilities in most parts and Regions of the country, the Ministry during the 2009/2010 Financial Year embarked on the construction of these facilities.

Okakarara was the first chosen, and the construction of the multi-purpose business and trade fair centre that started in the previous Financial Year will be

completed during the current Fiscal Year. Other places that are in line for the construction of similar centres are Rundu, Keetmanshoop, Omaruru, Tsumeb and Katima Mulilo.

The trade fair facilities provide Namibian enterprises, including SMEs, an environment conducive to exhibiting their products and establishing markets for their products. As a related activity, the Ministry will provide financial and technical support aimed at building the capacity of Regional and Local Authorities to successfully organise Trade Fairs.

As we did in the past Financial Year, when the Ministry organised, facilitated and supported the participation of some 265 Namibian SMEs and entrepreneurs in trade fairs at home and abroad, costing N\$4.5 million, we will continue to provide this support. This will include covering costs, such as the transportation of exhibition products and promotional materials, exhibition space and facilities, and to the extent possible, also travel and accommodation costs. We plan to increase such financial support in this Fiscal Year.

The diversification of our export products and markets, as well as the sources of imports, is important for us. This requires thorough research and analysis. This year the Ministry plans to dedicate more resources towards market research and product development, with a view to identifying and cultivating additional potential export markets as well as to stimulating the development of exportable products. In this regard, emphasis will be given to product branding and labeling so that Namibian products are easily identifiable and well marketed.

To address the lack of capacity and financial resources that umbrella industry organisations and associations require in order to build effective operating capacity and perform their advocacy roles, we will continue to, as we did in the past, provide financial support to various industry organisations.

These include the NCCI, Namibia's Manufacturers' Association, the Indigenous People's Business Forum, Team Namibia and the National Trade Forum. The Ministry specifically supported the projects and activities of these bodies that complement the objectives of the Ministry.

In this year we will establish the national body required under the SACU Agreement to handle our import tariff management, anti-dumping measures

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 19  
HON DR GEINGOB**

and research on trade flows, trade data, import-export controls and management and related matters. It is anticipated that there will be a SACU-wide Board of Trade established in 2011, thus requiring that we establish our National body this year. This also requires amendments to our legislation on imports and exports, which will be tabled later this year.

A total of N\$69,263,000 has been allocated for the SME and Entrepreneurship Development Programme. This represents an increase of 66% from the previous year.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, we plan to use the allocated Budget to expand our SME support programme. Some of the key activities that we plan to carry out in this regard are:

- Conducting feasibility studies and development of business plans as well as turn-around strategies and due diligence assessments;
- Providing business advisory and mentoring services;
- Supporting product development and facilitation of market linkages between SMEs and large businesses;
- Conducting enterprise surveys and census;
- Transforming the Small Credit Guarantee Scheme into an SME bank; and
- Providing financial and technical support to SME enterprises and related industry associations

The expected outcomes of this programme is the enhanced participation of the SME sector in the formal national economy, and its potential for employment creation, export generation, empowerment of the previously disadvantaged and formalisation of businesses.

A total of N\$69,263,000 has been allocated for the Industrial Planning and Infrastructural Development programme. This represents an increase of 66% from the previous year's allocation.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 19  
HON DR GEINGOB**

The provision of affordable industrial premises has positive effects, one of which is to help expose small businesses that used to operate under trees or concealed backyard garages where they are hardly noticed by potential customers. The appropriate basic business infrastructure provided through this programme increases the chances of business success, growth and employment as well as poverty reduction.

With the Budget allocation for the 2010/2011 Financial Year, we plan to undertake the following major industrial development and support activities:

- The provision of electricity reticulation and related bulk services to site intended for the construction of an agro-food processing centre at Oshakati and a new business hub in Okahandja;
- To commence construction of multi-purpose business parks and modular community markets and business centres at places such as Rosh Pinah, Keetmanshoop, Rundu and Ruacana;
- The construction of the Ministry's Regional Office at Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region;
- The construction of additional warehouses at Katwitwi and Oshikango border settlements to meet the increasing demand for employment-creating warehousing and cross-border trading activities targeting neighbouring Angola;
- To establish garment manufacturing factory units, starting with a pilot in Windhoek;
- The finalisation of the Industrial Policy and Strategy;
- To carry out research in order to investigate comparative advantages (resource-endowment) as well as economic and industrial development potential of the various Regions of the country;
- To spearhead the Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation of the local manufacturing sector so as to enhance the productive capacity and competitiveness of individual enterprises; and

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HON DR GEINGOB**

- The development of a reliable information collection, analysis and dissemination system to improve our ability to plan and direct industrialisation with special focus on resource-based manufacturing.

The impact of these programmes is to facilitate the creation of local industries, especially small-scale industries, by among others, reducing the cost of acquiring industrial infrastructure and facilitating the provision of other industry support incentives.

**Promotion of Commerce and Domestic Market Competitiveness**

This programme is been allocated an amount of N\$74,222,000. This represents a decrease of 16% from last year's allocation.

I want under this programme to highlight the importance of our agencies and State-Owned-Enterprises. We have now successfully established both our Namibia Standards Institute and our Competition Commission. These institutions will both play a critically important role in the development of our commerce as well as ensuring a level playing field for all.

Importantly, the Competition Commission, together with the Namibia Board of Trade previously mentioned with its envisaged powers to prevent dumping in our market, will finally be able to prevent the uncompetitive behaviour that we have seen amongst businesses in the past and the ruthless actions by dominant companies to exclude others. This is a very important achievement.

To conclude this overview of the agencies and State-Owned-Enterprises under the mantle of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, I need to mention in conclusion that we are considering significant reforms to the Namibia Development Corporation, as well as the Offshore Development Company. In due course I will inform this august House of proposed developments in this regard.

The financial resources allocated for this programme will, among others, go towards financing and strengthening the operational capacity of Namibia Standards Institution and Namibia Competition Commission.

I now move on to our final programme:

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HON DR GEINGOB**

The Budgetary allocation to our investment programme amounts to N\$35,787,000. This represents a 23% increase from last year's allocation.

It is pleasing that already in the last quarter of 2009, some of the mining companies that either closed or scaled down their operations as a result of the global economic meltdown were showing signs of recovery or revival. On the other hand, Namibia experienced a uranium investment boom, with some N\$1.76 billion worth of commitments in foreign direct investments recorded, with corresponding creation of over 1,228 new jobs during this period.

In the coming year, we will use these resources to intensify our promotion and marketing of investment opportunities in the country to both domestic and foreign investors. The promotion of joint venture partnerships will receive special attention.

We will roll out a more appealing and easily accessible website entitled "*investnamibia.com.na*", while maintaining the use of existing effective media. A data for the proper capturing and storage of investor information will also be put in place for easy tracking of investments.

In addition, we will intensify networking and dialogue with umbrella business organisations and stakeholders, such as the NCCI, to ensure coordinated efforts in promoting and supporting investments in the country. Most of the existing incentives need to be re-examined to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness and we will continue consultations with the Ministry of Finance and other relevant institutions of Government in this regard.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion therefore, I now wish to request the support and approval of this august House for Vote 19 Ministry of Trade and Industry for a total allocation of N\$490,689,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year so that we can create more jobs. I thank you for your attention and support.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much, Honourable Minister.

I put **Vote 26 – "NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION", N\$134,012,000** for Introduction.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 26  
HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-**

**GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 26, National Planning Commission. In terms of Article 129 of the Namibian Constitution, the main constitutional function of the Commission is to plan the priorities and direction of national development. The National Planning Commission also coordinates development assistance to Government with social partners. Against this background, the National Planning Commission coordinates all Government Capital Projects and is entrusted with the responsibility of official national statistics. In this regard, the National Planning Commission plays an important function in the economic planning of our country.

Honourable Chairperson, we can only effectively implement our programmes and projects once we have correct information regarding, for example, the level of poverty in our country, the most economically marginalised communities, the most affected poverty-stricken Regions, the level of education of our Nation, the level of provision of social services, such as health care, water, schools, etcetera. Official statistics on all these issues are provided by the National Planning Commission. It is clear, therefore, that the National Planning Commission is basically a technical institution.

The National Planning Commission is busy implementing its daunting tasks as enshrined in its Strategic Plan and NDP3, which are geared to ensure the attainment of Vision 2030 objectives. The tasks are, inter alia, to:

- Enhance, Coordinate, Monitor and Evaluate National Development;
- Establish new development partnerships, mobilise and coordinate external resources; and
- Collect, coordinate and supervise official statistics.

In line with its legal mandate and in accordance with NDP3, the National Planning Commission will implement four major programmes during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The first program involves development planning. For a long time now, the development program implementation has been hampered by inadequate

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 26  
HON DR KAWANA**

coordination and integration among institutions. In addition, there has been lack of effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation system.

An integrated result-based planning approach was introduced to help link planning and implementation to the desired results. This approach needs further consolidation. The programme involves a revision of the Development Planning Manual, training the staff of Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

It also involves training the staff of Regional Councils and other stakeholders in planning and monitoring. The development of the national monitoring, reporting and evaluation commenced in 2008/2009 and will continue until 2010/2011. This includes the design of the overall system and the introduction of the Directorate of Implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The NDP3 Mid-Term Review is planned to take place during the first half of this year. The purpose of the review is to assess the achievements made halfway through the implementation of NDP3. The aim is also to identify major challenges during the implementation with a view to coming up with corrective measures. An amount of N\$26,639,000 is requested for this programme.

The second programme involves development cooperation. The main activities under this programme are to mobilise, coordinate, and manage development resources, including monitoring of aid disbursements through the Development Cooperation Database.

In this regard, the National Planning Commission will coordinate the preparation and drafting of Official Development Assistance Mobilisation Strategy. It is expected that the strategy will be finalised during 2010/2011 Financial Year. The official Development Assistance Mobilisation Strategy is critical in mobilising both internal and external resources for development programmes guided by the needs of NDP3.

Namibia is signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness since April 2007. The implementation of this Declaration requires a high degree of Governmental coordination of donor resources, prioritisation of projects and division of labour among donors regarding funding of projects. This undertaking requires a proper Official Development Assistance Coordination

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HON DR KAWANA**

Mechanism to be put in place. During the period under review, the National Planning Commission finalised and published Development Cooperation Guidelines to ensure that development assistance is optimally utilised and that Government policies and procedures are adhered to.

Another principle approach advanced by Government and donors is to increasingly channel external resources through the State Revenue Fund and to use Government systems in order to direct resources to NDP Programmes.

In order to access resources in this way, donors expect that Sector Wide Approaches be prepared whereby resources are pooled and integrated to specific programmes with targets and indicators.

This requires the setting up of Sector Forums between the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, Line Ministries and development partners. There is also a need to have an integrated database in place on Official Development Assistance flows, disbursements and projections, which require training, expertise and equipment. During 2009/2010 Financial Year, the National Planning Commission managed to mobilise about N\$2.7 billion in grants.

This Programme will, therefore, continue to facilitate training of a number of staff in donor coordination, negotiating skills, database and information management, financial management and policy analysis. An amount of N\$27,089,000 is requested for this programme.

The third programme involves statistics production and integrated information management. Major projects under this programme include the development of the Geographical Information System, the execution of the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey, conducting Population and Housing Census, intensifying Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation System and Population Policy and Strategy. Honourable Members may wish to know that this is the third population and housing census that Namibia will be conducting since Independence. The last two were in 1991 and 2001.

In the current Financial Year, activities will include: the production of official statistics, such as national accounts, consumer price index and trade statistics. In addition, crosscutting activities, such as general statistics coordination and

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 09  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

rendering of technical services to Line Ministries, will be provided. An amount of N\$64,694,000 is requested for this programme.

The fourth programme involves commission-wide coordination, investment and support services. It facilitates the operations of the National Planning Commission Secretariat by rendering support and technical services. Its main activities include Budget preparation, control of funds and safekeeping of computerised information system. An amount of N\$15,590,000 is requested for this programme.

In conclusion, I request this august House to consider and approve the Budget of N\$134,012,000 to finance the four programmes of the National Planning Commission under Vote 26. I so move and I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you.

I put **Vote 09 – “FINANCE”**, N\$2,650,427,000 for Introduction.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I take pleasure, on behalf of Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and myself, in presenting the Budget for Vote 09, Ministry of Finance, for your consideration and support.

The mandate of the Ministry of Finance is broad. On the one hand, it covers the management and control of Central Government and public funds and on the other hand, the Ministry also fulfils a very focused mandate and Ministry specific functions. The main objectives of the Ministry of Finance are to:

- *Sustain equitable socio-economic development*
- *Optimise public revenue collection*

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 09  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

- *Ensure that public expenditure delivers results and value for money*
- *Manage Public Assets and Liabilities, and*
- *Ensure effective management of human capital and other resources*

Its Ministerial targets are as follows:

- *Maintain debt as a ratio of GDP within 25% to 30% by 2012/2013;*
- *Achieve 98% average revenue forecast accuracy during the 2010/2011-2012/13 Medium Term Expenditure Framework Period;*
- *Maintain average Budget deficit as a ratio of GDP around 5% over the 2010/2011-2012/2013 Medium Term Expenditure Framework Period;*
- *Maintain a variance of less than 2% of expenditure on overall Budget ceilings, yearly and*
- *Maintain contingent liability below the target of 10% of GDP, yearly.*

In pursuit of the objectives I mentioned, Ministry of Finance fulfils several core functions.

Ministry of Finance plays a broad role in the financial sector. Its scope encompasses the supervision and implementation of the regulatory framework for the banking and non-banking industry. This is in addition to the development and implementation of fiscal policies and allocation of financial resources in support of improving the socio-economic conditions in our country.

Government has developed a public finance management strategy to strengthen fair revenue collection, better plan and control public expenditure, improve transparency and accountability, and reinforce the identification and management of macroeconomic and fiscal risks. Consequently, the Ministry has put measures and financial systems in place to implement the Public Finance Management or PFM strategy.

Namibia, alongside developed and other developing countries, has signed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and has since been able to mobilise

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

some development funding, which is disbursed through the State Revenue Fund. The relatively small amount of grant funding disbursed through the State Revenue Fund, that is, N\$83 million and N\$275 million in 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 respectively, has had a far-reaching positive effect and development actions have become easier to monitor. It is clear though that many of our development partners prefer to avail their support as extra Budgetary support. This is evidenced by the anticipated support outside the Budget of N\$1.1 billion in 2010/2011. We maintain our stance that the promises of the Paris Declaration relating to untied aid should be fully complied with. This would be more cost effective and would strengthen both our financing system and country ownership of aid.

While Government is committed to canvas for further Budget support and continues to engage development partners to honour their commitments, Namibia's classification as a middle-income country presents a hurdle to mobilise donor support and concessional borrowing. This classification disguises widespread poverty and highly skewed distribution of income which has characterised Namibia's socio-economic landscape for over a century. Government thus implores the donor community and development finance institutions not to lose sight of this misnomer when considering support and lending options for Namibia.

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, I will now turn to the planned programmes relating to Vote 09 for the period 2010/2011 to 2012/13. I will provide a synopsis of the envisaged results these programmes will render and how each programme relates to the Ministry's core functions. I will also highlight our flagship projects and review our past performance against ministerial targets falling within each programme.

Similarly to many other countries, Namibia's Budget is a cash-based Budget. Nonetheless, a move towards programme Budgeting holds the promise of enhanced financial resources planning and control, as well as commensurate outcome or output audits.

Government is in the process of modifying the Expenditure Management and Accounting System so that each Office/Ministry/Agency will account for its Budget expenditure in line with programme-based Budgeting. Four Votes have been identified for piloting this initiative: the Ministry of Environment

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and Tourism, National Planning Commission, the Office of the Auditor-General and the Ministry of Finance. All piloted Votes have not only identified programmes which are now disaggregated, but these programmes encompass activity expenditure points which are also included in the Chart of Accounts.

We have thus started a phased implementation by moving away from line item and incremental Budget planning and expenditure controls towards programme and activity-based Budgeting and results-based expenditure controls. The pilot phase will continue until 31 March 2011 when all Votes will be placed on the “new” system. However, there will be continuation of cash-based accounting and auditing of State funds, meaning that we will not yet be able to deploy a rolling or accrual accounting system. This goes hand-in-hand with the provisions in the State Finance Act, Treasury Instructions and the manner how we proceed to approve the Appropriation Bill on an annual basis.

With this very important explanation, I now take pleasure in presenting this House with the Vote 09, Ministry of Finance programme highlights and their expected results for the period 2010/2011 and the remainder 2011/2012 and 2012/13 Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. For each programme I will also outline the past performance against Ministerial targets.

Vote 09 comprises seven programmes, each having between five and seven costed activities. The total requested funding amounts to N\$2,650,427,000 in 2010/2011, catering for both developmental and recurrent expenditure of the activities as follows:

The main purpose of the Economic Policy Advice programme is to assess national, regional and international economic developments and formulate relevant policies. The programme activities entail *macroeconomic analysis, projection and policies, financial programming, monitoring impacts of regional and international economy, managing GFS reporting, and undertaking research studies*. A total of N\$2,841,000 is requested for this programme during 2010/2011.

I am pleased to report that all macroeconomic targets were met. Monitoring and reporting on our performance against the SADC macroeconomic convergence targets is ongoing, and efforts must continue to ensure that

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Namibia reaps optimal benefits from Regional integration.

In 2008/2009, however, work commenced to acquire in-house skills and an integrated, analytical financial programming tool. As a result, revenue forecast accuracy improved from 89% in 2008/2009 to 92.4% accuracy in 2009/2010. Our efforts will lead to even greater accuracy in the coming years.

The Revenue Management programme is to ensure efficient administration of tax legislation and to optimise the collection of public revenue. The programme activities entail *law enforcement and public education, trade facilitation, duty and tax administration, trade negotiations, revenue infrastructure and revenue collection systems*. A total of N\$310,675,000 is requested for this programme during 2010/2011.

I would like to note some of our achievements within this programme as well as impending challenges:

Regarding sustainability of tax revenue growth, I am pleased to state that all tax categories have grown on average by 12.2% on a year-on-year basis over the 2006/2007 to 2008/2009 Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. Through the forensic auditing initiative alone we have been able to recover over N\$1 billion in tax revenue per year over the last four years.

**Focusing on customs**, we have completed a review of the customs structure and have approval to implement an improved structure that accommodates the demands of a modern customs administration within a Regional customs union, SACU.

It is anticipated that improved tax administration, partly through our training efforts, and tax law compliance will greatly enhance sustainability of domestic tax revenue growth and our capacity to accurately forecast revenue over the medium to long-term. The most poignant risk on revenue regards taxes on international trade, with income from SACU set to decrease by 30.4% in the current Financial Year, and by a further 52.7% in 2011/2012. Other medium-term risks that may exert pressure on revenue growth include impeding tariff liberalisation under various free trade arrangements. I, therefore, call upon all members of the public to cooperate with us in registering as taxpayers along with paying their dues to the State, and not only call upon the State when in need of financial concessions.

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As the trade liberalisation agenda gains momentum and consequent pressure on revenue from Customs tariffs grows, Government must find alternative sources of revenue. Environmental levies, royalties on natural resources (non-renewable and renewable), export taxes on raw materials, especially for non-renewable resources, are options for alternative revenues. Centralising all tax is an essential administrative tool to optimise revenue outturn.

Here it should further be highlighted that pursuit of the EPA should not compromise our efforts to follow a Namibian development agenda. We must not allow the EPA to compromise our efforts to enhance revenue through royalties and other export taxes, nor should we compromise our industrial development policy.

The Public Expenditure Management programme is to ensure that public expenditure delivers results and value for money. The programme activities consist of *Budget and accounting operations, contingency allocation, Public Finance Management (PFM) capacity building and electronic funds system development*. A total of N\$353,404,000 is requested for this programme during 2010/2011.

Concerning the ministerial target of maintaining a variance of less than 2% of expenditure on overall Budget ceilings, I am pleased to note that we have been successful.

With the implementation of Integrated Financial Management System, all except for two votes maintained their actual spending for the 2008/2009 Financial Year within the target band of 2% of budgeted expenditure. Overall variance was 0.98%. I commend the diligent cooperation of the Accounting Officers to ensure accountable and transparent spending of public funds. We are, however, concerned with the item remuneration where subdivision overspending is not curbed sufficiently.

The main purpose of the Procurement programme is to administer the Tender Board Act, whose primary objective is to regulate the procurement of goods and services. The programme activities comprise *streamlining of tender processes* and *providing secretarial services* to, among others, improve efficiency of the Tender Board and promote local content of tenders. A total of N\$4,375,000 is requested for this programme during 2010/2011.

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An achievement to be highlighted here is the amendment of the Tender Board Act with stronger provisions to maximise benefits to the local economy, and strengthen participation of BEE and SME entrepreneurs.

The Asset and Liabilities Management Programme is to manage the risks associated with short and long-term borrowing or lending and administer the law with respect to the management of Government assets. The programme activities embody *debt and liquidity management, regulation of Government assets management, oversight of State-Owned-Enterprises financial performance* and *provision and management of subsidies to State-Owned-Enterprises*. A total of N\$550,533,000 is requested for this programme during 2010/2011.

On this point, I would like to mention some of our main achievements:

Dividends from State-Owned-Enterprises have increased from N\$173 million in 2008/2009 to N\$306 million in 2009/2010. We have already announced that henceforth, all State-Owned-Enterprises are to operate according to performance agreements between the Central Government agencies or Votes and the State-Owned-Enterprises under their supervision. This would result in realisation of value for money, more transparency, identification of possible risks and their management within operations of State-Owned-Enterprises. Moreover, Government will be able to hold managers of State-Owned-Enterprises personally liable and accountable for non-performance. We are thus counting on the cooperation of Accounting Officers of all Votes to facilitate the speedy implementation of these reform initiatives.

Concerning past performance against Ministerial Targets within this programme, debt as ratio to GDP fell from 18% in 2008/2009 to 15.1% in 2009/2010, and the target of keeping it below 25% was achieved. In fact, the debt to GDP ratio averaged 21.4% over the 2006/2007 to 2008/2009 Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, mainly on the back of bold fiscal consolidation. Fiscal consolidation involved the implementation of the Sovereign Debt Management Strategy, as approved by Cabinet, which reduced the cost of borrowing, especially from external sources by prepaying expensive foreign loans.

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Total sovereign guarantees as a percentage of GDP for the 2006/2007-2008/2009 Fiscal Years are still within target, remaining below the benchmark of 10% of GDP. Government-issued guarantees show a downward trend and fell from 8.6% of GDP in 2006/2007 to 4.2% of GDP in 2008/2009. The reduction is attributed to the repayment of loans by creditors with guaranteed borrowing and a strong reduction of defaulted loans.

The Medical and Statutory Pension Scheme programme is to assist Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme members and their dependants in meeting medical aid expenses.

The programme activities consist of PSEMAS administration, managing pension of Judges and administration of pension guarantee payment to some Members of Parliament and other Office-bearers. A total of N\$1,049,000,000 is requested for this programme during 2010/2011.

We are currently reviewing the benefit structure alongside the Office of the Prime Minister, and improving our claims administration so as to avoid any abuses of the system.

The Coordination and Support Services programme is to provide administrative support to the Vote's programmes and to ensure proper financial management, optimal deployment of resources and capacity-building. Its activities entail, among others, *staff training & development, general administrative support services, acquisition and maintenance of IT equipment and systems, implementation of Ministry Capital Projects, risk management and coordinating the fight against HIV and AIDS*. A total of N\$379,850,000 is requested for this programme during 2010/2011.

Lastly, I would like to highlight our success in meeting our Ministerial Budget deficit target, by achieving three consecutive Budget surpluses in the period 2006/2007 to 2008/2009. In 2009/2010, a smaller than forecast Budget deficit of 1.7% was recorded.

Overall, the programmes are aimed at improving fiscal policy formulation and management of public finances. The successful implementation of these programmes will contribute immensely to the attainment of the national development objectives as outlined in NDP3.

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Further details on the specific outputs of each programme and its commensurate activities are provided in the Budget documentation laid before this House.

However, Honourable Members, I am apt to stress here that the output of all the programmes under Vote 09 impacts on the lives of all Namibians, in one way or the other. We have taken utmost care to design the contents of these programmes and ensure their outputs can improve the welfare of our people in a meaningful manner. The economic and fiscal policies that are developed in the Ministry in consultation with various stakeholders, which are implemented by the public and private sector, are an important ingredient to the functioning of our economy and the revenue our economy can deliver to improve socio-economic development in Namibia.

For that reason we are vigilant in finding dynamic solutions to economic challenges and developments globally, Regionally and domestically. This goes along with commensurate research of a specific situation, advancement of in-house skills and concerted efforts to improve the public systems infrastructure and administrative procedures of all areas of the Vote's mandate, notably policy matters, revenue, expenditure, procurement and assets and liabilities management. I wish to highlight that infrastructure is being put in place to facilitate electronic funds transfers for incoming and outgoing State funds, a process that will be implemented gradually. Measures are underway to ameliorate the public procurement process in general, to promote local content and job creation, and strengthen the transparency of the bidding process.

With the ongoing reform efforts, we are on the right track. However, mitigating socio-economic and financial stability risks and managing economic crisis should not be the task of Government alone. Rather, we are calling upon all stakeholders, businesses and citizens in their personal capacities, to contribute to an economic system which is able to convert opportunities into sustainable ventures and thereby address existing and future challenges of our country in a pro-poor, pro-growth manner. After all, it is the private sector which is the engine of growth and job creation. The Public Sector acts to lubricate the functioning of that engine by nurturing a business environment conducive to private sector operation.

The global economic crisis, which ravaged the world's developed and developing economies, might have dissipated, however, the crisis has not

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disappeared. The current unfolding events in Greece and the Eurozone unveil how excess public debt bubbles could burst into a crisis of Regional and global proportions. Such events reveal the fragility of the economic recovery path and post a clarion call for fiscal prudence over the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. On Vote 09's part, we are continuously striving for a public finance system that delivers results and value for money.

Honourable Assistant Chair, Honourable Members, the total envisaged Budgetary allocation for Vote 09 amounts to N\$2,650,427,000. With these few words I request the Honourable Members of the House to approve the ceiling, the programmes and the activities of Vote 09 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year and provisional ceilings for 2011/2012. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. I want to thank the Honourable Ministers for explaining their votes to the House and we shall now rise for tea-break.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:35 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** **Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY” is put for Discussion.**

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 15 and to say the following:

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HON DR ANKAMA**

The Honourable Minister, at the beginning of his statement on page 2, stated the objectives of the Ministry of Mines and Energy and he mentioned five very important points. However, in order not to waste too much time, I want to refer to page 4 where the Honourable Minister speaks about the conditions in the diamond sector.

Honourable Minister, a few years ago there was an understanding in the Ministry of Mines and Energy that diamonds should be mined and manufactured in Namibia. I think we have up to today not reached there and there must be a reason. Perhaps it is due to the downturn in that sector, but I would like the Honourable Minister to inform this House whether there is hope that we sooner or later will mine and manufacture diamonds in Namibia.

My second question is related to Uranium. It is good that you are saying Uranium is doing well as far as exploration is concerned and that it is now contributing 10% towards the world output, but I can tell you, Honourable Minister, we can claim to be a country rich in mineral resources, but as long as we continue to export our raw materials, we will remain poor and nobody will ever take us seriously. The question is, can we ever think of a final product from uranium or any other mineral resource in our country?

My final question is about Kudu Gas on page 10. We have been speaking of Kudu Gas ever since the birth of our Republic and it was found long before we got Independence. Up to now nothing has happened and we are told the resource is economically viable. It is a question that we do not have money to make available for the development of this resource? I want to challenge the four or five Honourable Members of this Honourable House who have a trade union background and we know that GIPF has a lot of money and perhaps the union and other people could make a decision that Kudu Gas be brought on stream to benefit the country. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Ankama.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you very much. My question is very straightforward. When one talks to

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colleagues and patriots in this country, one realises that we can do more with our resources and even fund our own projects. We have never tried to put portions of these mines up for bidding so that eventually we could come up with national programmes that are funded through this bidding. I am just echoing the concern of many Namibians who say we should come up with the idea of bidding and then individuals or corporate bodies bid so that they can develop either roads or fund Green Schemes or any of our National Capital Projects, so that at the end Namibians benefit, which, I believe, would benefit the country immensely. I am echoing this in the interest of many Namibians who share the same sentiments. That is my question to the Mining Sector.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank the Deputy Minister. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Comrade Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is a comment on the Kimberley Process. There is a lobby at international level by those who want a change of regime in Zimbabwe and those who want to sabotage Zimbabwe to have Zimbabwe kicked out of this Association. I do not know whether the Minister is aware of that or not and if he is not, we are picking up through our contacts that the United States and other friends are leading a campaign to have Zimbabwe kicked out of that organisation. This is not acceptable, we cannot allow ourselves to be divided. After all, as has been mentioned, those who are benefiting from our natural resources are those who are adding value and we cannot allow our neighbour to be harassed. Divide and rule tactics are not welcome and this is not in our interest. Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Minister. Honourable Namoloh.

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HON NAMOLOH**

**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 15 which provides us with energy. On page 11 the Honourable Minister mentions renewable energy technologies, namely solar systems. I am very happy and delighted to hear that it seems to be affordable systems, but to our disappointment, these things are extremely expensive. They are not affordable, they are meant for poor people who cannot afford to pay for the cables, which are also extremely expensive. When we are talking about solar energy to be provided in the country it will be only for the well-to-do, because when it comes to the market, it is very expensive and unaffordable. We would want to see something that is affordable. We run to countries which are very expensive and we do not look for other sources which can provide this commodity at a cheaper price. We buy from Germany and those solar systems are made in India. I heard a story that when Comrades Geingob and Gurirab went to the United States, they were ordering trousers from Germany while there were trousers in the United States, because when they went from here they were wearing Otto Mühr trousers. It is the same syndrome. We have to look somewhere else where we can find something affordable to our people.

Secondly is on the electrification of the rural areas, which seems to be avoiding certain areas. When we first introduced rural electrification, every Cuca shop had a light while the houses were being avoided. Maybe NamPower erects the grid line far from the houses so that you pay dearly to them. It is true, it is deliberate, I have seen it. One time I went to Okongo and saw only the Cuca Shops had lights, but the houses around there had no electricity. How are we going to empower ourselves while we empower the Cuca Shops and not the households? Even at my place the first place to receive electricity was a Cuca shop and it was about three hundred metres from my house and then all of a sudden they vacated the Cuca shop and the lights were being used by no one while we were in the darkness.

There should be a strategy how these lines should run, how many households who are in the area who want energy and it should be planned accordingly, not to deliberately avoid the households. I feel this should be looked into, Honourable Minister. I will only support this Vote if you make adjustments to this. I thank you.

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HON IILONGA**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Assistant Chair. I rise to support Vote 15 of Mines and Energy. On page 5 there is mention of cutting and polishing of diamonds. A feasibility study is something that needs to be done for unknown areas, but we have already started with cutting and there are already glass manufacturing factories around the world and we need to go beyond feasibility studies and start buying skills.

A country develops itself by taking risks. Comrades, as we are sitting here, we are members of the GIPF and we are proud that GIPF has about N\$40 billion. We in this country believe that our money will get good yields when it is invested to develop other countries while we are suffering, saying that our economy is so small, we cannot invest in it. Let us just start with only N\$2 billion and I can tell you that if the workers of this country decide to invest in the economy of their country to create jobs for the fellow workers, we will see how they will sweat, knowing that Namibia is now serious and not just to invest in other countries. The challenge is with the NUNW and its affiliates and with us as Members of Parliament as members of GIPF to advise our representatives in GIPF to invest N\$2 billion.

Value adding to our products is very important. Your predecessor talked about nuclear generated energy and I want to know whether we still have this programme.

We say solar is renewable, but renewable by whom? We do not produce even a small solar torch, but we say it is renewable. We must get the Polytechnic, the University of Namibia and the new institution in Ongwediva to embark on those projects, so that we can add value and manufacture. When we have done that, then it becomes renewable, because you still rely on other countries for batteries.

Honourable Minister, are we still continuing with the supply of transformers in the formerly disadvantaged areas? Why can these people not have a pilot programme to install transformers, as they are doing here in the big towns and

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**HON DR A IYAMBO**

when we pay for our monthly service, they can earmark even one dollar to serve the transformer. I can tell you today, we will not have any part that has not been electrified. Just ask those REDS to have that pilot programme and we will make progress. With that, I support Vote 15.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 15 of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. I have one question and a few comments.

On page 11 of the speech of the Honourable Minister, the Minister reported to the House that during 2009/2010 an amount of N\$56 million was budgeted for rural electrification for 38 Villages, including schools and clinics and for the Budget 2010/2011, there is an amount of N\$64 million for rural electrification.

Honourable Deputy Chair, before I ask my questions, I would like to say that rural electrification is very important, but as things stand now and the information I have received from the Regions, many schools are in darkness, including community hostels and many of the Clinics and many people had computers donated to them, but these computers are white elephants, they are there for decoration. As a Government we are promoting, in line with Vision 2030, the utilisation of IT, but because of lack of electricity, particularly in rural areas, we are unable to use IT.

Honourable Minister, you said that thirty-eight villages were electrified. It is very important for us to indicate roughly how many schools were electrified during the year 2009/2010 and the same with the hostels and the clinics. It would be good if the officials could indicate how many schools. That would indicate to us the magnitude of how we are electrifying schools.

What the Minister of Defence said is of great concern, that these power lines are passing near schools without going to the schools. Honourable Minister, is

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HON MUHARUKUA**

it possible that whenever we are electrifying the rural areas, the schools, hostels and clinics within a distance of five kilometres be provided with power. If we have to come back to electrification again, it will be very expensive, but if we were to make it a rule that if an institution is to be electrified and there is a school, hostel or clinics within five kilometres, it should be a must for those to also be electrified. Is it possible, Honourable Minister? If it is possible, I support you. If it is impossible, we should work on it.

If it is impossible to electrify the schools from these power lines, is it possible to have a generator at each and every school? I know people are saying they are too noisy, but we want electricity? Would the Ministry Budget for generators and if so, can we do so?

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, if we are serious with information technology and that by the year 2030 this will be an industrialised Nation where our school children can use computers and wherever we are in the rural areas we can use electricity, is it possible, Honourable Minister, that wherever you have five kilometres to a school, to supply electricity? If not, can we get generators? Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I do not think I agree with the use of generators. Despite the noise, it also pollutes. Comrade Muharukua.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I rise to support Vote 15 and thank the Ministry of Mines and Energy especially for the solar systems. I want to thank the former Minister of Mines and Energy for the solar systems you took to the disadvantaged group from the mountains in the areas of Otjikolo, Otjomurru and Ohailuwa.

To the new Minister, I want you to continue with the initiatives taken by your Colleague. Our people do not know how to use that energy, sometimes they are stealing it to sell it and I want you to control it. I only stand to thank the Ministry of Mines and Energy for the solar energy given to our people.

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HON DINGARA / HON AMATHILA**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Muharukua. Honourable Dingara.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you, Comrade Assistant Chair. Maybe I must start by saying that the man in Namibia who started talking about our rich mineral resources has decided to take the bull by its horns when he retired from the position of President, Comrade Sam Nujoma, and went to study Geology at his age just to do verification. I no longer enjoy hearing that Namibia is a rich country and it would be seen as if we are not serious if we continue saying for the next twenty years that Namibia is rich and we remain poor. Even the people at the grassroots are now tired of hearing this. Do we have someone who can really tell us what programme is in place and by which time will we start making this country rich from the minerals we have? Maybe the Minister of Mines and Energy can deal with that question so that we do not continue saying we have rich mineral resources, but the people are poor.

My second question is on electrification. When the programme was introduced to connect Government institutions, a decision was taken to assist the surrounding people within a 500 metre radius. This programme continued for two years and then it was realised that the community next to the surrounding area should be assisted. Then that programme continued and up to now the places that were supplied with electricity before that decision was taken are not connected, except for the schools and clinics. We are requesting the Ministry of Mines and Energy to connect also those places within the 500 metre radius who were the first priority. Otherwise, I support Vote 15.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Amathila.

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**HON AMATHILA:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chair. I was not here when the presentation was made, but I heard some of my Colleagues mentioning page 11, renewable energy. Let me say that I support Vote 15 in its entirety, but I have a question to the Minister.

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**HON AMATHILA**

Quite a number of times we heard people quoting that Namibia becoming number ten, number five on the list of uranium producers in the world. Namibia will most likely with the production by the new mines move up to number two or three. Is the Minister taking into consideration that this is not a renewable mineral and what will happen to the communities surrounding the areas where this mining is taking place when these mines come to the end of their production?

In 1992, Rössing Uranium indicated that they were going to close down their mine and we as a Government had to scramble, running from country to country to encourage them to buy Uranium so that our people could remain employed, but we were not successful. Rössing abandoned most of its activities, leaving only skeleton staff at Rössing, which is a very good example of what is going to happen to all these mines should the Ministry not take an interest in providing for the citizens after the depletion of the Uranium.

We know the history of coal in some of the industrialised countries in Europe, such as Britain and Germany. When coal mining came to a halt, everybody was just sent home and these were people who for generations worked in the mines. Most likely this is going to happen to us here in Namibia and the question is, what provisions are we making for each and every mine opening in Namibia that the citizens there will not be left hanging in the air after the closure of the mines.

Comrade Assistant Chair, our country is not only endowed with underground resources, but we are possibly also the richest country in terms of renewable energy, namely wind, solar and hydro and one of the reasons why Namibia has become so dependent on electricity generation from South Africa is because we are not in control of the flow of the water in the river that forms the border between ourselves and Angola.

A few weeks ago, I sat in a meeting and I was so convinced – and I want the Minister to confirm whether this is possible – that when Russia in the seventies reversed the flow of a river, which was flowing westwards, to flow eastwards, some people thought it was madness, but they had to do this because it was in the interest of Russia to invest in that kind of process. I was told that Namibia has 345 sunny days and that is possibly one area in the world where the sun shines almost for that period of time and I am told that if we can put up solar

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panels of one square kilometre, we would be able to generate one thousand megawatts of electricity. The biggest problem we have in this country is the storage of electricity. I was convinced that if you build a dam at the downside of the Kunene River and use your surplus electricity to pump the water back into the river, you are going to generate more electricity for a longer period than the five months that we get electricity from that river and once we do that, there will be no need to import electricity from South Africa.

The question to the Minister is: Is the Minister aware of this possibility and what encouragement in financial terms can the Minister give to Namibians who would like to venture into this kind of project? I know a dam to arrest the water from the flow of the river will possibly run against the traditions and culture of people who live there, but that would possibly require that all of us in this House, once we have established that this is feasible, should convince our citizens in the area that it is in the interest of Namibia to build this particular dam, use the surplus electricity to pump the water back into the river up to the point where we can add another generation plant on the Ruacana to generate more electricity and make Namibia self-sufficient. Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kapia.

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you, Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to support the Vote of my senior, but I want to appeal to the new Minister to take time to really analyse the situation of rural electrification, particular the 500 metres radius. If you investigate, you would find out that some clever people diverted the power to other people who are far outside the 500 metre radius. It happened in various areas of this country.

The Minister emphasised that the schools which are within the five kilometres from the power lines are crying for electricity. Comrade Minister, you must investigate and try to improve.

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HON MUSHELENGA**

The issue of the REDS is a serious concern to some of us. We do not know what was the purpose for its establishment and I want the Minister to investigate the possibility of empowering the Local Authorities to run their own electricity so that they can also generate money. These REDS were established and the cost of electricity has risen. We are talking about poverty, but how can you eradicate poverty if you are increasing the charges daily? We must really analyse this issue of the REDS.

Comrade Assistant Chairperson, could we have an indication of the timeframe for Baynes Hydro, so that we do something this year and next year, something else. We are talking about Kudu Gas, but what is blocking its development after fifteen years? Could we have a timeframe, Comrade Minister? Why can this project not get off the ground? Are we just talking for the sake of talking? I support Vote 15 wholeheartedly, but with that serious concern on the timeframe.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Comrade Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to talk about energy, because that is my background.

The Ministry has various institutions under it. Some are service providers, some are regulars. As a case in point I want to refer to the ECB and NamPower. Currently people are crying about the electricity tariffs in the country, but Honourable Minister, I am informed that the reality on the ground is that NamPower has asked the ECB to increase the tariffs of electricity and ECB approves the increment and then it goes to the Minister. For the past four or five years, NamPower did not get the increment they have been asking for, because if they did get those increments, this year they would only ask for 12% increment from the customers.

Secondly, the 35% increment is not only what NamPower has asked for, they have indicated to the ECB the baseline with which they could live, but the

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HON NGHIDINWA**

ECB decided to give the 35%. Honourable Minister, when these tariffs are approved, do you investigate to inform yourself as to the background against which the ECB approved the tariffs in order that we avoid the hullabaloo that is going on in the country now. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Honourable Nghidinwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to commend the Ministry of Mines and Energy for what they have done so far with rural electrification. However, I am requesting the Ministry to review the master plan, because the master plan is only accommodating within a certain radius. For example, I could have electricity but my neighbour is not accommodated. Especially the people in areas proclaimed as settlements or towns where the land is not yet serviced are suffering, because the servicing of land takes time and I thought those places should also be accommodated in rural electrification.

The Councillors of those towns, instead of coming up with a rural electrification programme because the area is within the boundaries of the town, jump to other places and these people have waited ten to twenty years. Therefore, it would be good to review the master plan and see if those areas are also accommodated in the rural electrification programme. With those few words, I support Vote 15 and I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister, please reply.

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**HON KATALI**

**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, about twelve Honourable Members raised questions and I want to start with the first remark by Honourable Kapia, when he said I must sit down and ask myself questions and investigate where improvements could be effected. I would like to inform the Honourable Members that I agree with Comrade Kapia that I sit down and ask myself questions and then answer them.

Before I go one by one, let me make a general comment on electricity. In all southern African countries there is a scarcity of electricity generation and that is a fact and we must also then understand that Namibia does not generate enough electricity of her own, meaning that we are importing electricity and please Honourable Members, keep that in mind when I address some of the queries.

The first set of questions were three from Honourable Iyambo Senior. The first is whether in the near future we will be mining and manufacturing our own resources. Yes and no. Yes, in the sense that the NDTC is already selling diamonds to the site holders, some of which have already started to manufacture diamond jewellery and I am just calling on the other site holders also to add value to the resources.

Whether uranium will benefit us much – and this applies to all the Colleagues who asked about uranium products – we as Namibians are not presently utilising the final product of uranium, simply because we do not have a policy and this is a highly restricted and risky business. I can say that the Ministry is currently formulating the policy on uranium and then we can start talking about using it for electricity.

The Kudu Gas has taken a long time, but what I can say is that the Kudu Gas is not a project which the Ministry of Mines and Energy Budgets for. There are other stakeholders and they are the ones with the skills and the finance. They have been going around with this licence and the other one and the last one expired, but there are new players which we are confident will deliver. Comrade Kapia, with regard to the timeframe, I will constantly update Members of Parliament and the public on where we are with either Kudu Gas and Baynes Hydro Power.

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**HON KATALI**

*Honourable Ankama*, the law unfortunately does not provide for bidding, but if that is the desire, why do we not bring it here so that those with the finance and skills can bid for that project. I do not object to your request.

*Comrade Kazenambo*, I am aware of the campaign against Zimbabwe, but Namibia has been supporting Zimbabwe on being on the Kimberley Process and South Africa is monitoring the programme and to keep Zimbabwe on the Kimberley Process and to meet the requirements. Our own diamond valuers spent three months in Zimbabwe to help them to meet those requirements.

*Comrade Namoloh*, thank you for your conditional support. You talked about the affordability of the renewable energy, especially the solar systems, and that we buy from countries where it is very expensive. Although the Ministry is directly involved, this solar issue was first outsourced to the Konga Company to run it on behalf of the Ministry, but now we have taken it back within the Ministry where there is a fund which the public has access to.

With regard to the affordability and going to other countries, the business people are the ones who provide the solar systems and it is not the Government who has to source this from countries where it is cheaper. However, we will look into that issue.

I am personally benefiting from the fund, because you pay monthly and eventually it will become renewable energy and maybe I can inform *Honourable Ilonga* what “renewable” means. The equipment is very expensive, whether from India or wherever, and the people who are selling them add to the price in order to make business. It is renewable in the sense that when the sun rises, then the system is charged. If it is wind, it is renewing itself through the wind and it is expensive in the beginning, but in the long-run I will be cheaper. Let us just make use of this facility.

*Honourable Iyambo*, we will equip remote schools and clinics with solar systems.

*Honourable Namoloh* mentioned the lines going to the Cuca shops while the houses are not electrified. Maybe this decision is time-bound, meaning that at that time the Ministry of Trade and Industry was very vocal on businesses. They were advocating that in order for the rural people to do business, they

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**HON KATALI**

need electricity for their fridges and therefore the businesses were accommodated. However, as the time goes that can be looked into and it is very true that some of the houses were left out before we decided on the radius and they will be accommodated.

*Comrade Ilonga*, we may hate feasibility studies if we are overdoing them, but sometimes they are necessary. In the statement we are saying some of the projects were found to be viable, meaning that there are those who are not viable and they were only found not to be viable through the feasibility studies. With new projects we need to know beforehand whether they are viable or not and I agree with you, we should not put too much emphasis on feasibility studies without implementing the projects themselves.

As regards Kudu Gas and the GIPF Funds, Honourable Iyambo was appealing to the representatives from the unions and I think they have heard for themselves, because it is not really for the Ministry to do this, but those who have money to invest in electricity generation and the Ministry is encouraging them to do so. NUNW, you heard what was said.

I agree that the system we used with the transformers was not a good one. Another formula is now being tested and I still have to study it to see whether it is really assisting the people or not. Unfortunately we cannot continue with this daylight robbery and we will find something better.

*Honourable Abraham Iyambo*, the names of schools and clinics will be provided to you as well as that of the villages. We will have to determine whether generators will be more affordable and sustainable than other modes of providing electricity to schools. The schools are in darkness and we are going to start with schools that have Grade 10 and those that received computers and photocopy machines from donors and we are working together with the Regional Councils, which are very vocal about it. Every now and then they are at our offices, asking electricity for this or the other school and we are working on that. However, let us just bear in mind that we are restricted by the scarcity of electricity.

*Honourable Dingara*, thank you for thanking my predecessor. You requested us to make sure that the solar systems are correctly used and not removed.

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**HON KATALI**

We will try to exercise proper control.

It is very true that the Founding President has been talking about Geology and studied it and it is very important. You are not happy with us saying the country is rich while the people are poor. You said it, otherwise I would not have said it. We have beneficiation programmes at the Ministry whereby Namibians are becoming rich in their own rich country. Almost every Namibian now has an EPL. (Interjections). I said almost everybody. The list of applications is so long that one could say almost everybody. Those who have not applied will not be on the list I am referring to. It seems you have not applied.

*Comrade Amathila*, unfortunately we do not have surplus electricity to spare. When we have a shortage, we import. However, I think the idea of re-using the water is a good one.

On page 16 I have dealt with the steps currently taken by the Ministry not only with regard to new mines, but also the old mines that have been abandoned. We are trying to rectify the situation and also to prevent the situation from recurring at the new mines. That programme is up and running under the Geological Survey Department.

With regard to the IPP, which is the Individual Power Producers, groups of people or companies may apply and generate electricity, but what prevents many companies and investors from investing in the generation of electricity is the question of cost reflectivity, because we are selling our electricity cheaper than we are producing it and no business-minded company will set up a power generation project, investing a lot of money and then charge very little. A business person needs to generate at N\$10 and then sell at N\$11 to make profit. If that cannot happen, we must forget about anybody investing in electricity.

While I am there, we should not condemn NamPower completely when they ask for an increase in the price of electricity. This is a question of cost reflectivity. If we do not want NamPower to make profits, then we are actually saying there should be no new power lines in the country. Unless the Government says it will give NamPower money for new projects, we must allow these companies to make a profit in order to invest in new programmes

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**HON KATALI**

that would make us sustainable in electricity generation.

*Comrade Kapia* mentioned the REDS. I made it clear in my statement that we are going to study these REDS. Honestly speaking, the REDS have serious problems and let me tell you what I mean. The REDS consist of three entities, namely NamPower, the Regional Councils and the Local Authorities. Each one has 33,3%. When dividends are declared, NamPower receives 33,3%. If it is N\$1,000, an amount of N\$333 will go to NamPower, another N\$333 will go to the Regional Councils and if there are three Regional Councils in that area, each one will get a third. Then the N\$333 for the Local Authorities have to be divided by the number of Local Authorities and maybe they are going to get 3 cents each. We must also remember that the REDS do not put up infrastructure, they expect the Local Authorities who received 3 cents to put up new facilities and then they own them. If the Local Authority got a loan from the bank to put up those facilities, then they continue to pay the bank, but they are getting nothing from those facilities. I think you would agree with me that there is a need for us to find another formula.

Another factor is that NamPower, who is getting the biggest chunk, was not supposed to be included in the distribution and I will report back to you on what I have found.

There are procedures for tariff setting. The utility will go to ECB (Electricity Control Board), ECB will look at it and then they will report to the line Ministry and then an announcement is made.

*Comrade Nghidinwa*, I have already reported that the 2001 master plan is currently under review. This review is very important. I remember telling Honourable Nghimtina here that it has become outdated because priorities change. One school did not have Grade 10 before, but now they do and it has become a necessity for them to be provided with electricity. If they were number 10 on the list, they will now become number 2 or 3. Some schools may also receive donations of electrical equipment and if that happens, the Regional Councils will change their priorities.

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, if you can just allow me to get this money and go and work, I will be happy. I thank you.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 16**  
**HON KASINGO**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 15? Agreed to.

**Vote 16 – “JUSTICE”** is put for Discussion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much for giving me the floor and I am going to be very brief.

Firstly, I want to congratulate my Colleague, Honourable Nambahu, with his new assignment. I have confidence that with his legal qualifications and experience in several Committees he will be an asset for the Ministry. My comments are based on pages 11, 16, and 17, the Magistracy, the Ombudsperson and international cooperation.

Concerning the Magistracy, Honourable Deputy Minister, since you served as the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, you may recall that that committee has conducted a number of consultations and workshops and came up with specific recommendations. I am not going to ask you questions because you are new in the Ministry, I am just going to remind you that there are still some recommendations which your Ministry is supposed to implement. For example, you know about the recommendation which has to do with a strategy to do away with the backlog in criminal cases. I am talking about the Heja Lodge Recommendations 2006 and also the whole administration of the justice system in terms of arrest, investigation, delays, etcetera. This goes together with the overcrowded prisons.

My second point is on the international treaties and conventions we used to debate on. You may recall that our committee also conducted a workshop and we came up with a specific recommendations. I just want to appeal to you so that the new leadership of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee can work with your Ministry. We should meet some experts in international conventions and treaties available to work together with the committee. With these few words, I support Vote 16. Thank you.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON MUSHELENGA / HON MWANINGANGE**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Comrade Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my remarks are based on page 9, the Prosecutor-General. I am reading here that there are some problems there with regard to the collection of adequate relevant evidence and that some cases are not attended to properly. There are two laws that I want to ask about and one was passed in this House. Currently we are still using the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 of South Africa while this House has passed the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act of 2003. What are the impediments to implement this Act, because perhaps it is one of the reasons that may be contributing to the problems that we have in resolving cases in our Courts of law. Perhaps the Minister or Deputy Minister may want to look into implementing that Act that we have passed here.

The other issue is that there was a codification of the Common Law and this has not been adopted and implemented. Perhaps that is another issue that the Ministry should look at. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Comrade Mwaningange.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Comrade Assistant Chairperson, Honourable Members, my remarks are on pages 10 and 22, the decentralisation of Courts. I am so pleased and grateful that the communities to whom this services have been decentralised are well served. Here I refer to the opening up of the new High Court in Oshakati. This was a great effort by the Ministry of Justice and, indeed, the judicial system of our country. The High Court would have reduced the volume of cases that are handled in Windhoek, therefore it is a highly commendable effort by the Ministry. Previously all High Court cases were only handled in Windhoek and this was very cumbersome. Some witnesses and plaintiffs declined to come to Windhoek because of the distance

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HON NAMOLOH**

and the costs involved.

It is my hope that there is a need to again look at the allocation of funds to the general administration of justice, because this is a vitally important to the communities who need to be attended to in these Courts. Court services, prosecution of crimes as well as issues of deceased estates and guardians and arrangement procedures are common occurrences in our rural communities.

Some private legal representatives are sometimes not properly attending to cases before them. They appear to be overloaded with work at their offices and sometimes do not attend Court cases allocated to them, especially in the Magistrate's Court. Cases are sometimes postponed, because the legal representative did not turn up. I support Vote 16.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Namoloh.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support and add my voice to this Vote and I want to remark on this notion which says justice delayed is justice denied.

I have seen that there are so many cases pending for years, which means that we are denying justice to the people. Is it the incompetence of the investigators or incompetence of the whole judicial system? If you have never been in prison, you do not feel the pain to be jailed. It is not pleasant to be in jail and Honourable Deputy Minister, I see there are so many good things being mentioned, but it has been mentioned in the previous Budget speeches since I came to this House and the prisons are still overcrowded. People have been imprisoned for so many years while their cases are continuously being postponed and sometimes even postponed for a year. How on earth, Comrade, can we do this to the people?

The prisons are full of people who have committed petty offences. The hard-core criminals are the ones getting bail. He commits a crime today and

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HON DR KAWANA**

tomorrow he is out on the street. This is a great concern to all of us and we need to look into this seriously. I feel most of the prisons should by now have been cleared with all these efforts you are trying to do.

There is information that Magistrates are allowing foreigners to marry Namibians without even providing identity documents. They must have identity documents in order to be allowed to marry Namibians. When we, Namibians, get married to each other we provide identity documents. Why not the foreigners? I think there is something fishy going on. Maybe you can also provide statistics on marriages and divorces. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair. Since my learned Colleague is new in the system, I rise to respond to some of the comments made by the Honourable Members.

It is true that we are facing problems in the justice system and these problems are not caused by one component. As I always said when I used to be Minister of Justice, the system is like a chain. One should not see the Prosecutor-General independent from the Judge, independent from the Magistrates, independent from the Investigation Officers at the Ministry of Safety and Security. When there is weakness in one of the components, it affects the whole system. That is why when I was there with the first Minister of Justice, Dr Tjiriange, we proposed a new system, but at that particular point in time, that system was very expensive and as you are aware, during our formative years after Independence there were four priority sectors, namely education, housing, agriculture and health.

I am at least pleased to hear the Minister of Justice saying that the funding of the Ministry of Justice has significantly improved and I thank the Minister of Finance for this.

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**HON DR KAWANA**

At the moment there are quite a number of projects that are aimed at improving the system and I am sure Honourable Members have heard of cases where the dockets have gone missing. When this system is put in place, I can assure the Honourable Members that they will experience a significant improvement in the system. The system we are trying to put in place is that every judicial officer will have a computer and a laptop and I believe we have already started with this in the current Financial Year. They will have internet and be assisted by the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology. They will be wireless so that regardless of where you are, you can log into that system and do research. Honourable Members can rest assured that the system that we are trying to introduce will go a long way to improve the situation.

Before the end of this year we will be introducing a Case Management System in the Office of the Government-Attorney, which will turn that office into a truly professional office, so much so that there will be no difference between that office and a private law firm.

Honourable Members, the legal profession is a very expensive profession, just as the medical profession. For your information, a senior counsel is paid anything up to N\$29,000 per day, which is in fact more than the monthly salary of a Cabinet Minister. Because of the way the Civil Service is structured, it is so frustrating that we are losing quite a number of professionally experienced people to the private sector. In fact, the turnover could be the highest in the Ministry of Justice and these are some of the impediments and challenges we are facing. However, I can say that we will definitely improve.

The Community Courts will come into operation this year and I am happy that there is some funding for that project. We will in the near future introduce the Small Claims Courts so that some of those petty cases can be heard there and we will also be able to implement the new Criminal Procedure Act, which will be able to assist the system, because in the new Criminal Procedure Act there is a whole chapter on speedy trial and that will be in accordance with Article 12 of the Namibian Constitution. I only wanted to assist the Deputy Minister of Justice by answering these questions.

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**HON NAMBAHU**

**ASISSTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** If there is no further discussion, Honourable Deputy Minister please reply.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In the first place I want to thank the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General for coming to my rescue. I appreciate it very much and also wish to thank all the other Members who have supported this Vote, also those who did not say anything.

Going to the specifics, *Honourable Kasingo*, thank you very much for your kind words and I will convey the message to my Minister. Rest assured that the whole management team of the Ministry is here to hear about the perceptions of the lawmakers for themselves about their work. We will do our utmost to improve the situation.

What we are thinking of doing is in recognition of what Honourable Kawana has said, that in the judicial system everything is complementing each other. If you go to court and the Magistrate and Prosecutor are there, but not the docket, the case cannot proceed. If the Magistrate, the Prosecutor and the Investigating Officer are at Court, but the accused is not brought to Court, then you cannot proceed. If the Prosecutor issues instructions to the Investigating Officer and the latter does not have a car to go to a Witness, Complainant or Accused to get more information, that Court case will be postponed for further investigation. What I am trying to say is that one link of the chain does not function properly, the whole system is affected.

It is my philosophy that we should create what is called a criminal network forum where all the role players can iron out all the problems, because our people deserve better. As a member of the public I do not want to hear the problem lies with Safety and Security. Is it Safety and Security in Alaska or Safety and Security in Namibia? Is it Safety and Security in another Government or is it in this Government or is it the Ministry of Justice in another country? What is preventing you to come together and solve the problem as colleagues? We will be working not only in partnership with outsiders, but in partnership within the Ministries.

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HON NAMBAHU**

We will look into all your recommendations, our doors are open for constructive engagement so that we can make the system a winning system.

Cases not attended to properly, the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977 and the codification are all efforts being done. You are aware that amongst one of the reasons why the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977 was amended is that it gives more protection to the offender, leaving the offended and the wronged unprotected, not catered for and we had to look into this. I will not venture into saying what the obstacles were that the Act is not yet operationalised. You can accuse me of anything, but dishonesty not. I will not be answering questions for the sake of embellishing my speech, but for the truth and the truth only.

*Comrade Mwaningange*, thank you for your comments on the decentralisation. For any Court to be operational, groundwork has to be done. So far the High Court in Oshakati is only able to work on the roll, but not with the whole range of activities that a fully-fledged Court can take on and if you read, you will see there is an effort to have a division of labour, a civil component separate from the criminal division and appointment of additional Judges, so that we can expedite the whole process. I know that the public and the House will be saying you have heard this before, but when somebody comes to me with a good point, my reaction is always, “*fine, but how are you going to do it?*” If Namibia is accused of having good policies, these are probably the questions we do not ask: “*How? By when? What resources are necessary for that policy to come into effect?*”

You said some private legal practitioners delay the process. I would not say it is only them. If a person with a legal representative appears before a Presiding Officer unaccompanied by his lawyer, it is somebody stripping you naked and throwing you to the sharks. They are also people like ourselves and if they have problems that they cannot appear, that is humanly understandable, but if it is deliberate for a person to line his pocket, these people also belong to an association which governs the ‘profession’ the Law Society of Namibia.

*Honourable Namoloh*, it is true that justice delayed is justice denied. We do not support that justice should be denied, it is only as a result of circumstances. We have to know that in a country such as ours where we are giving much protection and consideration to human rights, there are certain things that we

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HON KAVETUNA**

may have to live with. I was talking to one colleague in the Fingerprint Unit and I was asking, “*why is it that your fingerprints are ineffective?*” He said: “*You know what, Mr Minister, what happens is that if I take fingerprints here and I suspect that the burglar is Tommy Nambahu, I will not just go into his profile and match those fingerprints, his rights are protected.*” You can only match if that person has previous convictions and you have already captured those fingerprints. We have given certain protections to ourselves and we have to understand the limitations the police are facing is what I am trying to say and that we must choose to live with the consequences of that.

Postponements can be as a result of further investigations, postponements can be because the evidence was not properly collected or if the Magistrate is sick.

We should also remember that the colleagues in the Ministry of Justice also serve as agents for other Ministries in the collection of money and our colleagues spend a lot of time collecting revenue. You cannot imagine how much money comes through the Courts and lawyers are not necessarily trained in finance handling and in bookkeeping. Efforts should be done to strengthen that component so that fraud and corruption can be put to an end and what Comrade Kawana has said, the introduction of the Court information system so that we do not have files and the outdated way of doing things. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 16? Agreed to.

**Vote 27 – “YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORTS AND CULTURE”**  
is put for Discussion.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate the Minister on the efforts to register the unemployed youth, as reported in the newspapers recently. It is better late than never. This matter is really overdue and I think that they have to be commended for an effort of this nature.

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**HON KAVETUNA**

I stood up to support the Vote, but before I do that, I would like to mention a few things.

The National Youth Service is a concept aimed at promoting patriotism, nationalism, national identity, loyalty of young citizens towards their own country, but I came to realise that our national Youth Service is becoming a training institution while missing its point of training people to go out and be proud Namibians. I saw an advert in the newspaper that was saying we want a review of the National Youth Service and I think the review will bear fruits of making the National Youth Service a true National Youth Service. When we have floods, the young people of this country have to be motivated to stand up and be patriotic Namibians and not to dream about becoming American citizens.

This Ministry has a multiple of Councils and my question is, how do they complement each other? We have the Sports Council, the Youth Council, the Arts Council, the Museums Council and many others, but how are they complementing each other. I am talking from the experience of being the Secretary General of the National Youth Council and that everybody in this Ministry is working on its own, there is no cohesion of activities. The National Youth Service can have an arts festival, while there is an Arts Council that is supposed to complement the duties of the National Youth Council in order to make arts easier for the young people. I think it is a duty of the Minister and his staff to make sure that these components are supporting each other and not wasting resources, as is currently done.

My last remark is on the Multi-Purpose Youth Centres. We are demanding that the Ministry should set up Multi-Purpose Youth Centres in Okakarara, Otjiwarongo, Eenhana and everywhere in this country, but these institutions are becoming conference centres because the youth themselves do not utilise these centres. First of all, they are not equipped to keep the youth busy. If I do not have internet at home, I would want to go to the centre to use internet, but in most cases these are just buildings with a lot of staff and benches and nothing to keep the youth busy. I would want to request that the Youth Centres should be equipped with relevant equipment that the young people need in order to ensure that it is being utilised to its fullest capacity and adding value to the well-being of the young people. I Thank you very much and I support the Vote.

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HON A TJONGARERO / DR NAMWANDI**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Tjongarero.

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I want to know from the Minister and the Members in this House whether Namibia only wants to participate in sport or do we want to win? Namibia, with a little more than two million people, have more than fifty sport disciplines and with the allocation of funds it is impossible to prepare all of them to get any medals. My suggestion to the Minister is that we should categorise and restructure.

A country such as Ethiopia is specialising in long distance running and rugby, that is all. The same with Kenya who specialise in marathon and that is that and they are getting their medals. Why can Namibia not do the same? Let us categorise, let us restructure, let us fund five or ten disciplines with most of the money and the rest can be given money for administration and development, but if we want medals, let us change what we are doing now.

At the moment if teams go somewhere to compete and there are two issues: Either you go and qualify, then we will give you money to prepare or if we give you money to qualify, there is no money to prepare. What is the use? I am saying, let us categorise, let us restructure, let us have five or six codes which we know we will get medals from. Let us put the money there and give the rest administration and development money and we will get the medals we want. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Namwandi.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Comrade Assistant Chair, I rise to support Vote 27. I see the Ministry has four programmes and I want to attempt to say something on Programme 1, Youth Development.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON DR NAMWANDI**

I support this programme because I believe it is very progressive and I congratulate the Minister and the entire staff for this programme, because I believe that the youth are the future leaders and the wealth creators of our society and they, therefore, need to be empowered in order to carry out their duty of generating wealth and creating employment.

However, I want to caution, especially under the main activities under this programme, particularly youth training and capacity-building, that I would like to see that the empowerment we are talking about is real empowerment; which is accompanied by incentives by the Youth Development Fund.

I also want to advise that whatever training is carried out by the Ministry of Youth is done in conjunction with other skills development centres, such as COSDEC, and this training should also be linked to the NTA so that all the programmes are standardised.

I am told that some of the volunteers who are training the youth are deciding on the programmes and I think it is important for the Ministry to own these programmes. Nobody should train what they want to train, they must train programmes that are in the best interest of our youth.

I want the youth to ensure that they maintain discipline, because it is very clear that some of our youth do not have discipline and they will never become good leaders of this Nation if they are not disciplined. Therefore, I appeal to the Ministry of Youth to ensure that whatever programmes are carried out are standardised and that they are programmes that are benefiting the youth not only in the short-term, but also in the long-term. They must be able to be registered at the National Qualifications Authority as time goes. I support Vote 27.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Utoni.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON UUTONI**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My concern is on sport, Programme 5, but I am only going to discuss one component, namely soccer.

Comrade Minister, are you ready to revamp the situation prevailing in the soccer code? We, the soccer lovers, are really disappointed and I am referring to myself as a person who like soccer a lot, but since 1998, if I am not mistaken, when we had the African Cup at Burkina Faso, we have missed nice soccer played by Namibians and it is really disappointing many of us. Some of us regard soccer as a marketing tool for a given country, be it tourism, be it investment, but in this case I do not think it will do much for us.

If you look at many countries, soccer is liked by many, many people and I do not know, when it comes to the selection of players, whether justice is done and I really want the Honourable Minister to seriously look into that.

We have good players around and I think *the Namibian* newspaper has created a good platform to identify good soccer players and maybe we can only make use of that platform.

Honourable Tjongarero spoke about the shortage of funds and I would say, in order to attract players, why can we not pay them N\$1,000 per month? When Namibians hear that Hitman is going to box, everybody is running to the television set and that means that other than soccer, boxing is well-organised.

Sometimes you hear the leadership in soccer quarrelling instead of addressing relevant issues and we really need to do something about soccer. With this, I support Vote 27. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Muharukua.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON MUHARUKUA / HON DR GEINGOB**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD**

**WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. Comrade Minister, I congratulate you on your new post and I have questions. On page 4 you talked about youth opportunities and national services and my question is as follows: When I go around in Kaoko, Caprivi and Kavango, I do not see the uneducated youth at your departments, only the educated youth. I want to know what your Ministry is doing to benefit especially the Himba youth. The Himba youth are people like all others, your Ministry has to help them to benefit as others are doing. I support Vote 27.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Geingob.

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you very much. I am rising to support the Vote and also to congratulate the young man who grew up in front of me and he is now equal to me as a Minister. Well done!

I am not going to talk about soccer, which is my love, since somebody else already spoke about it, although I can give a lot of answers on soccer. Programme 4 deals with culture and it says: *“The main purpose of this programme is to identify, develop and promote the culture and heritage of Namibians for the purpose of nation-building, employment creation and nurturing of national pride, identity and unity in diversity.”*

Comrade Minister, I want you to tell us how you are going to use this money to develop a national culture. After 20 years I do not see Namibia moving towards oneness, I only see that we are divided. We are supposed to be a country of unity in diversity, but I will say we are practising diversity in unity because of culture. How are you going to use this programme to unite us?

The other day I was in Tanzania, and they had a big cultural show at the State House in order to come and explore and discover Tanzania. They have over 21 tribes, but they are lucky, they have only one language, Swahili.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON MUSHELENGA**

However, what I saw is that, other than us who are dancing in groups, this tribe will come and dance and others come in and dance. Are we trying to unite them that they can perform as one group?

When I took my students to Cuba, all people speaking different languages were singing together. It was a beautiful performance in Tanzania and not only two steps forward and one step back, a cultural show with many other things where they all come together to depict the country. When are we going to reach there and are you going to use this money to do that, as you are young and energetic.

When I look at the programme of actions, it only says, increase the number of cultural groups. Then, purchasing special equipment for Namibia National Museum and optimise availability and conditions of cultural heritage. I do not see where we are trying to come together.

Look at the South Africans and the World Cup. There is a song they are all trying to prepare and it is very beautiful, because they have been busy with it and every time you hit the ball, they will sing it. When are we going to have our own Namibian culture? Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you Honourable Minister. Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 27 for the people of my age and I will concentrate on youth development, with particular reference to the National Youth Council.

The National Youth Council annually organises a Youth Expo. This is the only opportunity where the youth are able to showcase their abilities, talents and entrepreneurship, because not all of them can afford to go to the Agricultural or other trade shows. My only request is that perhaps the Ministry could facilitate that synergy between the National Youth Council and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, especially the SME department, so that they assist the National Youth Council in order to develop the entrepreneurship

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON KAPIA**

skills of our youth and thereby enhancing the opportunities to grow into big entrepreneurs. With these few words, Honourable Assistant Chairperson, I move to support our Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Kapia.

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much, Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 27. Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Namwandi touched on what I wanted to say, but I want to say that the National Youth Service must have a programme for these young people to improve their marks for Grade 10 and 12 while on training in the National Youth Service. I do not see any programme whereby the Ministry of Education goes there to help these people to improve their marks while they are in the National Youth Service programmes. This is very important so that we develop our young people.

We have young people with good talents, but I think in future the Ministry should Budget funds for recording facilities at the Multi-Purpose Youth Centres, because everything is done in South Africa. The Ministry should help the National Youth Council to put up some of these facilities through their credit scheme fund or whatever, so that the recording of the music of our young people could also be done in Namibia up to the final product. There is no recording facility here and all our talented young people in music have difficulties to pay for the recordings.

The Youth Week is a very good initiative, but I want to see it being extended to include more countries in Africa and also the Ministry to assist the National Youth Council, together with the SWAPO Party Youth League, to promote the Pan-African Youth Union, so that we even organise ourselves to lobby the African Union for the Pan-African Youth Union to have a desk at the headquarters of the African Union. The Ministry must by all means try to instil Pan-Africanism in our young people, otherwise we are going to lose our history. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH / HON KAZENAMBO**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Comrade Assistant Chairperson. Let me also congratulate the Minister of Youth on his appointment and thank him for presenting this Budget.

My concern is on page 10, the second-last paragraph, on heritage conservation where the Minister says: “*Heritage conservation without public appreciation of their heritage will be a losing battle, thus the National Museum and the National Heritage Council has initiated a public education programme to promote awareness.*” Comrade Minister, I want more information on this public awareness. I am asking this question, because when we talk about heritage, we know we have sites in our country which are part of our heritage and the question is to what extent we as a Nation are aware of these sites and make use of them in order to pass on the information, which is the reason for having such institution. For example, do Namibians make use of the Heroes Acre to get to know their history and other places of historical nature which we have set up? That is the only way they will be able to understand and appreciate our history and heritage. If those institutions are not used, what strategies are there for our people to get inspiration from such institution? I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** If there is no further discussion, I call on the Minister to reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, let me thank those who have congratulated me on my appointment as a Minister and also those who quietly congratulated me. Thank you very much.

*Comrade Kavetuna*, thank you, for supporting the Vote and thank you for raising the issue of data collection. With regard to the issue of the

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

Multi-Purpose Youth Centres, there is no need for me to be defensive, I have taken note of your suggestions, we will look into them and work towards improvement.

With regard to the multiple of Councils, your concern is our concern at the Ministry. We are seeing a duplication of efforts and sometimes tensions are created, misunderstandings emerge and the persons who suffer are the end-users. That is why I am saying your concern is our concern and we are busy organising a meeting of the statutory bodies assigned to our Ministry so that we can come together and coordinate and collaborate on our activities, be it the Council for Sport, be it the Council for Arts, be it for the boxing profession, all of them. Our Ministry is vast, it has a number of sectors, such as youth development, sports development, culture, etcetera and the right hand needs to know what the left hand is doing and we need to avoid duplication that may lead to unnecessary competition and tension.

On the issue of the National Youth Council that you have raised, I must say that our National Service is not operating and it cannot be compared to National Youth Services in other countries where the approach is that people volunteer to go and serve in administration or go into the army. There are many approaches and models to National Youth Service. Some are even drafted to serve in the army before they continue with their studies. Our National Youth Service differs from those, because ours is to instil patriotism and discipline at our training centre, respect for the flag, respect for the leaders.

Amongst our components we are training the youth in certain identified activities, but we are also reviewing our activities to enable the youth to start their own business and become entrepreneurs and also to empower them. We are also involving the private sector for those who would like to get a permanent job somewhere. However, we should also instil a culture in these youth that they should know they must be employable. Those who are given skills development must utilise their skills to become an employer and, of course, it will require incentives, as Honourable Mushelenga has mentioned.

We have received directions and advice from the authorities above us that the National Youth Service should have a presence in all 13 Regions in this country and we are working with the commissioners to see how we can realise that. Your concerns have been noted and we will look into it and see whether

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HON KAZENAMBO**

it is workable within the framework of the Act and where it is not feasible, we will follow the necessary procedures for amendments.

*Comrade Tjongarero's* remarks were with regard to identifying our competitive advantages in sports codes. Your suggestion is very good and it is really for us to apply our minds. I appreciate the issue of specialising and investing in certain sports codes where we believe we as a country have a competitive advantage, but while I appreciate that suggestion, it needs to be looked into carefully to see how it can be accommodated within our constitutional rights, because sports is not only an activity, it also goes to the democratic right of freedom of association and we will have to balance that.

Sports is a question of rights, it is a business, some people are pursuing certain sports codes for their own survival, but as a country we will revise it to see where we have competitive advantage and invest money without risking being accused of discrimination against certain sports codes. We will have to brainstorm and strategise to see how it can be done within the framework of the law. If we say the Ministry should focus on a particular sports code and only give money for administration to other sports codes, we may be told that we are discriminating against certain people, but the suggestion is very good.

When we have this stakeholder meeting, we will try to encourage the private sector and sponsors to identify certain sports codes where they would like to come in and if there are resources from other developmental partners in the respective sports codes, then your suggestion can be accommodated because resources are well shared and we focus on certain codes to make Namibia a winner.

*Comrade Namwandi*, I have noted your remarks on youth development and my Colleagues are here and they have noted that. It is true what you have said and I must say that the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture is not an isolated island and one of the stakeholder Ministries is the Ministry of Education. These are issues we have to discuss to see where we interface, where we collaborate, so that we can also avoid the duplication I have earlier spoken about with regard to the various councils. We can be guided, we can be advised on how to develop and perfect some our functions and activities.

Many of our activities are also done at the Ministry of Education and we can standardise the qualifications that will be recognised. It is something on which

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HON KAZENAMBO**

we have to work together and it is a good suggestion.

*Deputy Minister Uutoni* spoke about soccer in particular and that we have to find a mechanism to identify and develop talents which can make this country a winner. It is a good suggestion and you referred to *the Namibian* Newspaper Cup and you know that we have banned *the Namibian* and maybe we should reconsider that because they are doing a great job, they are contributing to our youth. Maybe that was not the issue but he mentioned it and maybe it is selective morality. Is it not selective morality if we say they are doing a good job? We must stop these double standards and selective morality, when it suits us it is good, when it does not, we must not touch it. *The Namibian is the Namibian*, whether they sponsor a cup or not. I am answering from that perspective.

We need to identify soccer players through platforms like that one of *the Namibian* and other platforms and groom and train people. It is also a question of collaboration with the stakeholders and the need to draw in the private sector and other people to complement one another. That will be a good way to go. Let us create a platform to see how we identify players and how we work with these people in developing these activities, soccer amongst them.

I said we are going to have a stakeholder meeting where we will see what tools and strategies we are going to employ in identifying and addressing the concerns that you have raised.

You also suggested that we should pay our professional soccer players N\$1,000 per month. Those are incentives and we have to invest in those areas. If we really want to become a soccer country, we must invest and I hope the Minister of Finance will bear this in mind the next time because she is our mother.

*Comrade Muharukua* raised a very critical issue of the uneducated youth. I had some of them in my office recently who were saying only educated people are catered for. It is true that we have to look at the plight of the uneducated youth to see how they could fit into our programmes, because currently the National Youth Service has an entry requirement but we have those uneducated youth. The bulk of the rural youth are uneducated and it is a challenge which has been placed before us, the Himba kids and the San kids and we need to develop programmes to accommodate them because they are

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

also Namibian youth. These are concerns that need revisiting rather than taking a defensive position and I will not do that, because this is not about me, we have to give service to the people and if the people make suggestions on how to reach out to the people, it is not about Kazenambo, it is about the programmes we are running.

*Comrade Geingob*, my senior leader, as you have observed, arriving at a Namibian culture will for many years remain idealistic, but we have to start working on it. Culture is about behaviour, culture is about organisation, about customs and norms. Above all, culture is openness and accommodating one another. At the moment we have a programme, among others, where people from different cultures from all 13 Regions come together to show their cultural gowns and so forth. Your question needs serious reflection and it is a big challenge. It is easy to refer to ourselves as Namibians and it stops there while your actions and behaviour are typical of what you are. I will repeat: It is easy to say I am a Namibian and it ends there. Your behaviour, your attitude, your approach, your body language is typical of what you are and it is typical of the area where you come from. "*Mei konganda*", I am going home. It shows that you do not regard Windhoek as your home. You say, "*the place where I come from*", and you say that without realising that you are typical of what you are. If people challenge you on that, they know you mean home.

As we are singing One Namibia, One Nation, it ends there. A friend of mine, a Namibian whom I will not mention, says that if you want to see a culture in diversity, just look on a Friday in which direction the cars are going. If you are from Okakarara, you will be going to Okakarara; if you are from the South, you will be going to the South; from the North, you will be heading to the North and that is how we socialise.

To have a Namibian culture is the ideal thing and we are working hard as a Ministry to nurture a culture of respect for other Namibians' culture. That is why we have started to bring people together to display their cultures.

Sometimes I hear people saying that their kids are even more Namibian than others. The Angolans have a common denominator and some of us are not happy with that, because many of them speak Portuguese. In exile I used to meet people and when the person comes from Walvis Bay or Tsumeb, they will speak Oshiwambo, they will speak Herero, Damara-Nama and Afrikaans simultaneously and I wondered what Namibians are these? Some of us who

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

are Namibians do not make any effort to speak the language of another Namibian. You have told yourself that you cannot speak this language. Those from the West, Karibib, Usakos and also Lüderitz speak all the languages and I doubt that today in Tsumeb or Lüderitz they will speak that way.

Culture is sharing, but we call each other names here and let us stop pretending. If we want to have a Namibian identity and Namibian culture, it is a challenge to all of us and it should not be left to the Ministry alone. It is a political issue, it is a religious issue and it is multiple if we want to build a Namibian culture. People in the offices will pretend that they have one culture, but when they go to their villages, they display their culture prejudices. That is a challenge that I will leave to all of us.

We also have cultural exchanges with people from other countries and we learn from them, but we would love to have a Namibian cultural identity, as we have our national identity, where we will be free to speak all the languages, where we will be free to visit all the Regions and all the homes and all cultures without feeling alienated. That is my strongest weapon as a person, because when I am with Oshiwambo-speaking people, I am just like an Oshiwambo; when I am with the Mbukushus in Kavango, I am just like them. My only handicap so far is only Damara-Nama. For some people it is very difficult, you cannot visit for two days in Okakarara, you will feel isolated. (Intervention)

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Minister, the point is clear, go to the next point.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** The point is clear, but it is a heavy point because it goes to the roots of this Nation.

*Comrade Mushelenga*, I know you have youth development at heart and your suggestion that we interface with the Ministry of Trade is a good one. I have mentioned the training and imparting skills. We have the Youth Credit

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HON KAZENAMBO**

Scheme at our Ministry and I think we need to create awareness of these schemes, so that the youth also access them. However, your point is valid, we have to work closely with the other Ministry.

*Comrade Kapia* mentioned recordings, developing the targets and I think I have covered it already, because the incentives should be there and it is true, we must create logistics for the youth. I agree with you, it is a good suggestion which we have to look at.

On the issue of the Pan-African Youth Movement, you are encouraging us to lobby so that we can have a desk at the African Union. The National Youth Council are working together with us and we are also dealing with other youth sister parties and advocating this. The African Union must also include the youth so that the youth do not remain behind. It is a good suggestion that we have taken note of.

*Honourable Ndaitwah's* question was on the issue of heritage conservation. We have our museum and we are promoting awareness of our important sites, such as the Heroes Acre. It goes to culture and we are busy promoting awareness, but culture, as Dr Geingob also mentioned, is haunting us because to be honest, the Heroes Acre and all other sites are heroic sites, revered politically and having a very meaningful purpose, but some citizens of this country do not visit those sites, they do not visit graveyards. We have to promote awareness of these sites and we are educating them, but some people only visit those sites when they are laying someone to rest. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I now put Vote 27. Any objection? Agreed to.

I put **Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT”** for Discussion.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 24  
HON DR A IYAMBO / HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to refer to Programmes 1, 2 and 3, dealing with roads construction, upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance.

Honourable Minister, a few days ago your Honourable Deputy, Honourable Paramount Chief Ankama, was very angry with contractors on television. After his visit to some of these places he was arguing about the poor workmanship, that the quality of the work is very poor at the bridges and roads as well as the lack of quality assurance. Honourable Minister, we are paying these contractors and they are not doing a good job. How is this going to be attended to? What are you going to do for them to do a better job, otherwise they will continue and you will continue paying?

Secondly, in your speech you highlighted the issue of Ondangwa-Oshikango railway. The public has been asking whether we are going to finalise the Ondangwa-Oshikango railway and if so, will you be able to shed more light on the timeframe? Thank you very much.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Dr Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chair. Seeing that my senior Colleague is new in this portfolio, I will ask only three questions: Firstly, is the Honourable Minister satisfied with the progress made on the Nkurenkuru-Elundu-Eenhana road? I am aware that the Chinese group that constructed the Rundu-Nkurenkuru road were really professional and they finished well on time.

Secondly, Honourable Minister, when is the boat for the Zambezi River Transport-Katima Mulilo-Impalila going to arrive? As you are aware, Cabinet took a decision and there was also a Budget to that effect, to alleviate the transport problems of people living in flood plain areas where there are no roads, so that they will depend on that barge as a means of transport.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 24  
HON NAMOLOH**

I want to ask whether the Minister is satisfied with the Okahandja-Karibib road. It has taken so many years to complete this road and I do not know when it is going to be completed. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Namoloh.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Comrade Chair. I rise to support the Vote on Transport. I am happy that railway lines are now being constructed. If we want to develop industries in our country, it has to go along with railway lines. When the colonialists came to our country, the first thing they did was to construct railways and while we were growing up in this country, the railways were functioning. However, today it is very disheartening to see how the railways have deteriorated. Normally rail transport was very cheap, we would use the trains for our children to go on holidays and it also reduced road accidents, but now we have trucks and buses on the road and we have many accidents on the roads. Honourable Minister, it seems railways are not known in Africa, but look what is happening in Europe and the Americas where the railways are functioning.

With our trains it takes two days to reach Windhoek from Ondangwa. My children said they do not want to travel by train, because they spent the whole night at Usakos, waiting for a train to come from Walvis Bay for them to reach here. It has to do with incompetence in our transport system.

Nowadays it is also very expensive to travel by train, because the management want high salaries. The railways should be improved and it should function as in other parts of the world.

Comrade Minister, Dr Iyambo mentioned the construction of bridges and roads. Especially in the flood areas where we come from, I have never seen such a situation. You have a very straight road and then suddenly there is a bridge and you fly like this, which causes accidents. We are told these bridges are built in case of floods. Is it world standard or is it just the Namibian system? Some of the bridges which were recently built are already damaged.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 24  
HON IILONGA**

We need to have standards the Namibian Bureau of Standards should look into this situation. You see people building a bridge with their hands. How strong will that bridge be?

Comrade Minister, I think we need to be very serious and you said you are introducing standards and it should be introduced universally, whether for buildings, roads or bridges. I will only support this Vote if these things are attended to. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Comrade Minister, I start with Programme 4 which deals with railway infrastructure.

Comrade Minister, if we want the railways in our country to succeed, we need to look at the pricing. In Namibia the railways are more expensive than road transport. I wanted one of my cars to be transported from Ondangwa to Windhoek and Comrade Minister, I was charged over N\$2,500.

Many of the stakeholders, be it the officials, are the shareholders in these trucks and mini buses. The railway line between Ondangwa and Tsumeb is not being utilised as we wanted it. If that is the case, increase the tariffs because they are damaging the tarred roads. That is why we are saying the railways cannot be more expensive.

Comrade Minister, when are we envisaging to have a railway line from Okahandja to Otjiwarongo?

I want to thank the Minister for keeping Cape Fria Harbour in the programme and I am happy to hear that progress is being made. I hope you will give us a report on the feasibility study. However, I am happy that that dream is still alive.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 24**  
**HON UEITELE / HON DR N IYAMBO**

My last comment is on page 11 under Programme 7 and I only need more clarity on the marine and inland water transport activities during the Financial Year. I support Vote 24.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Ueitele.

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, I also rise to support Vote 24 and most of my comments have been taken by the General, but one of my biggest concerns is on Programmes 1, 2 and 3, road construction and upgrading.

Comrade Assistant Chairperson, taking cognisance that the Minister is new in this portfolio, but two years ago there was a public outcry about the Okahandja-Omatoko bridge. The community wanted a bridge to be constructed there and I do not know whether this has been budgeted for. If not, the Ministry should consider building a bridge between Okahandja and Omatoko, because when I went to the North over the Easter Weekend, I realised that especially between Endola Constituency and Okashitika, Engela most of the people are affected by the floods and they cannot reach their businesses or churches. They are forced to the Omungwelume road in order to attend to their businesses.

I also appeal to the Minister to in future consider the construction of small bridges for the communities to cross over to their businesses and the churches. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I support Vote 24 and I want to refer to Programme 4, which has to do with the Trans-Caprivi Highway. It says a feasibility study has been commissioned and that the

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Report will be made available by the middle of May. I just want to find out, Comrade Minister, whether you have already received that report and if you have, whether you can already shed some light on this railway line. Is it to link Grootfontein or is it to follow the road from Rundu-Elundu and then to Cape Fria.

Because of the importance of the railways, as Honourable Namoloh has mentioned, is it not possible that we can transport road construction materials to build roads in the flood plains? We can transport stones from some of the mountains here and I am sure Honourable Netumbo will not be very happy, but if you consider that the road which links Kalimbeza is every year being washed away when the Bukalo channel is full, would it be possible in future when the railway is available that stone materials could be transported from one part of the country to the other? I know it may be very expensive, but it will be better than the road being washed away every year. I want the Minister to shed some light on this. Thank you very much, I support Vote 24.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Ncube.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you very much, Assistant Chairperson. First of all, I want to register my support for this Vote. I was very much delighted by the Honourable Minister's speech and in a way fascinated and excited.

To refresh our minds, I would like to quote from the Honourable Minister's speech and I will start with the purpose of Vote 24, which is to "*ensure the development of efficient and effective transport infrastructure which promotes economic development and social upliftment. The Ministry is mandated, amongst others, with the task of ensuring that the mobility needs of people and industry are met. After meeting these needs, it is expected that these expensive Government assets are managed to the benefit of the Nation.*" Then it continues: "*The Honourable Members of this august House and the public at large will agree with me to say that transportation infrastructure, such as roads, rail, air and water transport are the catalysts that facilitate the smooth*

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**HON KATALI**

*flow of people, goods and services for the betterment of any Nation. The Namibian Government continues to ensure progressive development of the much-needed means of transport for our economic emancipation. The Ministry of Works and Transport is expected to ensure that the development and maintenance of transportation...” (Intervention)*

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, just ask your question.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** No, I just want to refresh our minds and then ask my question. Actually I have quoted from the Minister’s speech based on my comments. I would like to suggest that the Ministry develops a programme for accessible transportation services for the elderly, pregnant women as well as people with disabilities. Comrade Minister, this will be comprehensive and cover matters relating to bus, train, taxi and marine travel.

Comrade Minister, to make this effective, the regulations need to be enforced that would compel people operating privately-owned transport for the public to make sure that it is conducive and accessible to all. This should also apply to public buildings in order to create a barrier-free environment for all. With these few words, Comrade Minister, I support the Vote wholeheartedly.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Katali.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you, Assistant Chair. I would also like to support Vote 24 and raise two issues. One is on page 10 with regard to the GPS to track locomotives. I do not know whether we have problems with tracing our trains that we need to pay a company to trace our locomotives. We only have one track and it is very easy for someone in Okahandja to verify that it has passed Okahandja to Usakos rather than

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HON KAZENAMBO**

spending money on this. Nobody will steal or divert the train to somewhere else. I wonder whether this is really necessary. It may be necessary for vehicles, although I thought the Anti-Corruption Commission has solved this problem of Government vehicles being misused. This GPS system may be costly and not helpful.

My second comment is on the Government Garage. We call it the Government Garage, but maybe it needs to be renamed, because there seems to be no garage there. Vehicles are not being repaired there. Maybe it could be a vehicle administration centre. Just imagine that when the windscreen wipers are worn out, the vehicle is sent to a private garage to fit new wipers. If you compare the price to fit the wipers on a Government vehicle with the price for your private vehicle to be fitted with wipers, you will see what the difference is. The Government Garage is being asked exorbitant prices and I want to know why that is the case. Comrade Minister, the Government is ripped off by the private garages. Is it not possible for the Ministry to employ mechanics who can do some of these minor repairs? I support Vote 24.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I support Vote 24 and I rise to thank the Minister of Works for the gravel road between Gobabis-Epukiro-Eiseb-Gam and between Otjinene and Gam. I thank the Government for coming to the rescue of the farmers there.

In my language they say, *Omuhambuninua ke kuta*, which means that the Minister of Finance who is giving us money will never be satisfied. Having said that, Comrade Minister, I want to find out whether there is a possibility of coming up with road construction technology where we can replace gravel roads with something else. I know tarred roads are expensive, but these gravel roads are washed away in the rainy season and Namibia is vast. Is there no technology somewhere which can be used, even stones or concrete, but not as expensive as tarred roads. I think the Minister knows what I am trying to say.

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**HON ESAU**

While I am on the maintenance of the infrastructure, I do not know the monitoring system of this company which was subcontracted by Government to work on the rural gravel roads, because my observation is that a machine is just standing next to the road and the machine remains there, you will never see this machine working on the road. You drive past there at night and during the day and one wonders what time they are doing the work. Sometimes you find this machine working from here to the Office of the Prime Minister and if you ask them, they say they are going for their pay and they stay away for months. Who is monitoring these people who are working on the gravel roads? They are being paid but their machines are parked.

You are saying in your speech that road infrastructure is to take goods and services to the people. We have poor communities in Tsumkwe, there are no shops and some of them are stranded on the roads. Is there not a possibility of a bitumen road of 300 kilometres, because those people are poor and they do not have transport and accessing goods and services is a problem? There have been many accidents as the road is really bad from Grootfontein to Tsumkwe. From a tourism point of view or economic justification, Tsumkwe is 50 kilometres from Sikerete and it is near to the Okavango Delta from Etosha and it can be an economic road. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Esau.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution is on page 1 of the motivation speech.

I concur with what the Minister stated on page 1, that the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure ought not to be compromised. The paragraph that follows that sentence makes reference to transport corridors which are geared towards facilitating Regional economic integration. I know of a few corridors. We have the Trans-Kalahari from the coast of Walvis Bay to the coast of Maputo, we have the Trans-Caprivi from the West Coast of Namibia straight through to Zambia. There are also other corridors in Namibia. We were talking about the Windhoek-Luanda Corridor and I do not

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HON KAPIA**

know whether that project is still on, maybe the Minister could enlighten us on the other corridors, because there were thirteen or fourteen corridors. I support Vote 24 and I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kapia.

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. With regard to the labour-based gravel roads, I just want to suggest to the Minister that we should have a gravel road from Onakalunga in the Eenhana Constituency to Omadano to Oshikoto Region. This is a very bushy area and there is no access to road infrastructure. In future we could have gravel roads coming from Oshigambo to Eenhana and the one from Okankolo to Erundu just to join this one in-between. Comrade Minister, if you could investigate that, I know there is a Regional Road Board but I think something must be done there to solve some of the problems of the communities living in those bushy areas.

On page 8 it deals with bridges and I have a concern with the flood areas in Oshana, Oshikoto and Omusati. Comrade Minister, could you commission a team to thoroughly investigate to see where we can build bridges, so that we reduce the use of helicopters who fly from Ondangwa to drop food in the cattle posts. How much is this costing Government every year? If we build bridges in those rivers we would solve this problem once and for all.

On page 13 – maritime affairs: Comrade Minister, I want you to investigate the possibility of having an effective communication system from the sea to the headquarters here in Windhoek in case of an emergency. Recently a boat sank and they had to report to Walvis Bay or Lüderitz Harbour, but there is nobody on duty 24 hours in Windhoek who can communicate to the people who are on the sea. In future we must have a 24-hours monitoring in Windhoek, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz.

I want to thank the Ministry for keeping the sea clean from pollution, but investigation into the worthiness of the vessels at sea should be intensified.

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**HON MUHEUA / HON NGHMTINA**

I thank you very much and I support the Bill.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Muheua.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**  
Comrade Deputy Chair, I will be very brief and I want to speak on the roads network. Before I address the point, I would like to assure Comrade Kazenambo that I am from Windhoek, I am not from the area I am talking about. When I was elected as a Member of Parliament, these people said the first thing I must do when I come to this House is to mention their road and that is the road between Omaruru and Omatjete and other feeder roads especially withing the Omatjete area. Of course, I told them that I am not Councillor, they must engage their councillors, but you know how people are, Comrade Chair.

That road between Omaruru and Omatjete is one of the oldest roads in this country, but it does not have a single bridge and during the rainy season that road is impassable. People have to take a detour to Okombahe to go to Omatjete and the other areas. Maybe it is contained in the master plan of the Ministry, but I would request that this road be improved. There are many cars in that area and you can hardly go there and return with your exhaust pipe intact. With that I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** If there is no further discussion, the Minister may reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Chairperson. Many people showed their interest in this very important infrastructure of our State, namely the roads.

*Honourable Dr Iyambo (Jr)* asked what the Ministry is going to do about the contractors who are doing very poor quality of work, as observed by the

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HON NGHIMTINA**

Deputy Minister of Works and Transport. I have to thank the Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, because he visited most of the areas and he reported the outcome of what he has observed. We have to investigate because we also have photographs and everything was done professionally and if we find that they did it deliberately, we have to make sure that they correct the situation with their own money. That would teach other contractors that if they do not perform, we will force them and not use them in future operations.

I am happy to report to Parliament that at last we got the solution to the Ondangwa-Oshikango extension. It is very important because everybody has participated in the construction of this railway and everybody in this country wants to know when the construction will be completed. We have now been promised that we will receive the funds and it is likely that the work will be completed by the middle of next year between Ondangwa and Oshikango. All the equipment is already on site and we are only waiting for the money to buy the rails and we will go out on tender. It is frustrating to the whole Nation, but at last we got a solution.

*Honourable Kawana* asked whether the Ministry is satisfied with the Rundu-Nkurenkuru road construction. That work on that road has so far been done well and also some kilometres from Nkurenkuru to Kongo. There was another company who was supposed to start from Rundu to Kongo, but I do not know whether these people are ready to do the work. However, our engineers will investigate what is happening there, but nobody is happy with that company. I understand there is some politics involved, that the road is from some Political Party, not from the Government and honestly speaking, we are watching them closely and if they do not deliver, the law will take its course.

Phase 1 of the Okahandja-Karibib road is going to be completed in August this year and the rest will be completed by December this year.

*Honourable Namoloh*, thank you for supporting the Vote and I concur with your concern about the railways. I also used to come here by rail and it was very good, but the problem we are facing nowadays is the aging of our rails. It was constructed with steel and it is now cracking and expanding, which makes it unreliable. That is why we need a lot of money to upgrade our railways.

The estimated cost for the rehabilitation of all the railways in the country will

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HON NGHIMTINA**

be N\$9 billion. If it were in good condition, we could have used it even for the transportation of passengers, however we decided to transport only goods until we have rehabilitated all the railway lines as we cannot compromise the lives of our people.

It is true that it takes too long to travel from Windhoek to Usakos and Honourable Ilonga is thinking along the same lines as myself, because at one time I asked why we cannot have a rail from Okahandja to Otjiwarongo and the engineers told me it is too mountainous. I said in other countries they even go through the mountains, but is a matter of planning and the availability of funds.

It is true that bridges which were constructed only a small while ago are already damaged. I complained to the former Minister of Transport about the bridges which are very dangerous at night. The same goes for the culverts at the sides of the Oshana and in the middle the water has nowhere to go and then the road is destroyed.

I also visited some areas in the North where the culverts are so small, the water cannot go through and automatically the soil will block the culvert and then the water destroys the gravel road. We have to study the situation and we want to set standards for our roads. We are currently doing it with Government buildings, but we also need to apply it to our roads. The problem is that I am not an engineer and then an engineer tells you that the water will go this way, but honestly speaking, the road will be washed away.

*Honourable Ilonga* mentioned the price of train tickets and I do not know how we can solve this problem. The rail was supposed to be the second cheapest. Water transportation is the most cheapest, then rail and road and air was supposed to be the most expensive, but when I am travelling from Eros Airport to Ondangwa, it is only N\$1,300 one way and a return ticket is N\$3,000 and that is even cheaper than travelling with your vehicle because of the stress of driving and wear and tear of your vehicle. The owners of trucks and buses only need to be fair to our people.

We will try to give a progress report on Cape Fria and Agra Fria, but a lot of work still needs to be done to determine which one is more suitable for a harbour.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

You wanted clarity on maritime activities on inland water. We are suggesting to have a ferry from Katima Mulilo to Impalila Island.

A contractor has been appointed to plan and design the bridge. Construction will commence afterwards.

You also talked about the bridges and culverts between Engela and Ongenga. I can tell you it is very much disappointing and I do not know how we are going to solve all these problems. It is a lot of work and there seems to be no sufficient funds to take care of this and also the bridges between villages. Oshana's are very big areas and I do not know how we will manage, but we have to look into the important ones.

*Comrade Nickey Iyambo*, the report on the Trans-Capriivi railway was submitted yesterday and it will be connected to the existing railway network. Railway is a heavy carrying mode of transport, but investments will also be very huge. It will take us some time to realise our dream in the future.

*Honourable Ncube*, it is important that we take your recommendations because everybody is a potential person with disability. Nobody can say you are immune from that one. You said we have to compel private road transport users and it is also a good recommendation to be enforced through relevant legislation, such as the White Paper on Transport, 1995.

*Honourable Katali* remarked on the GPS system for the trains. The operator needs to have a model train control to be aware of the location of each train at any point in time to prevent delays, to avoid collisions. The radio communication system still in use is no longer efficient, therefore we need the GPS system.

With regard to the Government Garage, vehicles are taken to private garages and they are not repairing any vehicle, but we are in the process of coming up with good proposals on what can be done. We will look into the employment of mechanics to do minor repairs.

*Honourable Kazenambo* mentioned the road between Gam and Epukiro and the possibility of road construction to upgrade the gravel road to between bitumen and gravel. Maybe our engineers can come up with something that is

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HON NGHIMTINA**

in-between the two. If it is concrete, it will be very expensive, but we will instruct our engineers to look into that one. If we are unable to find something, then bad luck.

You want the road between Tsumkwe and Grootfontein to be tarred and once funds are available, we will look into that one.

*Honourable Kapia*, we are decentralising services to the people, but we will take all the recommendations coming from the Regions and look into them, but we should remember that in the North, especially the east of Ohangwena Region, the locals have cleared more than forty roads which need to be gravelled and we only need funds to look into that one. With regard to the other roads mentioned, we will take it to the Regional Council to look into those.

Concerning the bridges in flood prone areas, we have to remember that most of the North is in flood prone areas and I do not know how many bridges will have to be built.

You said Marine Affairs need effective communication and I think we do have that, but we will have to look at how it is managed by the people in the offices.

*Honourable Muheua*, you said between Omaruru and Omatjete there is only one bridge and we will also investigate to see what we can do.

On the question of who is monitoring the subcontractors, we have the Roads Authority who are doing all these jobs and maybe we should force them to do the monitoring on a more regular basis. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much, Comrade Minister. Any objection to Vote 24? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House is adjourned until tomorrow at 09:00.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:05 UNTIL 2010.05.12 AT 09:00**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
12 MAY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, you will agree with me if I entreat you that we on this day, the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, pay our respects to the Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, friend of the young people of Africa and the world, former Founding President of the SWAPO Party and all the other wonderful things for which Comrade Sam Nujoma is known by us, by all the Namibian people, by all the people of this world. This is his birthday and we wish him well and pray that he continues to serve the Namibian people and that he finds peace and continues to be available to serve the cause of Africa. Happy birthday, Comrade President.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Dr Geingob.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT: MINISTRY OF  
TRADE AND INDUSTRY, 2008/2009**

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for 2008/2009.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo.

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12 May 2010

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DR AMWEELO**

**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 06, 09, 12, 19, 22, 25 and 26 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Health and Social Services.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, 12 May is very special for Namibia, as you have eloquently congratulated the Founding President. Today Namibia joins the rest of the international community to celebrate international Nurses Day. It is an important day which celebrates the work of millions of nurses around the world, including Namibia. May 12 has been chosen as International Nurses Day as it marks the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Florence Nightingale was an English nurse, a writer and a statistician who came to prominence during the Crimean War due to her pioneering work in nursing. She laid the foundations of professional nursing by establishing in 1869 a nursing school at St Thomas Hospital in London. This school was the first nursing school in the world.

I am standing before you to congratulate the nurses of the world and especially the Namibian nurses for all the good work they do in caring for patients, giving them the comfort and support beyond the clinical care. We would like to recognise and express our gratitude for the job well done by the Namibian nurses at all times of the day, throughout the year despite the many challenges facing them.

12 May 2010

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

This year the day is being commemorated under the theme, “*Delivering Quality, Serving Communities, Nurses Chronic Care.*” We are being reminded that no country in the world today is spared from the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases and that we need to rise to the challenge and sharpen our attention to those in need of chronic care.

The World Health Organisation estimates that 80% of deaths caused by non-communicable diseases are occurring in low and middle-income countries. In addition, countries like Namibia, with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and a large number of people on Anti-Retroviral Treatment, also has a growing population of people with chronic communicable disease in need of adequate and quality care. Thus the theme for this year could not be more appropriate for us to reflect on our actions and improve the way we are providing care to our people.

In most countries of the world, including Namibia, there is a shortage of nurses. This poses a critical challenge as the nursing fraternity forms a vital link in services for people and in the coordination of care and their contribution is paramount to ensure quality health care is delivered to patients.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, we are aware of the challenges faced by nurses in Namibia and, indeed, in the entire SADC Region due to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and TB. We would like to encourage them to transform challenges into opportunities and come up with innovative approaches to deal with the increasing demand for quality health care. We would like to assure you of our support at all times. I thank you most sincerely for your kind attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for sharing this day and what it represents with us. Indeed, we want to scream “*viva nurses, viva nurses!*” The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Prime Minister move the Motion?

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**MOTION ON RETIREMENT OF MEMBERS OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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12 May 2010

**MOTION ON PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
RT HON N ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I so Move, Sir.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Objection? Agreed to. The Prime Minister has the Floor.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This Motion sees that this House endorses the request by His Excellency President Pohamba, our Head of State and Government, that the two long-serving members of the Public Service Commission, namely Mr Festus Muundjua and Mr Aaron Shihepo, be given six more months before they retire from the Public Service Commission as commissioners. We would like to express our thanks, gratitude and appreciation to the two long-serving members of the Public Service Commission for the service rendered to the Public Service of Namibia. With their long experience they have guided this very important institution of oversight very well and for that we remain indebted to their input.

His Excellency the President wants to revitalise this institution and inject new blood into it. However, for humanitarian consideration he thought that the two senior citizens should be given another six months to serve and to prepare them for final retirement from being members of the Public Service Commission.

Honourable Members, with those few words, I ask your indulgence to support the wishes of the President. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? If not, does the Right Honourable Prime Minister wish to say something?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I thank the Members for their support.

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12 May 2010

**TRANSFER DUTY SECOND AMENDMENT BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Second Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING : TRANSFER DUTY  
SECOND AMENDMENT BILL**

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

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, before I table the Bill, I further move that the Bill be considered as an urgent Bill in terms of Rule 98 and that this House, therefore, deals with all the stages today.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

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**TRANSFER DUTY SECOND AMENDMENT BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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**SECOND READING:  
TRANSFER DUTY SECOND AMENDMENT BILL**

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12 May 2010

**TRANSFER DUTY SECOND AMENDMENT BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Secondment? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Amendment Bill is a rather short one, it seeks to amend the Transfer Duty rate that was to provide for Corporate Transfer Duty that was accidentally deleted from the Transfer Duty Amendment Bill that was recently passed by Parliament, resulting in a situation where there is no duty rate for corporate entities. This amendment is to rectify that by setting the rate at 12%. This rate is an increase from 8% that was applicable prior to the passage of the recent amendment.

The increase is to curb Transfer Duty avoidance by individuals who resort to buying properties through companies in order that future sales of such properties will not be subjected to Transfer Duty, as sales of company shares are not subject to Transfer Duty payments. Therefore, I seek the indulgence of the House that this amendment be adopted by Parliament. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? None.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I wish to thank the Honourable Members of the House for their understanding.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

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**TRANSFER DUTY SECOND AMENDMENT BILL  
COMMITTEE STAGE**

**COMMITTEE STAGE : TRANSFER DUTY SECOND  
AMENDMENT BILL**

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee has to consider the Transfer Duty Second Amendment Bill.

Clauses and Title put and agreed to.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I shall report the Bill without amendment.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

Bill reported without amendment.

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**THIRD READING : TRANSFER DUTY SECOND AMENDMENT  
BILL**

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12 May 2010

**TRANSFER DUTY SECOND AMENDMENT BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Any further discussion? None. Does the Minister wish to say something?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Speaker, just to thank the Members again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Third Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *Transfer Duty Second Amendment Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will now read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE :  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

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HON SIOKA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

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**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, 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 09, 11 and 26 had been introduced.

**Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”,  
N\$521,659,000** put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, first and foremost I would like to thank and congratulate His Excellency the Founding Father for turning 81 years old today. Comrade Father of the Nation, we recognise and appreciate the excellent work you have done for this country. No man or woman will fit in your shoes. They are trying but they end up as failures. I wish you more years to come. Happy Birthday Papa Sam Nujoma.

In the same spirit, allow me to thank His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia for appointing me to lead the people's Ministry with the assistance of my Deputy, Comrade Angelika Muharukua and the entire staff of the Ministry. We will endeavour to work hard as a team to carry out the task entrusted to us.

Allow me also to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Sara Kuugongelwa-Amathila, her Deputy Minister and her entire team as well as the Director General of National Planning Commission for the National Budget presented in this august House.

Honourable Members, let me now take the House through the Budget

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allocations of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare

The total Operational Budget requested is: N\$467,647,000.

The Development Budget needs N\$54,012,000 for the following Capital Projects:

Outapi Craft Centre; Aminuis Community Centre; Rundu Recreation Centre; Construction (Phase II), Renovation/Construction of Ministerial Headquarters (Juvenis building), Renovation of Regional and Constituency Offices, Epako Women Centre Construction and Keetmanshoop Recreation Centre.

Honourable Chairperson let me introduce the different programmes as articulated in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 12 - Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare:

**Programme 1 - CHILD WELFARE:**

This programme in the Medium Term Plan constitutes of Social Allowances and Welfare Programmes. With additional staff members to be appointed at national, regional and constituency levels, we will be able to deal with the escalating number and needs of orphans and vulnerable children in the country.

In an attempt to ensure that the rights of children are upheld and protected, the following has been embarked upon:

**Orphans and Vulnerable Children Permanent Task Force**

The Permanent Task Force on Orphans and Vulnerable Children have successfully met every quarter as planned in 2009. Its wide composition of representation consists of Government Ministries, Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society, and it is functional at national and regional levels. Social workers also attend these meetings. The Regional Social Workers are responsible for information sharing at Regional and Constituency levels at orphans and vulnerable children forum meetings. The Ministry managed to establish Regional orphans and vulnerable children forums in all 13 Regions and in all 107 Constituencies in the country.

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Orphan and vulnerable children forums are used by the Ministry to encourage communities and service providers at Regional and constituency levels to help orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers to access services for orphans and vulnerable children. We are planning to strengthen the collaboration between the different committees working at Regional and constituency levels on children issues.

**Capacity Strengthening for Child Welfare**

During 2009, different training workshops were carried out at National and Regional levels for community members and other stakeholders working with orphans and vulnerable children. They were trained on monitoring, evaluation and team building. Information was also given to the communities on the Children Status Act, roles and responsibilities of orphans and vulnerable children forums, emergency preparedness and child protection just to mention a few. A total of 20 training workshops were conducted with a total of five 552 participants trained. 42 Training workshops will be carried out at National and Regional levels during this Financial Year.

There is a serious need to purchase minibuses to transport the children at the Namibia Children's Home and the After-School Center. All the Regions need at least a 4x4 vehicle to enable them to reach the needy children in the most remote areas.

**Social Grants**

The Social Grants are in the form of Maintenance Grants, Foster Parent Grants and Special Maintenance Grants for children with disabilities. 111 624 orphans and vulnerable children are now benefiting from these grants, compared to March 2009 when only 99 490 orphans and vulnerable children were benefiting.

The Ministry has developed minimum standards for Residential Child Care Facilities and is currently busy registering them. Forty-four Residential Child Care Facilities countrywide have been registered, out of which nineteen met the minimum standards, while 25 did not meet the requirements. The Ministry is assisting these Residential Child Car Facilities to meet the requirement so that they can be registered to receive subsidy.

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The Ministry has a Children's Home in Eros, Windhoek, for children in need of care. Currently it caters for 124 children and covers their daily maintenance and education for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The After-School Centre provides after-school activities to children at risk and children on the streets. With the financial support from UNESCO, the centre offers computer classes and training on income generating activities to parents of those children who are involved in the programme.

The total budgeted amount needed for Programme 1 is: N\$470,470,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The Gender Equality programme is charged with the responsibility of promoting gender equality and women empowerment. The following is the outline of activities which will be implemented during the period under review:

The 1997 National Gender Policy was reviewed and adopted by Parliament in March 2010. Printing, translation and popularisation of the National Gender Policy will be carried out during this Financial Year. The National Gender Plan of Action will also be developed.

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, 1 154 females and 853 males were reached through gender sensitisation awareness. Motivational talks for schools and out of school young people were conducted, to sensitise and equip them with knowledge about gender and sex. Other important gender issues were also discussed in which 2 435 females and 1 987 males took part. This is an ongoing programme and in this Financial Year the same workshops will be conducted in all thirteen Regions.

The Legal Literacy Awareness on Gender Based Laws is an ongoing programme and in 2009 three networking workshops with NDF women soldiers took place. Eighty-five women soldiers were trained on UN Resolution 1325, the African Charter on People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and other gender-based laws. In addition, thirty-four community paralegals were sensitised on gender related laws and the Namibian Constitution during 2009/2010. This sensitisation empowered participants to provide correct information to their communities and direct

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them to various institutions where they can find help. During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the simplification, translation and printing of the UN Resolution 1325 is underway and refresher paralegal trainings in all thirteen Regions will be conducted.

The Strengthening Response of Leadership to Gender HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health and Poverty Issues

This is an ongoing activity targeting Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development with the main objective to share information and sensitise them on the linkages between Gender and HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence and poverty. Through this activity Members of Parliament interact with service providers and beneficiaries to document achievements and challenges faced in implementing Government policies and programmes at grassroots, and to enhance the Members of Parliament's capacity to mainstream gender in their Parliamentary debates and discussions. During this Financial Year the activity will be expanded to include more Members of Parliament.

48 Gender Focal Points were trained in 2009 in basic gender skills to facilitate the process of gender mainstreaming in various sectors. Advanced gender training, establishment of a databank and the appointment of more Gender Focal Points is planned for this Financial Year.

The Gender analysis was undertaken for the Education sector and is now expanded to the Health and Agricultural sectors.

Government made strong commitments to eliminate poverty and in particular to promote gender equality and women's empowerment for sustainable development. During 2010/2011 the Ministry, with support from UNDP, embarked upon gender responsive Budgeting analysis of the four sectors, namely Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Education; Health and Social Services and Finance.

**Gender Based Violence**

Based on the national baseline Assessment of Human Trafficking conducted in 2009, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and other

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stakeholders have started with the implementation of recommendations from this study:

The Zero Tolerance for Gender Based Violence Media Campaign campaign was launched in July 2009 by Right Honourable Prime Minister Nahas Angula at Oshikango border post in Ohangwena Region. The campaign focuses on three critical areas: passion killing, baby dumping and human trafficking. This campaign is earmarked to continue for a period of three years and the areas of focus will be expanded to include other forms of gender-based violence, such as rape.

Shelters for victims of gender-based violence have been identified and are currently being renovated in all Regions. In the 2010/2011 Financial Year training of key service providers, such as social workers, police officers, immigration officers and excise officers, will be conducted. The National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action will also be finalised during this Financial Year.

The Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence is an annual activity commemorated every year from 25 November and culminates into the commemoration of 10 December, which is the International Human Rights Day and also Namibian Women's Day.

The amount budgeted for the Gender Equality Programme two is: N\$12,314,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

**Programme 3 - COMMUNITY AND INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT:**

This programme is tasked with the responsibility to mobilise, activate and sensitise as well as motivate the communities to take an active role towards self-development. Through mobilisation meetings, community members, especially disadvantaged rural and urban community, are sensitised to identify their development needs and find solutions to those needs. For the past Financial Year mobilisation meetings reached a total number of 2,744 people. For this Financial Year we are aiming to conduct two 260 mobilisation meetings, targeting at least 5,200 people.

### **Income Generating Activities**

The Ministry manage a grant scheme that supports small-scale innovative ideas to generate income for community members, especially women. Income generating activities go a long way to provide income mostly to rural and needy urban communities who partake in these activities. Income generating activities also play a role in promoting employment opportunities and immensely contribute to combating poverty.

In 2009, a total number of 650 applications for grants were received from all the Regions. Seventy-eight projects were identified and recommended for funding. The majority of these income-generating activities are managed by women, thereby benefiting children, immediate and extended family members.

### **Participation in local and International Trade Fairs**

The Ministry sponsored 15 projects to participate in local trade fairs at Ongwediva, Okakarara, Windhoek and Katima. Also, during 2009 the Ministry, jointly with Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, sponsored a delegation of 16 entrepreneurs to attend the Malaysia International Food and Beverage Fair.

This trade fair provided an opportunity for Namibian entrepreneurs to learn about the possibilities of different methods of food processing, food preservation and value addition. Other local and international fairs also provide opportunities for exposure and business networking. For the current 2010/2011 Financial Year the Ministry is planning to sponsor five participants to participate in international trade fairs, while 65 entrepreneurs will participate in local trade fairs.

The Integrated Early Childhood Development programme is very important as it plays a crucial role in child development and later years of learning. Thus, the Ministry is responsible for ensuring that communities are mobilised to establish community-based Early Childhood Development Centres and kindergartens. It also ensures the implementation of the Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy, discussed the importance of Early Childhood Domestic violence with communities, promotes equitable access to Integrated Early Childhood Development services, supports community efforts by

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training early childhood development caregivers, provides construction materials for early childhood development centres, equips early childhood development centres with educational materials as well as in-door and out-door equipment.

**National, Regional and Constituency Integrated Early Childhood Development Committee meetings**

The Ministry established a National Early Childhood Development Committee in each Region.

**Early Childhood Development Curriculum and Training of Caregivers**

The Early Childhood Development Curriculum has been finalised and training of caregivers commenced in Oshana, Omusati and Oshikoto Regions. 60 Caregivers were trained on various areas of child development, which are: health care and nutrition, safety, working with children, art and creative activities and so forth. The Ministry planned to train 180 Early Childhood Development caregivers, 30 per Region in 6 Regions, namely Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto, Omaheke, Erongo and Hardap Regions for this Financial Year.

The amount required for programme three is: N\$38,875,000.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, it is now my humble honour to request you to approve the Ministry's Budget request for the 2010/2011 Financial Year to the tune of only **N\$521,659,000**. I thank you for your attention.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:      **Vote**  
**22 – "FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES", N\$322,180,000** is put  
for Introduction.**

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**  
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me seize this opportunity in wishing our Founding Father of the Nation a happy birthday as well as many more returns.

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I also want to make use of this opportunity in expressing my thanks to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for appointing me as the Minister in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources with my Deputy, Comrade Kilus Nguvauva. I want to thank him for the trust he has placed in us.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is with immense honour that I present to this august House Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resources.

Before I present Vote 22, I would like to congratulate both the Speaker, Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab and the Deputy Speaker, Comrade Loide Kasingo, of the House for re-election and election. I wish them the very best during their terms of office. In the same vein, I herewith extend my warm welcome to our newly elected Members of Parliament, from both side of the aisle, and wish us all success during the Fifth Parliamentary Sessions. My warm congratulations also go to the Minister of Finance, her Deputy and staff of the Ministry of Finance for the pro-people Budget which, surely, will bring a lot of relief to our people across all sectors of the population.

Honourable Chairperson, the fishing sector is constantly faced with the unpredictable and highly volatile fuel prices, which continue to be a challenge for the sector. You are all aware that last month the country witnessed another increment in the price of fuel. Fuel remains the second highest expenditure, however, during 2009/2010, the price of fuel averaged between U\$70 and 80 per barrel, a reduction of almost 50% compared to what was recorded in 2008. The reduction, somehow, offsets the effect of the reduced prices for some of the fish and fish products whose prices significantly reduced due to the economic crisis.

Due to excessive fuel prices in 2008, the fishing industry came up with mitigation measures to offset the effect of fuel price. One company already took a lead and introduced a fuel-blending system. When I was with the Ministry of Mines and Energy I had the honour to officiate at this plant in Walvis Bay. This system enables companies to blend their fuel, which results in cheaper and environmentally greener fuel than heavy fuel which most vessels use.

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I am pleased to inform the House that despite the global economic crisis, Namibian fish and fishery products continue to show a positive trend in demand during 2009. As such, the final value of the Namibian fish has increased from N\$4,8 billion in 2007 to N\$7 billion in 2009 and we are confident that this trend will continue during 2010.

The fishing sector has significantly contributed to socio-economic development in various Regions of Namibia. Furthermore, employment in this sector is still evident with the sector employing over 12,000 people.

Honourable Members, considerable investments continue to take place in the fishing sector, mainly for onshore value addition. As at the end of 2009, the fishing companies invested in excess of N\$8 billion into the fishing sector. Among the significant investments made during 2009 is the setting up of a tuna smokery, in Lüderitz, to the value of N\$13 million.

It is also important to report on the increase of the Individual Quick Freezing facilities at many of the hake factories. The Individual Quick Freezing facility is a sophisticated set of machinery that is used at sea and then packages such fish according to various sizes and grades. These new Individual Quick Freezing facilities are contributing to the value addition in the Namibian hake industry. Investment in these Individual Quick Freezing facilities also reduces export of frozen whole unprocessed fish and allows for the cutting and packaging to be done locally.

Investment continued to take place in the mari-culture and freshwater culture in the form of expansion of the existing mari-culture facilities, construction of inland aquaculture centres and the adoption of new technology in hatching for the increase in fingerling production and distribution to fish farmers.

Last year, Government invested N\$45 million in the construction of new centres and the upgrading of the existing ones in order to increase the production of fish from these centres. The Ministry continues to engage the mari-culture industry for it to increase investments in shellfish farming in order to increase volume in export production.

During 2009, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources was awarded with three awards from regional and international institutions. These are the

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Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa (AASA), The FAO Margarita Lizárraga and the Kungsfenan Swedish Seafood Award. These awards were conferred on the Ministry due to the dedication and hard work of the staff and management in adhering to the set objectives of the Ministry. May I, therefore, at this juncture extend my warm appreciation to the role played by my predecessor Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo, for laying this formidable structure. My resolve is to keep that impeccable record and also to strive to expand on where Honourable Dr Iyambo has ended. He took the Ministry to great heights and it is now my challenge to do the same.

Honourable Members, the Namibian Fish Consumption Promotion Trust continues to distribute fish to the Namibian people below market prices in order to make fish affordable to the majority of our people. Our motto remains **“Eat More Namibian Fish for Life”**. The results of distribution to our people are very positive as more of our citizens are consuming fish and fish products being sold by the Trust. The Ministry continues to allocate 11,000 metric tons of Horse mackerel and 800 metric tons for hake to the Trust in order to maximise and diversify fish distribution.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, live promotions are conducted at the Trust fish shops, schools, orphanages, old-aged homes and other such places deemed suitable for such an activity. These promotions include; roasting, frying and cooking fish as well as educating the community on how to prepare fish. The consumption of fish in our country has, surely, increased from 4 kilograms in the late 1990s to 12 kilograms per capita in 2009. We are thus proud to have contributed to this positive development.

The Trust still operates nine fish distribution outlets in six Regions of our country, namely Erongo, Oshana, Kavango, Khomas, Karas, and Omaheke Regions. Plans are now underway to have fish shops in Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions. Plans are also underway to establish fish outlets in Omusati, Kunene, Caprivi and Hardap as part of the programme partly funded by Spain to the tune 938,730 Euros, which is about N\$10 million. We would like, once again, to thank the Kingdom of Spain for this generous support.

The total amount to which I seek the House’s approval is N\$322,180,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year, for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to carry out its mandate. This amount will be used for the prudent

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management and administration of fisheries and aquaculture development aimed at the betterment of our people through programmes of increased food security, poverty reduction and for the overall economic development of our citizens and country.

I am now coming to the motivation of specific programmes, which I intend to do as follows:

Of the N\$ 322,180,000 allocated to Vote 22, an amount of N\$169,110,000 is earmarked for operational activities while N\$153,070,000 will go to Capital Projects. The allocated amount will be utilised under the following programmes:

**Programme 1: Survey and Stock Assessments**

The main purpose of this programme, as has been made known to this august House, is to assess the status of the fish stocks, as well as that of the marine environment; in order to provide best scientific advice to the Government on the sustainable utilisation of such resources. This enables us to ensure continuous and sustainable utilisation of our marine resources. Surveys, to assess the population dynamics and distribution of commercially important stocks such as; hake, monkfish, horse mackerel, pilchard, crab, rock lobster, seals as well as those of the marine environment, will be conducted during 2010/2011 Financial Year.

In the previous Financial Year, the Ministry continued to enjoy close collaboration with the fishing industry in conducting some of the surveys. The hake survey, for example, was conducted with a commercial fishing vessel rented from one of the local companies, while the pilchard and horse mackerel survey was conducted, jointly, with the industry's vessels assisting the Ministry's research vessel in searching for schools of fish in our ocean.

The Ministry has reached an advanced stage to secure funds needed for the acquisition of a modern and larger research vessel to replace the ageing research vessel, Welwitchia. Cabinet has already given its approval for the Ministry to go ahead with the sourcing of additional funds needed for this purpose.

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, upwelling favourable winds off the coast of Lüderitz continued to show a negative trend, as observed over the last eight years. The sea surface temperature off Namibia was also warmer on average to above average during 2009/2010 Financial Year. This is an indication of the global trend of the effect of climate change.

Algae bloom, a phenomenon caused by sulphur eruptions and which results in low oxygen waters, was also observed in November 2009 along the central part of the coast, resulting in some species of fish being washed ashore, mainly the juvenile hake and rock lobster.

Management measures, such as closed areas and the October closed season, which were introduced in the Demersal fishery in 2006/2007 Financial Year, were continuously being enforced during 2009/2010 reporting period. These measures have yielded fruits, as the biomass of monkfish, for example, increased by about 70% during the last monkfish biomass survey conducted in November 2009. The size of monkfish caught during this survey was also found to have increased significantly.

The sardine survey conducted in October 2009 also indicates that the northern Benguela sardine stock's biological indicators are improving. Above average recruitment was observed during that survey, while mortality rates also showed a reduction compared to the survey conducted during 2008.

To fulfil the obligations placed on us under this programme, we are requesting an amount of N\$120,290,000 for 2010/2011 Financial Year.

### **Programme 2: Human Resources Development**

This programme caters for various skills required by the Ministry for reasons of sustained development and efficient service delivery.

The Ministry has, during the year under review, awarded 14 bursaries to staff members to study various courses on full and part-time basis locally and abroad. The Ministry also funded 104 staff members to undergo short-term skills development courses which are critical in their daily tasks. Among these courses, all sea-going personnel were trained in a mandatory basic safety-at-sea course.

The Ministry continues, through the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute

to train sea-going personnel in Navigation, Engineering and Basic Safety in order to comply with the International Convention of Standard Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, as acceded to by the Republic of Namibia.

The Ministry requires skills that are unique to the fishing environment in the form of Fisheries Inspectors, Scientists, Marine Engineers, Bio-economists, and Fishery Observers who need to undergo special training in order to fulfil their responsibilities successfully. However, the Ministry still experiences a high rate of exodus of experienced and well-trained staff. Despite that concern, the Ministry still needs to continue with the training of new professionals who join the Ministry every year.

An amount of N\$2,363,000 is allocated to staff training as well as related capacity building activities to train marine engineers, pilots, inspectors, scientists, policy analysts, economists, statisticians, and others cadres during 2010/2011 Financial Year.

### **Programme 3: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of fishing activities**

This programme exists to ensure compliance with the fisheries legislation within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone and inland water bodies. Furthermore, the programme ensures that fishing activities by Namibian flagged vessels outside our Exclusive Economic Zone are conducted in accordance with international laws and relevant conservation measures of Regional fisheries management organisations to which the country is a party.

The compliance with fisheries legislation is enforced through the deployment of inspectors on board the fisheries patrol vessels and aircrafts, monitoring of the harbour and fish processing factories, coastal patrols, and the inspection of inland water bodies. The Ministry also ensures compliance outside our Exclusive Economic Zone through licensing and the placement of both scientific and fisheries observers on board of those fishing vessels. For this purpose, all Namibian fishing vessels are only allowed to proceed to the fishing grounds when they are licensed, have a fisheries observer on board and when they are fitted with a functional vessel monitoring system.

The Namibian Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme has become an effective tool to fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

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The presence of fisheries patrol crafts in our Exclusive Economic Zone still serves as a deterrent to fish pirates. In this regards, the level of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by foreign vessels has been reduced to an absolute minimum. One should, however, state that, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and other related activities still remain one big challenge in our Region. This practice includes fishing without authorisation, transshipment at sea and transport of illegally caught fish, as well as destructive information exchange among fish pirates.

Namibia continues to be vocal against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as this practice is disastrous to living marine resources and the eco-systems. Through the undermining of the efforts by Fisheries Management Authorities to sustainably manage fish and conserve the environment for the present and future generations, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing will remain such a threat which needs to be challenged head-on. For this reason, the Ministry remained active and had participated in a number of consultative symposiums dedicated to design mechanisms to deter, prevent and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010, Namibia started with the implementation of the European Community Regulations to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The 2010/2011 Financial Year will witness the possible amendment of our fisheries legislation in accordance with FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures and legally-binding instrument on Port State Measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, a document to which Namibia has been involved since its drafting processes since June 2008. This scheme has now been adopted and the Ministry has already received the mandate to sign this very important document.

To supplement the surveillance capacity, the Ministry will continue to get reinforcement from our Fisheries Observer Agency by placement of fisheries observers on board of the vessels to observe and report on the magnitude of compliance with the fisheries legislation.

For this important programme, the Ministry is requesting N\$117,860,000 for the marine and inland fisheries activities.

**Programme 4: Promotion of Marine and Inland Aquaculture**

The purpose of the aquaculture programme is to develop aquaculture-farming activities in coastal and inland areas, by utilising intensive methods under macro and micro scales for marine and fresh water species.

Namibia continues to produce high quality oysters, which are ranked amongst the best in the world. Oyster cultivation takes place at Lüderitz, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. Oyster production was forecast to yield approximately 800 metric tonnes in 2009, while abalone culture at Lüderitz, was forecast to yield 7 tonnes in the same year. I am pleased to report that oyster production yielded 6,557,021 million oysters valued at N\$26,228,084 and abalone production yielded 3 tonnes valued at N\$1,252,800 during 2009.

Following interventions by Government to mobilise financing for the Aquaculture Sector, N\$8 million is available to AgriBank to assist mari-culture farmers with start-up capital, as well as to expand existing aquaculture businesses.

Honourable Chairperson, with the construction of three new aquaculture centres during 2009/2010, the freshwater aquaculture sector is forecast to yield 351 tonnes of fish valued at approximately N\$3,5 million, when selling at N\$15 per kilogram, during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The fish feed plant which was completed at a cost of N\$6 million in the Omusati Region, and inaugurated in March 2009, has produced 38 tonnes of fish feed, valued at N\$158,550 to date. The fish feed plant utilises raw materials which are available locally. For the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the production of fish feed at the Onavivi Fish Feed Plant is forecast to yield 380 tonnes of fish feed at an estimated value of N\$1,759,100. This fish feed is to be manufactured and made available for purchase by all fish farmers in all Regions in Namibia where fish is being cultured.

The Epalela fish farm produced fish to the value of around N\$205,300 during 2009/2010 Financial Year. Total farm production yield was 20.53 tonnes of both tilapia and catfish. For the Epalela Fish Farm, an amount of N\$18 million was allocated during the 2009/2010 Financial Year for additional staff accommodation, a storeroom and upgrading of fish ponds.

Phase I of Ongwediva Inland Aquaculture Centre was completed at a total cost

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of N\$11,750,000. This project includes construction of the office block, upgrading of the office block and the fencing of the premises. The completion of Ongwediva hatchery will ensure availability of fingerlings for fish farmers and enhance aquaculture production.

Phase III of the construction of the Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute will be completed during the current Fiscal Year.

The People's Republic of China has made a grant of N\$15 million available for aquaculture development in Namibia. Once received, this grant will be used for the upgrading of the Hardap Inland Aquaculture Centre in the Hardap Region. Areas identified for upgrading include; tunnels for ponds, construction and compaction of earth ponds, piping and pump systems, upgrading of the fish processing facilities, hatchery and existing buildings Honourable Members, the community-based Fonteintjie fish farming project which was initially funded by the Karas Regional Council has now received an additional N\$350,000 from the Government in order to conduct a feasibility study on the upgrading of its infrastructure. The objective for the feasibility study is to expand the number of fishponds at this farm so that it can increase fish production for that Region.

Along the same background, the Leonardville fish-farming project is now at the advanced stage, and the constructor already appointed. The work has already started with the construction of water-installation. The Karas Regional Council has also earmarked the construction of the Noordoewer Inland Aquaculture Centre, to which an amount of N\$350,000 was allocated for a feasibility study.

Through the Cuba/Namibia Cooperation Agreement, we have five Cuban experts currently deployed in the aquaculture centres in Namibia. The Cuban experts continue to provide technical assistance and assist in the building of capacity of young Namibians deployed in the aquaculture sector.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, together with the National Youth Service, continue to deploy members of the National Youth Service to aquaculture projects throughout the country.

During 2009, a total of 24 National Youth Service members have been employed on the fish farms, at a cost of N\$271,000 provided as allowances by

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the Ministry of Fisheries in collaboration with the National Youth Service. Honourable Members, employment in the Aquaculture sector continues to grow. During the year under review, the number of people employed in the aquaculture sector stood at 683 Namibians. The Sector currently employs over 800 Namibians. This number includes Namibians who are employed at the various sites through the tendering process.

Honourable Chairperson, during 2009, an amount of N\$3,117,104 was utilised to upgrade the Mpungu Fish Farm in the Kavango Region. Funds were utilised for installing efficient pumping and piping systems, solar powered electricity, while the construction of a high-security fence is still in progress.

Equally, N\$191,000 was allocated for the erection of a fence around the ponds as a flood control measure at Karovo Fish Farm in the Kavango Region, and the erection of the fence is at an advance stage.

For the activities of this programme, during the current Financial Year, a total of N\$81,667,000 is required.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to submit to this Honourable House, Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resources for 2010/2011 for approval. I also wish to urge all Honourable Members to support this Vote for prosperity and socio-economic development of our people.

Allow me also to remind the House that, we at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources pledge to continue our mandate, that is to sustainably and responsibly manage and conserve the aquatic living resources and to promote aquaculture development. We are, thus, looking forward to implementing National programmes that are intended for the realisation of our mandate efficiently and effectively during the course of 2010/2011 Financial Year.

On a jovial note, I would once more like to congratulate the Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, His Excellency Comrade Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, on his well deserved 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. As a Ministry, we wish him many more years of happiness, prosperity and that the Almighty God blesses him. I thank you for your attention.

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HON !NARUSEB**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**      **Vote**  
**25 – “LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT”, N\$190,296,000** is put for  
Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, I want to unconditionally endorse the statement by our Speaker who so eloquently presented a congratulatory message to His Excellency, President Pohamba, as well as the Founding President of our Nation. I would not venture into trying to say anything other than that, because it will dilute the message that was so well presented.

I rise this morning with a deep sense of privilege to introduce Vote 25 for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the 2010/2011 Financial Year to this august House for support and approval.

I also reiterate my support for the Budget that was presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance earlier in the House. I would further like to extend my gratitude to Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance, the Permanent Secretary and the entire team of dedicated staff for a job well executed under very challenging circumstances given the global economic environment.

At the onset, I thought it imperative to give a brief outline on the mandate of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement before I present the Budget for Vote 25.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, as the custodian of all State land in Namibia, was set up to prudently administer and manage this much sought after resource in a sustainable manner and to facilitate equitable and affordable access to land by all Namibians in order to address disparities in income that are currently prevalent in our society.

The Land Reform Programme is one of the strategies adopted by the Government soon after independence as a vehicle to empower the people through access to use and secure land tenure systems. The Government has thus invested vast resources in redressing the skewed land ownership patterns.

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The process of land reform, to some, may seem too slow and ineffective but the programme is well defined and the Ministry understands the responsibility and is on course to deliver.

It is needless to over-emphasise the fact that the predominant economic activity for the majority of our people, estimated at between 69 and 70%, is agriculture and since land is a primary means of both subsistence and income generation in rural economics, access to land and security of tenure is of primary concern to economic empowerment and the eradication of poverty in this country especially amongst the previously disadvantaged Namibians.

In cognisance of the main economic activity of our people, the Government has since Independence taken steps to purchase farms to facilitate the accessibility to available agricultural land by the majority of the Namibian people in the framework of social justice and economic empowerment. The Ministry will continue to facilitate the equitable and affordable access to land through the Resettlement Programme and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. In undertaking the Land Reform Programme, the Ministry is aware that the land to be distributed is limited and the existence of the ever-present multitude of competing interests and claims for land. In recognition of this, the Ministry, in close liaison with public and private stakeholders, is working towards the development of integrated land-use plans earmarked to guide land usage and allocation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, having said the above, I now have the pleasure to present the 2010/2011 Budget for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, together with the highlights of achievements through expenditure in 2009/2010 and priorities for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement has been allocated a total of N\$190,196,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. This amount represents N\$84,896,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$99,940,000 for the Development Budget.

The 2010/2011 Budget of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, will focus on four key programmes, namely:

- Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement.
- Security of Tenure and Real Property.
- Land Usage and
- National Spatial Data infrastructure.

### **Programme 1: Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement**

The redistribution of land through the National Resettlement Programme and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme is at the centre of the current land reform process. Namibia has approximately 69.6 million hectares of agricultural land of which 36.2 million hectares are freehold and 33.4 million hectares are communal or “*non-freehold*”. The Ministry has earmarked under the National Resettlement Programme and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme to redistribute 15 million hectares of freehold land by the year 2020.

Currently the Ministry has so far distributed 1.4 million hectares of land under the National Resettlement Programme and over 3 million hectares under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. In the 2009/2010 Financial Year, the Ministry acquired eight farms with a total area of 26 000 hectares at a cost of N\$21.2 million. This figure falls short of the set annual target of 534,000 hectares. The slow pace at which land is being acquired has negatively impacted on the rate at which Government can resettle people.

Whilst it is appreciated that the programme is laden with continual challenges that impact negatively on the ability to acquire land, the Ministry is perpetually in dialogue with respective stakeholders in an effort to remain relevant and achieve the set targets.

I would like to reassure this House that the Ministry is ever exploring alternative ways and methods targeted at expediting the pace at which land is acquired. In 2009, in an effort to enhance the participation of various stakeholders in the land reform process and to find a common understanding to the challenges with regards the pace at which land is being offered and acquired, I held several consultative meetings with various stakeholders that comprise the civil society, the Church and the Namibia Agricultural Union, its affiliates and membership in various Regions. These consultations appear to bear fruit as the Ministry has recently seen an increase in the number of farms that are being offered. I probably need to applaud ourselves on that, but we will wait until the full impact is felt within our communities. I continue to

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explore administrative ways that would ensure speedy land delivery.

Over the last few months the Ministry has also been involved in consultations with stakeholders regarding possible amendments to the Land Bill with a view to ensure that the preferent right of Government is not bypassed in the land market. We are happy to inform the House that the Ministry is in the final stages of the process of consulting stakeholders on the various proposed amendments to harness loopholes inherent in the current legislation and the consolidation of the Agricultural [Commercial Land Reform Act, (Act 6 of 1995) and the Communal Land Reform Act, (Act 5 of 2002) into one Land Act. Several such consultative workshops were held in the Regions late last year and the comments were incorporated for further discussion at the National Consultative Workshop to be held in Windhoek at a date still to be decided. It is anticipated that once passed in Parliament, the Land Act will enhance efficiencies in land administration and address the current associated challenges.

The Ministry is also working towards the establishment of a Land Forum that would serve as a platform on which various key stakeholders come to discuss and deliberate on issues concerning the Land Reform Programme. This platform is aimed at soliciting ideas and recommendations on how best the Government can implement and achieve the set targets in land acquisition and resettlement.

The establishment of a Land Forum is to ensure a fair, just and transparent land reform delivery process.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conjunction with the land acquisition drive, the Land Reform Programme has inbuilt initiatives targeted at improving the economic productive levels of the land that is acquired and distributed. The issue of post-settlement support to beneficiaries remains a major challenge within the implementation of the programme. It is a significant effort for most beneficiaries to bring their allotments into full production without support from the Government.

In an effort to address some of the challenges faced by resettled farmers, the Ministry embarked on a massive nationwide infrastructural improvement programme in collaboration with the experts from the Ministry of Agriculture,

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Water and Forestry. In the last Financial Year the project covered the farmers in Hardap, Karas and parts of the Omaheke Region. The project is ongoing and will be extended to Otjozondjupa, Khomas, Erongo and Oshikoto Regions during this Financial Year.

In addition to the Infrastructural Improvement Programme, the Ministry, in close liaison with the Agricultural Bank of Namibia, has introduced a financial package to be accessed by resettled farmers for the procurement of productive inputs.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and the Agricultural Bank of Namibia have jointly contributed a total of N\$20 million in the last Financial Year, which is a pittance if you look at the demand for assistance and the exposure that resettlement farmers need in terms of empowerment and skills, and this loan scheme shall continue to be availed in this Financial Year. An additional N\$5 million is also set aside for the training of resettled farmers in agricultural and farm management skills through a mentorship scheme.

An amount of N\$98,875,000 is required to carry forward the above programme in the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The Security of Tenure and Real Property Programme contributes to the maintenance of the registry of land that affords security of tenure and property rights. In addition to the maintenance and improvement of the main Deeds Registry, the funds requested will build up the registry of land in communal areas.

The Communal Land Reform Act, (Act 5 of 2002) requires the registration of land holdings in communal areas. The registration of such rights has gathered momentum in the communal areas. The Ministry is close to completing the registration of existing customary land rights in the Erongo, Hardap and Karas Regions. During this Financial Year the Ministry will work towards addressing the challenging aspects of the communal land registration programme by focusing on large unregistered holdings. Through this programme, the Ministry will ensure security of tenure to real property by improving the digital database that facilitates registration of immovable properties.

A total of N\$20,861,000 is required to implement the above programme.

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As indicated earlier, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is also tasked to ensure that Namibia's land resources are equitably allocated, efficiently managed and responsibly used for the benefit of all Namibians. Land-related interventions require careful internal and intra-institutional coordination and lack of coordination in this aspect will result in contradictory and competing demands for land uses.

The Ministry has so far developed a systematic and participatory approach in the development of Regional Land Use Plans. It is envisaged that the Hardap and Karas Land Use Plans will be finalised during this Financial Year and this will assist various stakeholders with information for long-term socio-economic development and will generally minimise land-use conflicts.

One of the objectives of this programme is to promote sustainable use of land as a resource to secure economic growth. During the last Financial Year the Ministry carried out a demographic and socio-economic survey in areas earmarked for small-scale farms in communal areas. The study aimed at minimising potential land-use conflicts and at guiding a systematic development of the farming areas. The present exorbitant farm prices started with the development of barren land which was taken then and now we end up paying vast sums of money and I am quite convinced that we can do the same by developing small-scale farms in our communal areas, so that future generations could also demand high prices, as everyone else is doing. The recommendations from the study will be used in the planning of the farming units and the development of essential farming infrastructure.

An amount of N\$30,106,000 is required to implement the above programme.

**Programme 4: National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI): Fundamental Datasets**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the optimal utilisation of natural resources and efficient land management are essential in the management of our fragile environment. Recent flooding and other natural disasters in Namibia continue to challenge and tax our collective resolve to respond timely and effectively. The challenges we face today include, among others, planning and mitigation, readiness, response and recovery. To meet these challenges, we need to locate values at-

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risk, areas for prevention/mitigation, identify natural and technological hazards and understand the geographic distribution of incidents. This is where spatial data becomes essential.

Spatial data in the form of maps, aerial images and cadastral information provide the backbone for efficient and effective management of the challenges mentioned above. The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is determined to provide the spatial tools to help Namibia manage its environment optimally.

During the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year, the programme carried out the following activities:

- Submitted Namibia's Claim for Extended Continental Shelf to the United Nation's Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in April this year.
- Continued with the revision of topographic maps of the Caprivi Region, which is now 60% complete.
- Captured digitally all the farm parcels in Namibia.
- Commenced the revision of the topographic maps of Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and parts of Kunene Regions.

In this Financial Year, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, Namibia made a presentation to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. This presentation was the first step towards convincing the United Nations that Namibia's Continental Shelf extends beyond the conventional 200 nautical miles. The Ministry, under this programme, also plans to complete the revision of the 1:50,000 topographic maps of the Caprivi Region and continue with the revision of other Regions. The intention of this exercise is to make the information accessible to the public via the internet and authorised users in the near future.

To enable the Ministry to execute these tasks and provide the geographic information appropriate for meeting Namibian's spatially related challenges, an amount of N\$40,354,000 is required.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

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the Land Reform Programme is currently benefiting from the contributions of our development partners from the European Union, the German Government and the Spanish Cooperation. Their contributions continue to provide the much-needed interventions towards the attainment of the Ministry set targets.

The Land Reform process remains a priority of our Government and the Ministry of Land and Resettlement will strive to empower the people of Namibia through the eradication of poverty through access to land coupled with the prerequisite post-settlement support packages.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I therefore, at this juncture, wish to request the unwavering support of the Honourable Members of this august House, for approval of an amount of N\$190,196,000, which represents N\$84,896,000 is for Operational expenses and N\$99,940,000 for expenses that are developmental in nature. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put  
**Vote 06 – “POLICE”, N\$1,860,448,000** put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I was looking forward to present Vote 06: Namibian Police Force, knowing that I was doing that on behalf of our uniformed police officers, both seniors and juniors. However, something saddening happened on the morning of Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. The Minister of Safety and Security and I daresay, the Namibian Nation, has lost one of its topmost senior officers, namely Comrade Ashipala Michael Ruben, better known as Danger Ashipala, or simply, Danger. Comrade Ashipala was not only a senior police officer, having been the first commander of the Namibian Special Field Force and also promoted to be advisor to the Inspector General of the Namibian Police, but above all else, he was a respected, admired and feared commander during the war of Namibia's liberation struggle. The history of Namibia will forever record that it was under Danger Ashipala's command that a South African soldier by the name of Johan Van Der Mescht was captured alive in battle and taken by Danger's unit from Namibia, through southern Angola up to Luanda. This act of bravery and military discipline has earned the People's Liberation Army of Namibia

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recognition as a fighting force and also a credit for SWAPO, that SWAPO knew what it was fighting for. The SWAPO leadership, therefore, deserved to lead their people and their country to independence.

For the information of the Honourable Members, the memorial service for Commissioner Danger Ashipala will take place this afternoon at 15:00 at Hosiana Church opposite Katutura Hospital. All those who can make it, the family and the children of Danger Ashipala will appreciate it.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me, as I rise to present and motivate Vote 06: Namibian Police Force to first and foremost congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Deputy Minister for holistic and foresighted considerations made in distributing limited financial resources among various competing needs of our people. Of course, I must thank my President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for finally making me a senior Minister. I learned that from Dr Nickey Iyambo, that when you are the Minister of Safety and Security, you are finally a very senior Minister.

I also want to echo, as others have done, the expression of the Honourable Speaker, to wish to Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma, many, many happy returns of the day.

At times allocation of resources to the Security Sector, is viewed by some quarters of our society as misallocation of resources. It is therefore important to highlight, that all envisaged achievements for all sectors, as outlined in Vision 2030, are based on the premise that interpersonal harmony, peace and political stability is maintained.

In this regard, the Namibian Police Force is mandated, by Article 115 of our Constitution to secure the internal security of Namibia and to maintain law and order, so as to ensure that our country, our citizens and visitors are safe. In line with this constitutional mandate, the powers, duties and procedures, are defined in the Police Act, 1990 (Act 19 of 1990, as amended). These statutory functions of the Force include:

- Preserving the internal security of Namibia;
- Maintaining law and order;

- Investigating any offence or alleged offence;
- Preventing crime; and
- Protecting life and property.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the year 2009/2010 was indeed full of challenges for the Namibian Police Force, both within and outside our borders. The Force vigorously rose to the challenges of organised and drugs-related crime. On the other hand, violence against women and children need multifaceted interventions at various levels of our society. It is indeed gratifying to note the positive impact made by the police, with cooperation of members of our society.

At the international level, the police have been actively involved in fostering international and regional cooperation. Accordingly, members of the Force played a remarkable role in a series of joint cross-border operations and strategic meetings aimed at combating organised crime.

Namibia has Joint Permanent Commissions on Defence and Security with all our neighbours of which the meetings are held annually.

In addition, as a member of the SADC Region, Namibia has made pledges to the SADC Brigade in terms of personnel and equipment. In this regard, we have participated during the SADC Brigade launching that took place on 17 August 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia. Thus far, 24 officers, of whom 8 of them are females, are fully equipped and prepared for deployment to the SADC standby force.

In support of the International Community's effort in maintaining peace, stability, and economic development around the globe, Namibia, as a signatory to the United Nations Charter, has participated in a number of Peace Support Operations, under the auspices of the UN and/or African Union, by sending individual police officers for deployments, since the year 2000.

The Namibian Police Force have previously participated and are still participating in a number of peacekeeping missions around the globe, in countries such as East Timor, Liberia, Somalia, Haiti and Sudan. Between 2000 and 2005, Namibia deployed 22 individual police officers, of which 5 were females, to various missions mentioned above. Between 2006 and 2009 the deployment to the same missions increased to 38 officers, of which 10

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HON MBUMBA**

were female officers. This trend has gradually increased during the periods under review.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as we are all fully aware, our country has, once again, gone through a crucial stage of testing our democracy during the National Assembly and Presidential Elections in November 2009 and once again our Police Force ensured that we stood the test at that time.

Our able men and women in uniform ensured that there was peace and security for the purposes of free, fair and credible elections. This is a clear manifestation that our Police Force is indeed deepening its professionalism, a development which should be applauded.

On the other hand, Government resources alone will not be sufficient for us to fully attain our plans and programmes in the shortest possible time. Therefore, the Namibian Police Force deserves our collective national support. The unequivocal demonstration of such support by this august House will undoubtedly motivate the entire Nation to rally behind the police, which is a prerequisite in our national endeavours to reduce the rising levels of crime, allay the fear on crime and maintain peace and stability.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, since 1990 the Namibian people continue to enjoy peace and stability, characterised by an unshakable guarantee of safety and security. The permanence of these tenets of our democracy is indeed a direct result of the allocation of financial resources by this august House to our security institutions, of which the police is leading the process. The allocation of sufficient financial and human resources to the police will, therefore, guarantee the durability of these pillars of our cherished democracy that we are all obliged to jealously guard, defend and protect.

The total allocation of this Vote is N\$1,890,448,000, comprising of N\$1,752,255,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$138,193,000 for the Development Budget.

The level of sophistication of criminals as well as increasingly complex factors that motivate people to commit crime require a highly trained, motivated force

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with high levels of integrity. During the year 2009 alone, 99,128 crimes were reported to the police, while 137,015 others were brought forward from previous years. The Force dealt with 236,143 cases and managed to clear only 90,597 thereof.

This in itself is indicative of the complexity of cases to be investigated and the need to provide sufficiently trained and equipped human resources that are commensurately remunerated. Furthermore, we need to take advantage of advances in information communication technology and ensure systems integration.

At this juncture, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to provide a breakdown of the allocation to Vote 06, according to the following programmes:

**Combating of Crime:**

This is one of the top Government priority programmes. The Cabinet thus decided last year to place the combating of crime as the fifth priority of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The programme is intended to ensure community safety and crime reduction in the country.

The main activities under this programme, which are aimed at transforming the operations of the Force, include, *inter alia*:

- To develop a Strategic Management Plan for the Namibian Police Force;
- Review and improve crime prevention, detection and investigation activities, including – but not limited to - the development of a Crime Combating Strategy;
- Create and maintain automated Criminal Databases, which, among others, include an Automated Fingerprint System, Wanted and Missing Persons, Criminal Intelligence, etcetera.;
- Improve the prevention of organised crime units of the Force;
- Participate in international and regional bilateral and multilateral policing activities; and

- Recruit and appoint new members to fill the large number of vacancies in the Force.

The modernisation of the Namibian Police Force will indeed contribute to an effective system of combating crime, which in turn will provide for a safer environment, more conducive to investment and development of our country.

An amount of N\$1,181,800,000 is required for this programme.

This amount includes also N\$138,193,000 for Capital Projects.

The Capital Projects to be financed under this Budget include the construction, upgrading, and/or rehabilitation and/or renovation of police stations, living accommodation and other police facilities. Specific projects are the following:

- Ndiyona in Kavango Region (Police Station, living accommodation);
- Schlip in Hardap Region (Police Station and living accommodation);
- Pius Joseph Kaundu Training Centre in Omaheke Region (including living accommodation as well) see table below;

<b>PIUS JOSEPH KAUNDU TRAINING CENTRE</b>				
Gender	Children of the Liberation Struggle	Marginalized	Normal Appointments	Total
Male	42	10	117	169
Female	36	12	82	130
Total	78	22	199	299

- Kongola in Caprivi Region (Class C Police Station and living accommodation);

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- Divundu in Kavango Region (Class C Police Station and living accommodation);
- Onandjaba, Oshifo and Oshikuku in Omusati Region (Class C Police Stations and living accommodation);
- Koblenz and Okamatapati in Otjozondjupa Region (Class C Police Stations and living accommodation);
- Helao Nafidi at Oshikango in Ohangwena Region (Class A Police Station and living accommodation);
- Ondangwa in Oshana Region, (Training Centre, including living accommodation as well) see table below:

<b>ONDANGWA TRAINING CENTRE</b>					
Gender	Children of the Liberation Struggle	Marginalized	Normal Appointments	City police	Total
Male	48	4	465	5	522
Female	47	2	198	-	247
Total	95	6	663	5	769

- Otjituuo in the Otjozondjupa Region (Class C Police Station and living accommodation);
- Omuthiya (new Oshikoto Police Regional Headquarters and Police Station);
- Post 10 at Eiseb Block (Police Sub-Station) and

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- Aminuis (Class C Police Station and living accommodation), both in the Omaheke Region; and Wanaheda in Khomas Region (a new Class B Police Station) - where the current Class A police station accounts for almost half of the crimes recorded in the whole of Namibia.

Other significant projects include the acquisition of a helicopter and aircraft equipment, fuel tanks and pumps.

These are just a few of the planned projects, to provide adequate responses to policing needs in our country.

All these projects, together with those others already underway, are aimed at bringing the police closer to the communities; and to improve the Force's capacity to deliver the necessary policing services and combat crime effectively.

**Border Control:**

In its resolute stand to prevent the committing of crimes along our national borders, the Namibian Police Force focuses on border operations aimed at combating trafficking in firearms and smuggling of contraband, counterfeit goods and products; trafficking in stolen motor vehicles and illegal immigration.

For this programme, an amount of N\$448,735,000 is required.

**Protection Services:**

The main purpose of this programme is to provide security to national leaders, both in Namibia and/or while abroad, and to safeguard their homes and Government installations.

Further to that, the programme also extends similar services to foreign Very Important Persons (VIPs) visiting Namibia.

An amount of N\$214,478,000 is required for this programme.

To enforce road traffic legislation in general and, especially, to minimise

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carnage resulting from motorway traffic accidents. Many lives of our productive citizens are lost every year through road accidents that could be prevented. During the current Financial Year, an amount of N\$21,044,000 is required.

The purpose of the Forensic Science Services programme is to enhance the application of all the aspects of natural science to solving crimes as well as finding scientific solutions to related problems. The latter covers a range of complex scientific skills required in several areas, such as the acquisition of a DNA facility, document examination, analytical chemistry, ballistics, arson investigation, explosives analyses and blood stain pattern, to mention but a few.

An amount of N\$24,441,000 is required for this programme during this 2010/2011 Financial Year.

**Summary:**

In summary, I am requesting through you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, that Honourable Members approve the allocation to Vote 06 for the following programmes and amounts:

<b>Programmes for Vote 06</b>	<b>Amount per Programme</b>
Combating of Crime	1,181,800,000
Border Control	448,735,000
Protection Services	214,428,000
Traffic Control	21,044,000
Forensic Science Services	24,441,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,890,448,000</b>

I now humbly submit this to you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and to all Honourable Members for your kind consideration and final approval. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Minister, and I would also like to thank all the Honourable Ministers for the motivation of their Votes in the House. May I now suspend

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 19  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH / HON MUHEUA**

the business for a minute to allow the Assistant Chairperson, Dr Amweelo, to come and chair the discussion of Votes 19, 26 and 09.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY” is put for Discussion.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Chairperson. Page 5 of the statement, read together with page 27 of the Annual Report tabled today, deals with market research and product development. Under product development it deals with diversification, read together with intellectual property rights. I want to deal with export production, because in international trade there is nowadays emphasis on biological diversity. When we are talking about the protection of intellectual property, that particular elements needs to come in. I just want to find out how the Ministry is incorporating that particular idea.

Talking about biological diversity, Honourable Chairperson, I hope Honourable Members have received the invitation from the Table to attend the Biodiversity Workshop on Monday, 14:30, at the Country Club. It is meant specifically for Members of Parliament, both the National Assembly and the National Council. Please attend so that you will be able to follow this whole issue of intellectual property, traditional knowledge and patents, because biological diversity is now becoming a serious issue in international trade. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Muheua.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Ministry of Trade and Industry

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 19**  
**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA**

and to thank the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the staff for a job well done. In line with the instructions given by yourself, Comrade Assistant Chair, I will be very brief.

It is well-known fact and common knowledge dictates that for countries to become wealthy, they allow their own citizens to be involved in manufacturing. As it is now, many of our local entrepreneurs are suffocated by foreigners and eventually succumb. Thus, in our country with its small manufacturing base there is stiff competition with the foreigners with their massive amounts of dollars and Euros and you would recall that I raised this in my maiden speech. Therefore, I would like to urge the Ministry to, as a matter of urgency, enact laws aimed at protecting infant industries in the country as well as providing a good proportion of the market share for the locals. With that I would like to support the Vote.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In the first place, I want to join others that have spoken before me in congratulating the Founding President on his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. We all wish him good health and a long life so that he can continue to serve this Nation.

I then have a few comments on the Vote of Trade and Industry, first with regard to the EPZ regime. Is it not possible for us to consider an amendment to the EPZ Act in order not to allow companies which are involved in the exploitation of mineral resources to also get EPZ status, in order that we could really optimise the contribution of the minerals to the Namibian Nation by way of both royalty payments and taxes, apart from job creation and promotion of technology? That is the first one I want you to consider. I would even want to extend the comments in regard to EPZ status and ask whether we can consider a time-bound EPZ status rather than a permanent status, so that one enjoys these benefits for a period of time, after which we can review the status and determine whether we want to continue with that status or they should at least revert to the general situation where the benefits to the Nation are optimised.

Secondly, I want to commend the Ministry for initiating measures to put in place an Export Promotion Strategy. I just want to advise that this Export Promotion Strategy should, if it does not already do so, also consider the

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HON KAIYAMO**

export of services, so that eventually when we develop products, we do not only develop physical products but also services, in order that we can also optimise the potential that exists in the services industry for us to be able to export this.

Thirdly is with regard to the Investment Act. Here I would like to propose that we also consider an amendment in order to require all foreign companies in Namibia to retain a portion of their profit for reinvestment in the Namibian market, because presently this provision only applies to financial companies, such as the pension funds, the insurance companies, etcetera. They are the only ones who are required by law to retain 35% of their income in Namibia for reinvestment. I want to suggest that we extend this to all other companies, especially the resources companies. The mineral resources, the fishing companies and all others should retain a portion of their profits here for investment in order that we could promote general development in Namibia.

Finally, could we maybe consider a corporate social responsibility law so that the social responsibility by corporate entities is not done on a voluntarily basis, but there would be common benchmarks by which they would be required to contribute to social upliftment of the communities from which they are deriving their profits and that this can be done in an equitable manner and a manner that would enable us to monitor as a Government. In other words, I have something in mind that would for example require, the Mining Company to make cash contributions to a central fund from which Government can then allocate resources to promote community development projects, rather than them donating a computer here, a car here and two scholarships there. I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kaiyamo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND  
IMMIGRATION:** I also want to congratulate the Minister of Trade and Industry. I am on record saying that since the Minister took over this Ministry,

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HON DINGARA / HON DR GEINGOB**

we saw a lot of improvements and my contribution today is on page 7, the SME bank. The people on the ground are happy about this progress and I want to commend the Minister on this one. Thank you very much.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Dingara.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much. I only want to add what Comrade Muheua has said. What is happening on the ground in this country is that companies in the manufacturing industry are experiencing difficulties and most of them tend to withdraw from manufacturing as competition is very tough. I want to emphasise what Comrade Muheua has said, that we want the Ministry to find out where the companies which are venturing into manufacturing, are because if we do not manufacture in Namibia, we will have a serious problem in the future. How can we protect these companies even without them requesting protection? As a Government we should encourage and protect these companies so that they do not just drop out. Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much. If no further discussion, the Minister may reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** I would like to thank the Comrades who asked the questions, starting with the Minister of Finance on the EPZ.

We have now been Independent for 20 years only and when we got Independence we tried to compete for investors. We were told that we must give incentives so that we could attract investors. One such thing talked about was the EPZ. We went around to the Middle East to see what they were doing there and we thought there was progress, job creation and so on and therefore, this concept came about, whether you now have the whole country as an EPZ

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country. Before we were only talking about the coast, but now you can say the EPZ is anywhere. Because of that some people were attracted and they came to invest.

One thing one does not want to do is to change the rules of the game midway through the game. Therefore, it should not be seen that all of a sudden Namibia is now changing its rules that were made to attract investors and now that they have come, we are changing the rules. We have to be careful about that.

However, anybody has the right to review the policies after twenty years in a transparent way with good explanations, so that those investors could understand. Now the investors would like the Namibians to be poor while they are taking everything out of our country. If that can be explained, they may understand.

Thus far EPZs have not been given to any mining company, except Skorpion which was given a full EPZ. EPZs are not given to mining companies, it should be a kind of value addition, you must change the product from one form to another one, then you can be considered as manufacturing and, therefore, be given EPZ status.

There is a committee, composed of the Ministry of Finance, Mines and Energy and Trade at technical level that looks at that and write and the Minister signs. I have signed so many EPZs and I did not get any Ariva except one, Ariva. Ariva applied after we apparently invited them to come and set up and move beyond yellow cake. They applied as a mine and the technical committee replied and said they cannot qualify to get EPZ status since they are only doing what others are doing at the level of yellow cake, so therefore, there is no difference, unless they go beyond the yellow cake status.

After that they created a local company separate from the mining company with local Namibian participants, whom all of us know, and based on that they applied because we have also advised them to go beyond the yellow cake. We told them that we are a uranium producing country, which is clean energy, why do we not want to go beyond yellow cake and do something to get energy in our own country? They came and said it a very expensive and difficult process and if they can get an EPZ to show us what is involved in the process, they can

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do that. Therefore, they were given a five-year EPZ to come up with proposals how they can go beyond the yellow cake. That is how they got that EPZ for five years only.

However, I do agree that we have to revisit the whole concept and look at the cost benefits aspects. Are we really benefiting from it and were the jobs created as we were told initially? Perhaps it would be good that we review the whole process and we will do that and come back to you and tell you how these EPZs are working. Let us not target one group, but let us look at the whole EPZ regime and come back with proposals. Therefore, I welcome your ideas, we will use them.

Then you said we should not export only raw materials but also services. Yes, we need services here too. They come for the raw materials, but countries with service delivery get more investors, such as India. You will see that the whole World Bank payroll is paid from India. If we train our people to have the skills to deliver services it would be very good.

We have a new concept, we must change that mindset about the brain-drain. Brain-drain is a thing of the past. They are now talking about brain-gain. We have under the ECOSOC of the AU a Diaspora which can now also have a say and, therefore, we have those who gained knowledge, our people. We are saying we must gain so that we can also export services. That would be brain-gain, not brain-drain.

When Africans work with us, we talk about brain circulation and these are new concepts. We must open up, and I am glad you talked about that. We as Namibians are saying things in the beginning and after two years we change. We welcome things which require competition and we say we will go for it, like the EPZ, and after a while, because we realise we are not gaining from it, we now become so negative that we are making the investors feel like they are committing a crime by making money. They have come here to make money. That was the original purposes of coming here, but we are making them feel that they are stealing money from us and we have to change our law. We are changing the rules of the game midway through the game and that is not good. We must be predictable in what we are doing because then we will be transparent.

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HON DR GEINGOB**

With regard to the investments and that they must retain some of their profits here is perfectly correct. Again, it is our law. When we were new we passed a law, about the second law we passed in this Parliament, called the Investment Promotion Act. What were we thinking? Hundred percent ownership by foreigners, hundred percent local ownership or joint venture. That is what the law says. If a foreigner owns hundred percent in a Uranium Mine, there is nothing illegal, the law which we passed here allows for that. Now we have already started to review that law, the technical people are taking too long and we have made progress with that. However, it is criminal that while Namibians are starving, huge profits are made by these companies and hundred percent leaves this country and there is nothing we can do, but we have the power to change it and we are going to change it.

On the corporate social responsibility, the Prime Minister has said there is an in-between and we should be careful not to appear to be over-regulating, which is something that has been rejected in the past and to put too much burdens on an investor. They do bring in money, no question about that, but some also fool us, they borrow from our banks, which is also apparently allowed. However, I am saying an investor must bring the money from outside. We should not make the situation look so bad, so burdensome, that to invest in Namibia is a hell, they will rather go somewhere else, which they can do as they have a choice.

If we can speak to companies, telling them our problems, the poverty level and that people who come from the areas where those resources are, are the poorest, anybody will understand and listen to that. We must talk to them, that there must be some kind of a surcharge, a social responsibility fund and I heard something from the Chiefs about a trust fund under their control, but there will be too many layers of authority and they are going to fight over the money. As I was once saying, when you decentralise, do not over-decentralise, that brings corruption, decentralise to one location. If you decentralise there will be many poles of corruption and the same with these kinds of things. We can decentralise to Chiefs and the communities, but Government is responsible and Government can handle that money and distribute it equally.

We should be careful, we talk to much and say that if I am from one Region where there are resources, I must get everything. There is cross-fertilisation in Government. One Region may have diamonds, but that Region maybe does

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not have other resources, whether human or others and, therefore, other Regions also helped to maintain peace. This is how countries work and you cannot just say because you are from a Region, I have the resources, therefore all the money should come to my Region. We are going to have a problem with that if we embed that in people's minds that they can claim that and we have to be careful.

We are building the country, we are going to work together to build up all our people and Government, therefore, has to play an important role in that.

*Comrade Kaiyamo* mentioned the SME Bank. What we have discovered is that basically if you talk about those who were previously excluded, they are still excluded and therefore, the main area of exclusion is finance. You cannot manufacture without finance and how do you get finance? From the banks and the banks are saying, *"if you get money from me, you must be able to pay back."* That is how the banks operate everywhere and it is true, how do you take money and not pay back? *"Therefore, you must give me security, so that I can look at that security and say yes, in case you fail, I can sell that security and get my money back."* That is the stumbling block.

Therefore, we are we were looking around at situations and I did not invent it, I found this idea of transforming a credit guarantee scheme into a bank. This is not the Ministry's decision alone. If you look at the SWAPO Party Manifesto, it is talking about an SME bank and the Cabinet proposed the transformation of the Credit Guarantee Scheme into the SME bank. This has been done and we are still in the process to look at the best way to provide assistance to SMEs. Since I am opposed by some people I would have talked, but since we are making progress in private consultations, let me just say we will come back and report on that one.

Comrade, you are so right about manufacturing. Even big uranium companies will employ people, but it is not labour intensive, while job creation is done by SMEs in many countries and it is through small manufacturing companies. We have already started a scheme of trying to provide equipment and I can tell you it is working. It is so fantastic to go and see people manufacturing with the equipment provided by the Ministry. We are going to expand on that and thanks to the Ministry of Finance, we got more money to do more of that and you must just push us.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 26  
HON DR KAWANA**

Thank you for also acknowledging that we are making progress since Yours Truly came to the Ministry, but I found a team there which only needs to be guided and I am doing that with the new Deputy Minister. Thank you very much.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 19? Agreed to.

I put **Vote 26** – “**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**” for Discussion. If there is no discussion, I would like to give the Floor to the Minister to thank the Honourable Members.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Chairperson, I would like to thank the Honourable Members for their support.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 26? Agreed to.

I put **Vote 09** – “**FINANCE**” for Discussion.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Assistant Chairperson. I am going to be brief. I have comment on page 4. I want to agree with the Minister that the allocations outside the Budget by donors of N\$1,1 billion is actually a concern to the Ministry. I have addressed that in my maiden speech and I thank the Ministry for having taken note of that as well.

On page 6 the Ministry is saying that it is not going to not going to move from cash accounting basis to accrual accounting basis. I only want to ask whether any study was carried out by the Ministry to determine the viability or otherwise of the two.

On page 7 under Economic Policy Advice it says that research studies are carried out and the question is, what type of research is the Ministry talking

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HON DR KAWANA**

about and if any research in that respect was actually conducted, whether copies of such research are available to the public.

I want to congratulate the Ministry where it states on page 9 that over the past successive four years an additional N\$1 billion was actually raised through proper tax collections and mechanisms. That is commendable. However, on the same page the Ministry raised a concern about the declining revenue from SACU and that it is anticipated that by 2011/2012, a further reduction of 52,7% may be experienced.

In the last paragraph it is stated that, “*Government must find alternative sources of revenue*”, but the few sources that the Ministry mentions here, such as environmental levies, royalties on natural resources, etcetera, do not seem to be comprehensive enough and the question is whether the Ministry has a comprehensive strategy in place to find alternative revenue sources and if such strategy could perhaps be shared with this House. If such strategies are not in place, I wish to advise the Ministry to embark on such a strategy as a matter of urgency to find alternative sources of revenue. Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you, Honourable Member. Dr Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson. Let me take this opportunity to commend the senior Minister and her staff, particularly on the question of decentralising services of the Development Bank. You may recall, Honourable Minister, that I was one of those who raised this issue last time and I am happy to see that there is now consideration not to outsource this function of granting loans to SMEs to commercial banks, but rather to consider other options. I believe one of the options could be to distribute some of those application forms through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which is represented in Regions. We are not asking for high-rise offices all over which would not be in accordance with the objective of the programme, because most of the money might go into those infrastructures, but we are asking that those previously disadvantaged who were excluded must have access to these funds, which were the purpose for creating the

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 09**  
**RT HON ANGULA**

Development Bank of Namibia.

My other point is on collateral. Your Ministry and the Office of the Attorney-General have found an amicable solution to that aspect, whereby those who have Government tenders will have smooth sailing regarding access to funding without an additional collateral demand, as the tender would serve as a bankable document. I believe that our SMEs will use that to their advantage. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Comrade Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Chair. I am going to talk to the page which is missing from the speech, dealing with monetary policy.

There is a big debate going on. The comrades have been talking about manufacturing and of course, we are an export-based economy, but the Namibian Dollars, which is pegged to the Rand, is such that it is not in favour of us, the producers. I am a producer, and as a farm owner I produce beef. When I export my beef to the European market, I get an Euro and when I exchange the Euro for Namibian Dollars, I get nothing. The value of the Namibian Dollar in relation to our export-driven growth is a matter of concern.

Currently there is a Debate in South Africa to peg the Rand to the US Dollar in order to avoid the Rand depreciating too much in relation to other currencies. I am asking the Minister whether she has thought about this. If the South Africans peg the Rand to the US Dollar, are you going to think about pegging the Namibian Dollar to the Euro or to the Rubel? It is just a question to the Minister. Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much, Comrade Prime Minister. If there is no further discussion, Honourable Deputy Minister, please reply.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Assistant Chair of the Whole House Committee. I will start from the beginning.

*Honourable Maamberua* asked four questions and the first one was more of a comment that supported our stance on promoting that any donor assistance would be channelled through the Budget and that we use our own fiduciary system to account and monitor these investments. I cannot but agree that I think that is also in fact our understanding of the spirit of the Paris Declaration that donor aid should not only be used through the fiduciary system, but it should be totally untied and other conditionalities should also be abolished.

The second question was on page 6, the study on whether we should remain with a cash or accrual-based Budget. We have approached the IMF for assistance to help us in taking that decision and the study indicated that for now we should remain with the cash-based Budget, but we should make progress so that we can introduce elements of accounting on an outcome based programme and that is what we have mentioned on page 6. We will still have an accounting system that is cash-based Budget, but we will also account on an outcome-based principle and our accounts have been amended to such a way that we can do that and that the Integrated Financial Management System can generate reports that speak to what outcome was received from what expenditure. The answer is that for now the cash-based is the better proposal, but we have introduce other reporting modules in our Integrated Financial Management System that would allow us to report on outcomes matched with expenditure.

The next question was on research on the economy. I think I must mention at this point that we have created a working group, consisting of a number of stakeholders, the most important of which are the Ministry itself, the National Planning Commission and the Bank of Namibia, and to a certain extent the Ministry of Trade and Industry, that will look into the macro-economic situation. That research group is mandated to advise us every year on what the macro-economic situation would be and based on that macro-economic situation. We then develop the fiscal policy that is underlying the Budget. It is not a single group that does that research, it is a collective effort of these different institutions and in the Ministry it is the Economic Policy Advice Unit that drives that research.

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Some of the outcomes of that research is to a certain extent the quarterly papers that are issued by the Bank on the financial situation of the country. The National Planning Commission publishes its documents and just to say, yes, the research is undertaken but it is not an exclusive mandate of the Ministry of Finance, we do it collectively with these three other institutions.

I am pleased that the successes of the forensic audits are acknowledged. The question is whether our vision of alternative resources is enough or whether we have a comprehensive view. The answer is that we are currently conducting that review of the tax system, but it has many elements. One element is how we can compensate for revenue losses on the one side through alternative taxes, but the principle is that we always approach that on two fronts. We want to broaden and deepen the tax base. When we want to broaden it, it means alternative taxes that do not exist yet and roping in more taxpayers. At the moment we are sitting on a very thin-based pyramid. We have only about 300 000 taxpayers of 2.2 million citizens. That is very slim-based and that base needs to be broadened and that is income tax, corporate tax and Pay-As-You-Earn.

VAT is a broad-based tax, it is a consumer-based tax, so everyone pays that, you cannot broaden that base anymore, but the point is that if we want to improve our revenue situation, we have to do both, broaden it, get more taxpaying individuals into the net and diversify the sources of tax payable.

Deepening it means that we have to improve our ability to collect and that talks to all the aspects of the tax administration, whether it is the ID system that is under review and I can confirm that that is the case, whether it is our audit ability that is improved to chase non-payers and to improve compliance or whether it is to improve our registration efforts that all who are due to pay are in fact caught in the net and are made to pay. We are looking at that comprehensive tax review.

There is another side which was partly addressed by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry and that is the incentive part. To what extent can we use the tax base to ensure that our distributors policies when it comes to the income levels, to what extent can we use the taxpayers to do that and to what extent can we use tax policies to make Namibia an attractive investors' home.

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

There are these few elements in any tax system that are core to policy decision and to repeat again, one is revenue collection, second is the redistribution nature of the tax system so as to smoothen the very skew distribution situation we have in the country and then, thirdly, the tax incentive side that speaks to investors.

That review is on its way and again, it is not only we, it is a stakeholder group that works on the whole tax policy review and we will come back to this House as we go and amend the different pieces of legislation that would give effect to these amendments.

You will recall that we have started that kind of approach by lifting ceilings in PAYE taxes that talks to the distribution side of the tax system. We have slightly improved the corporate tax that is on the incentive side, so we are working on it step by step.

*Honourable Kawana* asked two questions, one on the SME funding through commercial banks, which is a problem. We agree, the commercial banks are that group of financial institutions that is very risk adverse and, therefore, it is probably not the most ideal group to approach when it comes to assistance to entrepreneurs that have very little collateral. Automatically you will be rebuffed as such an entrepreneur and we have some evidence that the efforts of the Development Bank to use commercial banks did not deliver the rate of access that we had hoped.

I think it is also correct to say that the Development Bank is the financial institution for businesses to approach and through which we can make financial access to SMEs and Black Economic Empowerment groups easier. I think we are very thankful to the Office of the Attorney-General in assisting us to get the legal foundation for a process through which we can cede future proceeds from State contracts to the bank that would in turn allow these small and medium size Entrepreneurs and Black Economic empowerment groups to meaningfully participate in public procurement State tenders.

There was always a problem that without a strong balance sheet, small enterprises were actually prevented from participating in tenders, because the tenders are voluminous and you have to have a good balance sheet to start the delivery process of a tender. That has now been overcome by introducing

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

these bridging financing tools through which successful tenders can cede the proceeds of that tender to the Development Bank and in turn, the Development Bank will give capital so that the entrepreneur without capital can in fact participate in tenders. That then also has the effect that the State, the purchaser, is still risk free. We are not adding risk, we are facilitating through a move where we use the Development Bank as an intermediary. I thank you very much for making the legal way possible.

*The Right Honourable Prime Minister* looked for a page that is missing. The first statement is that the Bank of Namibia is in fact the agent that has been delegated to handle our monetary policy, but as a comment, Honourable Prime Minister, it is true, the Rand is known to be the most volatile currency at the moment and I think it is that volatility that makes it very difficult to forecast any movement. It is not only volatile in terms of strengthening, you will recall that in 2003/2004 the opposite happened and it drastically weakened, which caused a small Budgetary crisis here. It is the volatility of the Rand that is of concern.

We have to think of how will we change the current Common Monetary Area in a more democratised institution and what we have adjusted to the Common Monetary Area is to follow a similar process that we have done for SACU. SACU was also previously an institution that was dominated by South Africa and South Africa called the shots. The Common Monetary Area acts in a very similar way. What I am suggesting that we democratise the Common Monetary Area and through the larger agenda of economic integration, also make our influence and our voice heard in the Common Monetary Area. It is in that context that we will then take decisions based on our Regional agenda, how we will stabilise not only the Namibian Dollar, but in fact the common currency that we are using. With that, thank you very much.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 09? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I Move that the House adjourns until 18 May 2010 at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:00 UNTIL 2010.05.18 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
18 MAY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, in the Speaker's Gallery you will see a young lady coming from our sister Republic of Seychelles. Her name is Ms Azarel Ernesta, the Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of Seychelles. She is attached to the Speaker's Office at the request of my counterpart, Honourable Patrick Herminie. He had paid us a visit and engaged a number of you Honourable Members with his delegation and I had the honour of visiting Seychelles to be a guest-of-honour at the opening of the new Parliament Building in that country and I promised him the next time he comes, the Minister of Finance, with the urging of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, would have given me the money I need to build a new Parliament Building and I will invite him and he said that is a good idea.

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

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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18 May 2010

**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 21  
HON UUTONI**

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

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**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 on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010, Votes 01 to 05, 07 to 11, 13, 15, to 19, 23, 24, 26 to 31 had been agreed to and Votes 06, 12, 22 and 25 had been introduced.

**Vote 21 – “PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES”, N\$419,526,000** is now put for Introduction.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

Allow me, on behalf of my Minister and the Ministry, to also join my Colleagues, Honourable Members of this august House in congratulating the Honourable Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for the continued good work in her capacity as the Minister of Finance together with her Deputy Minister, Honourable Calle Schlettwein. We wish them together with their dedicated team, all the best for the next five years as they endeavour to steer our economy through this delicate recovery period from the global economic crisis.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I now take this opportunity to introduce for your consideration, Vote 21 of the Ministry of Safety and Security: Namibian Prison Service.

My Ministry is requesting a Budget of N\$419,526,000, of which N\$338,458,000 are for the Operational Budget and N\$81,068,000 are for the Development Budget.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as you may recall, previously the Namibian Prison Service had five

programmes: Safe Custody, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Poverty Reduction and Food Production. However, in alignment with National Development Plan 3 (NDP3), we have combined them into one programme, Prison Reforms, whose activities are now Safe Custody, Competent Staff, Improved Infrastructure, and Reintegration.

**PROGRESS MADE DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR**

Operational Budget

Rehabilitation

Unit Management and Case Management: Unit Management and Case Management of offenders at Windhoek Central Prison on a pilot basis have been successfully implemented. The Programme delivery component will be added during the current Financial Year in order to finalise the Project.

Safe Custody

Capacity Building: Every modern Prison Service requires a knowledge-based approach. Cognisant of that, we have entered into agreement with the Polytechnic of Namibia to jointly develop a Criminal Justice Programme, leading to a degree course in Criminal Justice (Correctional Management) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminal Justice, aiming at providing highly qualified graduates, ready to become valuable criminal justice professionals. Currently we have in total 28 students, of these two are doing Honours Degrees, thirteen of them are in the second year and thirteen in their first year. Sixteen others are on fulltime study at various institutions of higher learning in the country. It is important to note that all these students are staff members of the Namibian Prisons. The improved capacity will allow us to develop and implement public policies aimed at the improvement of safety and security for all citizens by reducing the prevalence of crime and recidivism among offenders through rehabilitation and reintegration.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Namibian Prison Service has initiated participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions with the selection of one of our senior officers to join the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia in March this year.

Additionally, this year one hundred and sixty-two Namibians have been recruited and are currently undergoing our basic training course at the Namibian Prison Service Training College.

**Physical Health Care:** The security of inmates includes physical health care. The most common infectious diseases in prisons are TB, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. We are working with our development partners namely the Centre for Disease Control and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to have a comprehensive health screening system in all prisons, which will help us to improve the collection of data on infectious diseases.

**Basic Institutional Services:** Basic supplies such as uniforms, bedding, food, water and electricity, toiletries, cleaning materials, etcetera, have been provided within Budgetary allocations.

**Food Production:** Last year's economic crisis, coupled with the serious shortage of cereals, created a global anxiety but this shortage of food items encouraged us to strategise and convert our abundant labour force into a reliable productive force that can positively contribute to the country's food production.

In this context the Namibian Prison Service is working on a ***Food Production, Manufacturing and Service Strategy***. There are four projects directly involved in food production, namely Divundu Prison Farm, Oluno Prison Pig Farm, Hardap Prison Pig Farm and Scott Prison Farm.

**Divundu Prison Farm:** This is currently the main production centre for crop production such as maize, wheat and vegetables. In the long term, we will diversify the farming activities to include projects like aquaculture and food processing plant. The farm has 140 hectares under Centre Pivot Irrigation, 16 hectares under sprinkler irrigation and 33 hectares under micro irrigation. The farm has been producing enough to supply maize meal for all the prison institutions countrywide, and potentially so in supplying bread flour. Our

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immediate action plan is to maximise improved production per hectare and add to our production capacity with bakery facilities that are to be built at all big prison facilities.

**Oluno Prison Pig Farm:** This Pig Farm had a significant population of 500 pigs last year, but very unfortunately there was an epidemic outbreak and on the advice of the veterinary and health officials all the stock had to be destroyed to avoid further contamination. By that time Oluno Prison was providing pork to the three northern prisons; Oluno Rehabilitation Centre, Divundu Open Farm Prison, Elizabeth Nepemba Juvenile Centre and occasionally to local markets north of the redline. We have already started to restock the pigs, and expect to raise the pig population to a thousand.

**Hardap Prison Pig Farm:** The Hardap piggery has 450 pigs and work is underway to increase the pig population to one thousand. The piggery will supply pork to the Southern and Central prisons.

**Farm Scott Prison Farm:** This prison is still under construction and has the potential to be the hub of our reforms. Currently we have about four hundred and fifty cattle, seventy-four goats and one hundred forty eight sheep on 5,000 hectares of land.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me come to the Development Budget.

**Divundu Rehabilitation Centre:** Construction activities completed include upgrading of the irrigation pump station, installation of 20 hectares towable centre pivot, construction of three storage facilities, procurement of steel structures for the milling plant; installation of a samp mill, procurement and delivery of 10,000 fruit trees and procurement of building materials for the construction of official accommodation for prison members.

**Elizabeth Nepemba Juvenile Centre:** Construction activities are: modification and additions to the administration facilities and construction of demarcation security walls.

**Farm Scott Prison:** Structural brick work and roof covering for the meat processing plant and logistics are completed, a borehole drilled, 20 hectares

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towable pivot installed, leather processing and shoe-making facilities constructed and steel structures for fodder storage facilities procured.

**Namibian Prison Service Training College:** Structural brickwork for auditorium and library completed, and structural brickwork and roof covering of the guest house, dining and entertainment facilities completed.

Major water leakage repairs were completed at Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Gobabis and Windhoek Central Prisons, as well as replacement of major equipment.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I shall now explain the specific allocation for each activity of Vote 21: Namibian Prison Service, as follows:

The total requested for the Prison Reforms programme amounts to **N\$419,526,000.**

In the Safe Custody programme an amount of N\$331,887,000 are allocated for personnel expenditure, the provision of institutional basic services, administrative services, transport services and expansion on food production. We plan to maximise production at Divundu Rehabilitation Centre through increasing the yield per hectare, expansion of pig farms at Oluno Rehabilitation Centre and Hardap Prison and installation of bakeries at Walvis Bay, Hardap, and Windhoek Central Prisons. These will enable the Ministry to contribute significantly to the country's food production strategy.

Currently the Namibia Prison Service spends some N\$5,000,000 on bread for offenders annually. This amount could be used on other needy areas if we become self-sufficient in bread production.

Competent Staff: N\$6,064,000 are allocated for human resource development, recruitment and staff uniforms.

The Namibian Prison Service training strategy focuses on the production of the necessary skills, knowledge and competencies that the individual staff working in the organisation require in order to make the Service professional and

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efficient in performing its mandate. This is particularly crucial for the ongoing transformation of the Service.

Under the Agreement with the Polytechnic of Namibia the Namibian Prison Service shall finance the Bachelor of Arts Degree: Criminal Justice (Correctional Management) to the amount of N\$1,5 million per academic year, for a period of three consecutive years after which the Polytechnic of Namibia shall take over the funding responsibility. The funds will be spent on some senior lecturers to be hired by the Polytechnic of Namibia.

**Improved Infrastructure:** N\$81,068,000 are allocated for the construction of prison facilities and official accommodation for personnel, Unit Management conversion, renovation and maintenance of existing prison institutions, feasibility study for the construction of Remand and new prison and national headquarters.

A larger part, that is, N\$47,200,000 of the above figure is allocated for the construction of Scott Prison Farm to accelerate the completion of the medium security part of the prison. Scott Prison Farm is planned to have a medium and minimum security prison and an observation and assessment unit.

The completion of the construction of Scott Prison Farm has become now more urgent and critical, based on the proposed goals on both food production and Prison Reforms Strategy.

Upon completion the institution will provide an abundant pool of workforce to be engaged in various production activities on the farm, including de-bushing to improve the grazing condition.

The farm will also significantly ease the ever-overcrowded Oluno Rehabilitation Centre. The feasibility study for the construction of the Windhoek Remand Prison and that of the new Outapi Prison will be done this year. This is in response to the horrendous overcrowding of those awaiting trials who are being held in police holding cells. The Outapi Prison will in future also bring relief to the densely populated north where the newly opened High Court is now operational.

According to the Prison Facilities Needs Assessment and Master Plan, there are several remand and new prisons to be constructed countrywide to address

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me in the country. However, we intend to begin with the two mentioned institutions.

**Reintegration:** An amount of N\$507,000 has been allocated for the development of offence-focussed rehabilitation programmes, recruitment of programme officers for both Windhoek Central Prison and Elizabeth Nepemba Juvenile Centre and their training and recruitment of some key professionals for the Prison headquarters.

Recruitment and retention of professional staff members has been a challenge due to work environment and remuneration package. We hope the newly approved organisational and salary structures will improve the acquisition of qualified personnel to spearhead the required reforms.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure of requesting this august House to approve the sum N\$419,526,000 for the Namibian Prisons Service and I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put  
**Vote 20 – “AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY”,**  
**N\$1,518,773,000** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is mandated to promote, develop, manage and utilise agricultural, water and forest resources. This particular mandate is to be achieved through the following key strategic areas and they include: the need for job creation, improve competitiveness, diversify agricultural practices and products, market development, food security, access to water and sanitation, integrated environmental management, improved regulatory environment, internal capacity, training and support, good relations with industries as well as occupational health and food safety standards.

The abovementioned key strategic areas are to be achieved through the implementation of the following programmes:

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- (i) Crop production and horticultural development
- (ii) Livestock production, improvement and animal health control
- (iii) Cooperative regulation, development and promotion services;
- (iv) Integrated Water resource management;
- (v) Water supply and sanitation to rural communities and;
- (vi) Management, development and utilisation of forest resources.

I, therefore, stand here to present the major achievements in the agriculture, water and forestry sectors over the past 2009/2010 Financial Year and to motivate for Vote 20, by indicating the programmes and key activities, which the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry intends to implement and undertake respectively during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The Agricultural sector has been negatively affected by the effects of climate change and global warming, as this is felt through continuous droughts and floods over the years. This has serious implications for our agricultural production. Furthermore, the global economic financial crisis has adversely affected the agriculture sector.

The Ministry has established an emergency fund to combat Foot and Mouth Disease and acquired equipment and material for fighting Foot and Mouth Disease. This equipment includes vehicles, vaccines, disinfectants as well as mobile electric fences to limit the movement of cattle and buffaloes. Infrastructure to prevent illegal movement of livestock has been constructed, for example, the fence around Bwabwata National Park on the western side adjacent to Mukwe constituency. The Ministry also has the human expertise and capacity for diagnosis, surveillance and prevention of animal diseases.

The Government has continued to expand and further develop irrigation projects, such as Etunda, Aussenkehr and Shadikongoro in order to ensure food security and increased exports. Furthermore, the Ministry is in the process of constructing cold storage facilities at Ongwediva, Rundu and Windhoek to improve the marketing and increase production of horticultural produce.

In order to increase agricultural output, especially for the subsistence farmers, the Ministry shall enhance the provision of extension services, water services, veterinary services, agricultural input and disseminate information to farmers.

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The challenge with regards to water is the determination of vulnerable groups requiring subsidy for water, the implementation of new water tariffs and sanitation in line with the decentralisation process. The preoccupation of the Ministry is the improvement of the bulk water supply infrastructure and replacement of the old water infrastructure, such as pipes, in order to ensure uninterrupted water supply for the industries, livestock and households.

In the forestry sector, several communities such as Ongandjera and Uukwaluudhi Community Forest in the Omusati Region; Omuthitu Wekuta in Ohangwena and Otjinene, Ehirovipuka, Ohungu and Otjombinde in the Omaheke Region; Malengalenga and Sachinga, community forests were supported in the development and implementation of Management Plans for different proclaimed Community Forests. Implementation of the forest management and fire management plans in the emerging Community Forests is ongoing. Through the sale of forest products, issuing of permits as well as the establishment of camping sites, community members generated income from their forest resources.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am motivating a total Budget of N\$1,515,743,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Of this total, 54% or N\$819,017,000 will be used for the Operational Budget, while the remaining 46% or N\$696,726,000 represents the Development Budget. Overall, 36.4% or N\$551,922,000 is dedicated to the development of the water sector to supply water to rural communities and resettlement towns. 56.4% or N\$854,352,000 will go to the development of the agriculture sector, and 7.2% or N\$109,469,000 is earmarked for the development of the Forestry Sector.

In line with the Ministerial Medium Term Plan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is implementing six programmes. Permit me, therefore, to now elaborate on the specific programmes.

**CROP PRODUCTION AND HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The purpose of this programme is to increase crop and horticultural production in order to reduce poverty, improve food security at household level as well as to earn revenue from export. For this programme an amount of N\$385,400,000 is requested to carry out the following activities:

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- For Namibia to meet its food requirements and to export the surplus, the revised Green Scheme Policy has been launched in 2009, and the Ministry is busy implementing the policy aligning all Government irrigation projects to conform to the Policy.
- The Ministry has finalised the construction works at Ndonga Linena and the project was handed over to the Service Provider in November 2009. The Ministry is on track with the re-planning and design of Tandjieskoppe in the Karas Region, Etunda Phases 5 to 8 in the Omusati Region and Sikondo in the Kavango Region. Furthermore, the Ministry has taken over the management of the Uvungu-Vungu project from the Service Provider and is also now busy reviving the dairy component.
- It is also important to note that through irrigation, Namibia's white maize production has increased from 46,008 tons to 50,489 tons between 2007 and 2009. However, the import of white maize increased drastically from 60,141 tons in 2007 to 111,714 tons in 2009, which leaves much room to increase local production. Equally, the country's wheat production has also increased from 12,163 tons in 2007 to 14,581 tons in 2009.
- The Ministry has made significant progress in capacitating small-scale irrigation farmers. To date 29 small-scale irrigation farmers have completed their training from the Mashare Irrigation Training Centre in the Kavango Region during 2009 and are waiting to be settled at Uvungu-Vungu, Shadikongoro and Ndonga Linena. May I also point out here that the Cabinet recently approved a scheme through the AgriBank according to which these small-scale farmers will be provided with production loans and, therefore, it is my directive that the settlement of the small-scale farmers should be completed during the course of this month and we should not go beyond this month.
- Plans are underway to implement Phase 2 of the silo construction project, which entails the expansion of silos at Okongo from the current 500 tonnes up to 3,000 tonnes and Omuthiya up to 2,500 tonnes and the construction of the Tsandi Silo of 3,000 tonnes.

The Ministry has also recognised the importance of mahangu as a means of livelihood for the majority of the Namibian people, and hence declared it

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- as a controlled product. Since two years ago, the Ministry has set aside funds to procure surplus mahangu and maize from communal producers which shall be stored in the completed silos at Okongo, Omuthiya, Rundu and Katima Mulilo.
- The Ministry continues with the implementation of the Dry Land Crop Production Programme to assist communal farmers in the crop growing Regions, in order to increase crop yields through the provision of subsidised ploughing and weeding services, through private and Government-owned tractors, as well as improved subsidised seeds and fertilisers. In addition, the Ministry has procured 45 tractors and 44 implements, such as rippers, ploughs and trailers, to provide timely ploughing services to communities. In addition, 68 GPS' were procured in order to measure the exact areas ploughed and weeded. I want to appeal to the subsistence farmers to ensure that the trees and stumps are removed from their fields, so that the ploughing could be done smoothly.
- The development of human resources remains a fundamental ingredient to successful implementation of the Ministerial programmes and activities and therefore, the Ministry has persistently tried to improve both professional and technical skills in the identified critical areas, where severe shortages are experienced. A total of 53 bursaries were awarded in the various critical areas, of which 12 bursary holders have successfully completed their studies. Twenty-one of these bursaries were awarded for studies in Horticulture, Rangeland Management, Food Science, Geo-hydrology, Civil Engineering and Agricultural Engineering, Veterinary Science, Environmental Health and Food Technology, amongst others. These bursaries were awarded at both undergraduate and post-graduate studies at institutions of higher learning in Namibia, the SADC Region and elsewhere in Africa.

**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, IMPROVEMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH CONTROL PROGRAMME**

The purpose of this programme is to increase livestock production and marketing, as well as to improve the animal health status in communal areas, while also improving the production level of commercial farmers. The Ministry requests the total amount of N\$342,997,000 to carry out the following activities:

- Livestock and meat production continued to play a significant role in contributing to the country's GDP. The sub-sector generated more than N\$1 billion annually, most of which is attributable to foreign earnings.
- There has been a significant penetration of foreign markets, which has contributed to the increased export earnings from Namibia's meat and meat products. These markets constitute mainly Norway, the European Union, Angola and South Africa. Recently, there has also been a noticeable development of the domestic and international marketing of game meat, which has the potential to contribute to the country's total meat export volume and earnings.
- The Ministry has continued to promote the processing and value addition to our livestock products, such as dairy and small stock products. In times when Namibia, like other countries, is faced with the financial crisis where some of the industries of other economic sectors are closing, it would be prudent for efforts to be made to ensure that available livestock are processed locally, so as to retain jobs at home and to have better earnings from value-added exports. The private sector has taken up this opportunity and a number of processing facilities for both dairy and small stock products currently exist in Karas, Hardap, Omaheke and Khomas Regions. These processing facilities have significantly contributed to foreign earnings, skills development, job creation and agribusiness development.
- The Ministry is also implementing the Livestock Marketing Incentives Scheme. The purpose of this Scheme is to increase throughput at the abattoirs, thereby increasing incomes for the farming households especially in the northern communal areas. In this context the northern communal areas are Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati and Kunene North. This Scheme is designed for the upgrading, renovation and building of new marketing facilities and management of these facilities in communal areas. One auction kraal was constructed at Nepara in the Kavango Region and development of additional kraals at Oushake in the Ohangwena Region, Omuntele in the Oshikoto Region and Kasava in the Kavango Region is on track.

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- The Ministry has developed a scheme which is aimed at assisting communal livestock farmers to acquire good quality breeding males at subsidised prices and I must say it is a very popular programme which is assisting many of our communal farmers. The Ministry shall continue to introduce high quality bulls to the communal farmers in order to improve their herds.
- The Directorate of Veterinary Services in 2009 managed to overcome two Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks which occurred in the Kavango Region and Eastern Caprivi. This achievement resulted in the opening up of beef exports from the northern communal areas to South Africa and Angola under new and better agreements negotiated amongst veterinary officials of the respective countries. The issue of pre-slaughter quarantine, which had negatively impacted on the marketing of beef in the northern communal areas, was removed for the north-central and north-western Regions.
- Major animal diseases that occurred in 2009, such as Lumpy Skin Disease and African Swine Fever, were successfully controlled during the current Financial Year. Due to the success in controlling major animal diseases and negotiating market access, the country continued to benefit from exports of beef, lamb and game meat to markets in European Union, Norway, Switzerland and South Africa from its Foot and Mouth Disease free areas. The Directorate of Veterinary Services successfully underwent audits by the European Union and United States inspectors. It will thus be possible for the country to export beef and lamb to the United States of America in the near future. Exports to Israel and Russia may commence after audits scheduled for 2010 have been successfully completed.
- In order to maintain and improve its disease status and enhance its animal disease emergency preparedness, the Directorate of Veterinary Services has acquired adequate stocks of field equipment, constructed cordon fences at Shamangorwa and Bwabwata. In the coming Financial Year, the Ministry will put emphasis on upgrading the veterinary cordon fences and border fences; building new veterinary clinics; building offices and accommodation and handling facilities for animals and plants at border posts for import control and training veterinarians. Two veterinary students are completing their studies in 2010 and six in 2011. The Central

Veterinary Laboratory has been expanded and improved and made significant progress towards international accreditation and a new research laboratory is planned for Eenhana in Ohangwena Region.

- In 2009 the country successfully accredited one abattoir, namely Brukaros in Keetmanshoop, to export lamb to the European Union, bringing the total number of such abattoirs in Namibia to four. Namibia has successfully established an internationally acclaimed livestock identification and traceability system in its Foot-and-Mouth Disease free zone. A strategy for achieving Foot and Mouth Disease and Lung Sickness freedom for the northern communal areas, which was approved by Cabinet in 2009, is under implementation.
- Activities under the Kwando-Zambezi Tsetse-fly Eradication Project with the collaboration of Botswana, Zambia, Angola and Namibia resumed in 2009 and are expected to continue in 2010 with the ultimate objective of eradicating Tsetse flies in the area.
- Agricultural Extension and Engineering Services continue to provide extension services to the agricultural sector in the form of training, communications, information and advisory services, supporting and encouraging the development and adoption of improved farming technologies and practices.
- Continuous support and assistance to human resource development endeavour remains a high priority in all Regions. In this regard, a total number of 556 staff members were exposed to short in-service training courses covering horticultural development, livestock and crop production. Extension and Engineering Services was able to provide short training courses to more than 2,500 farmers in agricultural related fields, using collaborative funding and facilitation process provided by sister directorates within the Ministry, donor supported projects and other stakeholders in all Regions.
- Other activities implemented were the Draft Animal Power Acceleration Programme support, monitoring and evaluation thereof. Extension staff continued to spearhead the mobilisation campaign for the promotion and implementation of the publicising and marketing of livestock breeding material scheme for previously disadvantaged communal farmers in all

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Regions, with the aim to improve the breeding herds. Dissemination and production of agricultural information to farmers and stakeholders through print media was intensified in the Regions.

The purpose of the Co-operatives regulation, development and promotion services programme is to create a conducive environment for agribusiness development. The programme entails the promotion and regulation of cooperatives, the development of agro-industrial projects for investment, the agricultural marketing development and representation of Namibia in agricultural related Regional, bilateral and multilateral organisations. The programme further entails the compilation and analysis of agricultural statistics, early warning on food security and policy advisory services. An amount of N\$125,955,000 is required to implement the programme.

Under this programme, promotion and support is provided to the cooperatives in the country and the Government support to the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme is managed through this programme. It is also through this programme that support is provided to the marketing of livestock products from communal areas.

Activities under this programme also include market research and development, agro-production feasibility studies, as well as ensuring Namibia's compliance with the agricultural trade regulations and membership contributions to the agricultural related organisations and institutions to which Namibia is a member. The Ministry endeavours to devise and implement an agro-financing scheme and incentives to enhance agricultural production. (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The House adjourns for refreshments.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45**  
**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Chairperson, I would like to move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 06, 12, 14, 20, 21, 22 and 25 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Honourable Chairperson, although I do not oppose the Motion in the national interest, I must indicate that it is very unprocedural that the Honourable Deputy Chief Whip introduces this Motion at this late hour. He must be reminded that it must be done at the initial stages. However, I do not have objections.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I take note of that and next time the Motion must be introduced in time. Honourable Minister, you may proceed.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, I now come to Programme 4:

The purpose of the Integrated Water Resource Management Programme is the development and maintenance of a water management system, capable of providing the necessary information for the planning and management of water resources. An amount of N\$100,213,000 is required to carry out the following activities:

- The Ministry endeavours to implement the new National Water Policy and the revised legislation for the management of all water resources. This involves developing regulations, procedures and practices to control the equitable allocation of water, the abstraction of water, water quality and other regulatory functions.
- The Ministry continues to engage with the neighbouring countries in bilateral, multilateral, regional and international co-operation in the sharing of water from international border rivers through the Orange - Senqu River Commission, comprising Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa and Namibia, respectively, the Permanent Water Commission between Namibia and South Africa on the Lower Orange River, the Permanent

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Okavango River Basin Commission on the Kavango River between Botswana, Namibia and Angola, the Zambezi Watercourse Commission, comprising eight basin states namely: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as the Permanent Joint Technical Commission on the Kunene River between Namibia and Angola.

- Important projects with regards to International water include constructing a re-regulating dam on the Lower Orange River as well as negotiations that are ongoing on the viability of hydropower development on the Kunene River along the common border with Angola, possibly at the Baines site as identified.
- An Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Namibia is being developed. A Namibian consortium of joint venture consultants to work on the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Namibia was appointed and work has already begun. The consolidation of the Namibia Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Vision 2030 has been taken into account.
- The new Water Bill will soon be submitted to the National Assembly. This is long overdue because it is vital for ensuring that activities in the water sector are controlled by issuing permits for water abstraction, irrigation, lease of state-owned boreholes, the drilling of new boreholes in water control areas and the construction of farm dams. During the previous Financial Year a total of 69 permits regarding these activities were processed.
- The new water policy also emphasises integration at basin level of Stakeholders and Basin Management Committees. The activities are ongoing and as a result four Basin Management Committees are established and they continue with their operational activities. These are Kuiseb, Iishana in the Cuvelai, Stampriet, and Karst Area. The Kavango River Basin Committee is now also established and its main activity is soliciting and harmonising inputs from stakeholders in the Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment for the International Okavango River Basin.

- The ACP-EU supported project for integrated water resources management in the Cuvelai Basin is assisting with the establishment of other sub-basins of the Cuvelai, that is Olushandja, Niipele and Tsumeb. It is envisaged that Basin Management Committees will also be established in Omaruru, Fish-Orange and Ugab basins in the coming year.
- Mainstreaming disaster management is a priority for the Government, in particular for the floods that are seen to increase in frequency and magnitude in Namibia. This Ministry has an unequivocal and demonstrated commitment in this regard. It, therefore, works hard to expand the network of automatic river flow and rainfall stations with telemetric transmission for early flood warning and monitoring and also to ensure reliable records for planning purposes. This year, 18 river-flow stations and 18 rainfall gauges are added in the Cuvelai Basin, making use of Namibian expertise of NamWater and the Meteorological Services, respectively.
- The Ministry has installed three more satellite telemetry stations in the Orange and Cuvelai Basins under the Regional SADC-HYCOS project. At the same time, outside expertise is brought in to set up operational systems and to ensure Namibian capacity for use of remote sensing monitoring from space satellite for better early warning for floods originating in the catchments of neighbouring countries and for flood mapping purposes in flood-risk areas in Namibia. Endeavours are also made to improve communication systems with neighbouring countries. Site investigations and design for the first flow gauging structures in the Hoarusib River have started. Joint investigations were carried out with South Africa for the setting and design of new flow gauging structures in the Lower Orange River.
- The establishment of a comprehensive monitoring area within the Grootfontein-Tsumeb-Otavi Karst area for efficient management of the groundwater resource is in the process of being equipped with sufficient monitoring boreholes. Thus far a number of monitoring boreholes have been completed within 2 of the 8 management areas of the Karst system and digital loggers have been installed in newly-drilled boreholes. Drilling was undertaken at three selected sites where fresh groundwater below the saline horizon was confirmed in the Cuvelai-Etosha Basin.

Two of these sites were further followed up with core drilling and the drilling samples were utilised to interpret and construct a more complete conceptual understanding of the groundwater in the area.

- Rainfall collection devices have been installed in selected sites within the basin. This was measured on a daily, monthly and quarterly basis. New digital recorders are being installed to replace the ageing analogue recorders. Since monitoring points are measured digitally and daily, this results in significant savings in travel costs.
- Pollution control and compliance monitoring surveys were carried out countrywide as planned. The Regions that were visited for this purpose were: Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Kunene, Kavango, Karas and Erongo. The irregularities that were observed during the monitoring were raised and a programme of action to rectify these issues was implemented. During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, a total of 20 technical reports were finalised and wastewater and effluent disposal permits were also issued.
- The purpose of the Rural water supply and sanitation coordination programme is the development of rural and bulk water infrastructure and the supply of water to urban industries and rural communities. This programme is also responsible for management and implementation of the sanitation policy and programmes. An amount of N\$451,709,000 is required to implement the programme.

The Ministry will continue with the strengthening and sustaining the process of decentralisation by capacity building and development of water subsidy and water tariff systems to facilitate the delegation of the responsibility of rural water supply to the respective Regional Councils and preparing for devolution. Construction of rural water supply constituency offices will take effect in Karas, Hardap and Omaheke Regions during this Financial Year.

The construction of Tsandi South Phase 3 to supply water to the area of Otamanzi was completed in August 2009. The construction of Onambutu Phase 4 in Ohangwena Region was completed in September 2008 while the construction of Onambutu Phase 5 will be completed in November 2010. The

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water supply investigations of Katima Mulilo – Ngoma and the water supply to displaced communities in the Kavango Region have been completed by the end of the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, plans were underway to implement the community-based water management programme and rehabilitation of boreholes countrywide.

The Ministry has started to implement the programme of constructing and rehabilitating dams, traditional wells and pans for livestock drinking in various Regions. These dams are being constructed through a combination of both labour and capital intensive means. Fifty-eight dams have so far either been constructed, designed or are in the process of being constructed.

The feasibility study for the construction of the Neckertal Dam in the Karas Region was completed in March 2010 and the design, which will be completed by December 2010, and the tendering for construction will most probably take place in January – March 2011. I have already extended some invitations to some of the Colleagues, so that on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May the consultant will present the feasibility report concerning this particular project. I look forward to your participation in that meeting.

- A Combined Regional Rural Water Supply Development Plan for the four northern Regions of Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto, with a 15-year planning horizon commenced in September 2009 and is scheduled to be completed by December 2010.
- This Plan would assist calculating the future demand and costing the infrastructure required to satisfy the Region's water needs.

**MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF FOREST  
RESOURCES PROGRAMME**

In total an amount of N\$80 million was spent during the year 2009/2010. In order for the Ministry to ensure that the forestry programmes are undertaken at different areas in all Regions, the Ministry requests an amount of N\$109,469,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

Deforestation is one of the biggest threats to our ecosystems in the country.

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Thus, tree planting remains one of the key remedies to this problem. A total of 121,947 seedlings have been produced of which a total of 16,750 have been planted. Twenty-two orchards totalling thirty-six and a half hectares that have been established are, amongst others, at the following sites and I must indicate that the names of these orchards were given by the communities involved in developing them with the assistance of the Ministry: Nahas Angula, Nameho Mazege in the Onyaanya Constituency in the Oshikoto Region respectively; Omusimboti in the Oshakati east constituency, Engombe in the Uuvudhiya Constituency in the Oshana Region, Ogongo in the Omusati Region; Lusese Primary School, Chief Liswani, Nchinchimani and Greenwell Matongo in the Caprivi Region and Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in the Otjozondjupa Region.

20 water tanks have been erected in different places. One borehole at Sibinda plot was drilled and equipped where a 5 hectare orchard is under establishment. Three woodlots are established at Munanuke, Sesheke and Kongola in the Kongola Constituency, in the Caprivi Region. Other community orchards that have been established over the past 12 months are Goamus, Van Neels, Meer and Fleermuys community orchards of one hectare each in the Gibeon Constituency, in the Hardap Region. The Epata and Okatuo orchards were established in Otjinene and Epukiro Constituencies, respectively, in the Omaheke Region. It is estimated that 100 hectares will be planted with fruit trees and other trees for different purposes in the different parts of the country during the current Financial Year.

Regarding the Community-Based Forest Management, the following activities were implemented. The Ministry supported 44 Community Forests in building capacity of the rural communities, namely: Ongandjera and Uukwaluudhi Community Forest in the Omusati Region; Omuthitu Wekuta in Ohangwena and Otjinene, Ehirovipuka, Ohungu and Otjombinde in the Omaheke Region; Malengalenga and Sachinga community forests are now in advanced stages to be proclaimed. The annual revenue generated by different communities amounted to N\$400,738 from timber, devil's claw, crafts, carpentry and campsite management as main income sources. The Kavango Region takes the lead with the most Community Forests and they include; Ncumcara, Ncamangoro, Ncaute, Hans Kanyinga, Cuma, Gwatjinga, Likwaterera, Mupapama, Shamungwa, Kahenge, Katope, Muduva-Nyangana, Mbeyo Community Forest, just to mention a few.

Fire protection and conservation remains one of the main activities of the

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Ministry. The Ministry acquired six fire trucks and ordered four more trucks to be used in fire fighting. These fire trucks were distributed in the fire-prone Regions namely: Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango, Caprivi, Omaheke and Kunene. Three additional fire trucks will be acquired during the 2010/2011 Financial Year for the Otjozondjupa, Kavango, and Oshana Regions. Awareness creation has been a key component in forest protection. A total of 5,943.8 kilometres of firebreaks has been cleared with the participation of 234 women and 869 men and together they shared an amount of N\$6 million in the form of remuneration. A grader that was acquired during the last Financial Year was found to be effective in clearing cut lines; thus another one has been tendered for, and it is expected to be delivered before the commencement of the upcoming fire season. Although the actual area is still to be determined, the uncontrolled fires were significantly reduced.

Wood Industry Promotion: Eight Town Councils were approached for plots where firewood can be sold. These are in Ongwediva, Ondangwa and Oshakati in the Oshana Region, Okahao and Outapi in the Omusati Region, Eenhana and Helao Nafidi in the Ohangwena Region, Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region, Mariental in the Hardap Region, Keetmanshoop in the Karas Region as well as at Ngoma in the Caprivi Region. The construction plans for firewood marketing facilities have been completed and construction of these buildings are scheduled to start during 2010/2011 Financial Year. In Kavango Region the craft shop of Ncumcara Community Forest sells craft to tourists. A business plan is being developed for the wood industry promotion programme.

In the Caprivi Region the Masida and Izimwe communities have entered into a private-public partnership for timber processing and marketing.

The shortage of forestry offices and staff accommodation and other buildings has been significantly addressed. In conjunction with the Ministry of Works and Transport arrangements are at advanced stages to commence the construction of office infrastructures. The feasibility study for the construction of offices at Engombe in the Uuvudhiya Constituency is completed. The Tender is currently evaluated and is expected to be allocated to contractors in due course. Two erven has been procured to build one staff house and a pre-nursery at Nkurenkuru Town Council during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

May I point out that what I have presented are essentially highlights and summaries of achievements of the past year and plans for this year. I,

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therefore, draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the Technical Information Document, which contains details of our Ministry's programmes, projects and activities in the Agriculture, Water and Forestry sub-sectors.

I thank local and international co-operating partners, farmers, the private sector, including Non-Governmental Organisations and Government agencies, for their continued support and confidence to invest in the Agriculture, Water and Forestry sub-sectors in Namibia. We must continue to strengthen these relationships to achieve overall development goals of our sectors for the benefit of all the citizens and residents of Namibia. It is the commitment of the Ministry to ensure that the sector optimally contributes to economic growth and that Namibia is able to feed itself and export the surplus.

With these remarks, I now call upon the House to discuss tomorrow and approve the Budget for Vote 20 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year and I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”, N\$1,140,182,000** is put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the House.

I have the distinct honour and privilege to motivate to this august House, Vote 14, Budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for the period 2010/2011. My Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$1,140,182,000. N\$1,125,405,000 will go to Operational Budget, while only N\$14,777,000 go to the Development Budget of the Ministry.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, before I present my Vote, let me first and foremost congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance and her Deputy, the current and former Director General of National Planning Commission and their technical staff members for generating such an accommodative National Budget, more so under this current world economic

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hardship which is known to all of us in this august House.

The Namibian people today are affected severely by intolerably high unemployment, particularly among our youth, sub-living wages among significant sectors of employees, erosion of decent wages and conditions of employment through labour hire and other forms of casualisation, and widespread vulnerability among the elderly, particularly in the rural areas. In these circumstances, the role of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has never been more crucial to the social and economic development of our Nation.

The mandate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is to *ensure effective labour and employment legislation and to provide social safety nets and labour market services*. This means, first and foremost, that the Ministry must play a key role in tackling the major challenge facing our Nation to guarantee the appropriate framework, proper environment and effective assistance to achieve the goal of decent and productive employment for our people. This is the top priority of our Government.

To meet the challenge, our Government is called upon to relentlessly pursue all avenues that hold the promise of job creation, to coordinate the sometimes fragmented Government development programmes, to ensure that education and training is relevant to potential employment and to bring together the public and private sectors and communities to act as one in order to maximise employment and self-employment opportunities. At the same time, we must provide social protection to the most vulnerable and marginalised of our people. In this spirit and with renewed determination to contribute to these national imperatives, I have the honour to table our Budget for the coming Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry is responsible for the implementation of the following pieces of legislation:

- Labour Act, (Act 11 of 2007);
- Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, Act 29 Of 1998;
- National Pension Act, (Act 10 of 1992);
- Social Security Act, (Act 34 of 1994);
- Employees Compensation Act, (Act 30 of 1941).

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In order to render effective services, the Ministry is organised into five sub-Regions nationwide, with fourteen labour offices that provide an ever-expanding range of services that we shall elaborate upon as we motivate each programme. I am pleased to note that new labour offices were inaugurated most recently in Gobabis, Katima Mulilo, Opuwo, Outapi and Rundu.

Allow me to highlight some of the main developments undertaken by my Ministry during the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

An important mandate of my Ministry is to provide qualitative and scientific information on the labour market in the country. The information so provided should assist Government to put in place the right employment policies as well as employment legislation. Other mandates of the Ministry that are linked to the labour market are:

- The provision of occupational and vocational guidance services;
- The registration and placement of job seekers; and
- Canvassing prospective employers for employment planning.

During the past Financial Year, my Ministry rendered the following services to the labour market:

- Completed the analysis of Namibia Labour Force Survey which was conducted in 2008. The analysis report will be issued as soon as possible. The Ministry successfully conducted the Namibia Occupational Wages Survey in 2009 and its findings will soon be released.
- Last year I reported to this august House that my Ministry registered 5 660 job seekers, while this year this figure increased to 7,424. However, the Ministry's Employment Officers were only able to canvass 242 employers, compared to 599 during the previous year due to funding constraints.
- Furthermore, my Ministry was able to find jobs and to place 883 registered jobseekers in the retail, agricultural, Government and other sectors;
- Employment Officers continued to conduct career guidance activities at numerous secondary schools nationwide and participated in different career fairs. The aim of these activities is mainly to educate students

about the employment opportunities available in the labour market and to help them make the right career choice for their future;

- The need to promote productivity in Namibia's economy continues to grow and my Ministry is at an advanced stage to establish the institutional framework for productivity.
- During this Financial Year, I shall table the Employment Services Bill in this august House. This Bill could not be finalised in the past Financial Year, because of the delays experienced in the legislative processes. It is, however, important to note that the Bill, when enacted, will greatly strengthen our Ministry's capacity to assist jobseekers to find suitable employment and employment-related opportunities throughout the country. The proposed legislation will require all private employment agencies to register with the Employment Services Bureau to be established in terms to that Bill. The Bill will also require all employers to report employment vacancies to the Bureau as they arise, for inclusion in the national database.
- Another crucial bill, known as the *Employment Creation Commission Bill*, shall be tabled before this august House later this year. This Bill makes provision for the establishment of a *National Employment Creation Commission*, which shall be tasked with the responsibility of coordinating and facilitating employment creation in order to maximise National efforts on both the public and private sector.

In order for my Ministry to provide scientific labour market information and to ensure that appropriate employment policies and legislation are put in place, an amount of N\$40,598,000 is required.

### **Labour Services through workplace inspections**

The principal mandate of the Ministry under the programme Labour Services is to enforce labour rights and occupational safety and health standards and to resolve disputes informally and as quickly as possible at workplaces. The Ministry's Labour Inspectors and Factory Inspectors play a front-line role in ensuring industrial peace. The Inspectors investigate workplace complaints that have been reported to the labour offices throughout the country and have the power to issue compliance orders, which have the force of law, to remedy

violations of the Labour Act. They also provide information to employers and employees about their rights and duties and facilitate workplace grievance settlements. Currently, there are only 38 Labour Inspectors and 9 Factory Inspectors who are responsible for this enormous task.

During the last Financial Year, the Labour Inspectors engaged in the following activities:

- Conducted 491 Labour Inspections and 400 safety and health inspections at workplaces throughout the country, compared to 1,332 and 485, respectively, in the previous year;
- Registered 3,684 labour complaints of which 2,818 were resolved amicably, compared to 6,147 complaints of which 5,050 were resolved, in the previous year;
- 317 complaints were referred to the Labour Commissioner, compared to 86 last year;
- 549 complaints were pending at the end of the Financial Year, compared to 771 in the previous year; 486 tripartite meetings were held across the country to promote sound labour relations in the country, whereas in the previous year 288 such meetings were held;
- Recovered N\$1,408,827 from employers where these monies were owed to employees, compared with **N\$1,140,697,46** recovered in the previous year.

### **Protecting the Most Vulnerable Workers**

The programme Labour Services also seeks to alleviate the situation of the working poor. During the year under review, the Ministry actively facilitated the negotiation of minimum wage and benefit increases in the agriculture and security sectors. In order to address the plight of other most vulnerable groups of employees in Namibia, particularly those without trade union representation, I intend to establish a Wages Commission to investigate and recommend to the Minister minimum wages and conditions of employment for domestic workers, retail workers and others under consideration.

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In addition, amendments to the Labour Act to address the unresolved problem of labour hire have been drafted in light of the judgment of the Supreme Court, which held Section 128 of the Labour Act to be unconstitutional. We are currently discussing the draft within the Ministry and intend to table the amendment during the course of this year.

The programme Labour Services also promotes multilateral cooperation in the development and maintenance of international labour standards and tripartite cooperation of Government and the representatives of workers and employers in the development and implementation of labour policy.

The Ministry actively participated in the 98<sup>th</sup> session of the international Labour Conference, the meeting of the African Union Commission on Labour and Social Affairs, and the annual SADC Meeting of Ministers of Employment and Labour and Social Partners with the view to develop and promote international labour standards and multilateral cooperation in areas of labour and employment.

The Ministry is also in the process of signing its Decent Work Country Programme with the International Labour Organisation. This programme will coordinate and align ILO technical assistance and support to priority areas identified jointly by representatives of the State, workers and employers and other key stakeholders of the ILO in Namibia.

The number one priority identified in this participatory process is employment creation. In addition, our Ministry entered the second phase of an ILO initiated programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, with the support of the United States Department of Labour. A national coordinating committee of employers' organisations, trade unions, Government and relevant NGO'S is overseeing the National Plan of Action to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

In addition, I wish to emphasise the Ministry's ongoing commitment to tripartite cooperation and the strengthening of social dialogue in the labour field. Further, the tripartite Labour Advisory Council has been strengthened to render effective advice to the Minister, and the tripartite governing structures of the Social Security Commission and Employment Equity Commission are functioning well.

To ensure sound labour relations and to provide other labour services in the country, my Ministry requires N\$26,899,000.

**Promotion of harmonious industrial relations and dispute resolution**

This programme promotes harmonious industrial relations by providing speedy and effective means of resolving labour disputes. The system of dispute resolution through conciliation and arbitration under the Labour Commissioner, which was introduced when the Labour Act 2007 came into effect in November 2008, has made a significant and very positive impact on industrial relations in Namibia. Key statistics for the past year are as follows:

- 2,444 disputes were registered with the office of the Labour Commissioner;
- 1,615, or 66% of the registered disputes, were resolved by mutual agreement of the parties after a complaint was lodged with the Labour Commissioner;
- 892 or 55% of resolved cases were settled in favour of the applicants;
- 259 or 16% of the resolved cases were settled in favour of the respondents.
- 899 or 56% of the these resolved cases were settled or resolved through conciliation;
- 421 or 26% of these resolved cases were settled during the arbitration phase;
- 272 cases, representing 11% of the total cases handled countrywide, were dismissed for various reasons, predominantly the failure of applicants to attend scheduled conciliation or arbitration proceedings;
- 65 cases of the registered cases, representing 3% of all cases, were withdrawn by the applicants for various reasons, which include voluntary settlement before conciliation.

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- 659 cases or 27% of the total cases registered countrywide were still on the roll at the end of the Financial Year.

This record is an enormous achievement, and is a testimonial to the competencies, skills and techniques possessed by our Conciliators and Arbitrators placed in various parts of the country. It demonstrates that the new process for resolving labour disputes is working more effectively and steadily than the system of District Labour Courts, which it has now replaced. I can thus state confidently that the system of conciliation and arbitration is working well in Namibia.

I can also report that since the implementation of the new Labour Act, 2007 in November 2008, the labour relations situation in Namibia has steadily improved. My Ministry has seen consistent efforts by both employers and trade unions to consult and engage each other on labour-related issues that affect workplace relationships. This is encouraging not only because these important players in our economy are effectively communicating with each other, but most importantly they are able to reach amicable solutions to labour matters.

During the period under review, my Ministry received five applications for registration of trade unions, of which three were not approved and two are still under consideration. In addition, two applications for registration of employers' organisations were received. One was approved and the other was declined.

Due to globalisation and the global economic crunch, many companies in Namibia were affected, and as a result many employers had to re-organise, re-strategise and re-focus their operations. Retrenchments were unfortunately rampant during the reviewing period and statistics indicate that the numbers of retrenchments continue unabated as the country gradually emerges from this unprecedented turning point in economic and labour history.

Generally, although almost every sector was affected by the economic downturn, some sectors, such as mining, fishing, agriculture and hospitality, to mention a few, experienced plummeting profits, thereby resulting in the downsizing of their operations. A total of 4,276 employees were retrenched by various employers during the period under review. This number excludes

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notices of retrenchments that did not specify the total numbers of employees affected at the time of filing their notices with the Labour Commissioner.

In order for my Ministry to continue ensuring and promoting harmonious industrial relations in the country, an amount of N\$20,284,000 is requested.

A critical mandate of my Ministry is the administration and payment of basic State grants to the senior citizens of this country, to the disabled citizens (disability grants) and funeral benefits, especially to senior citizens. The social grants are an important component of Namibia's poverty reduction strategy. The Government reviews this programme on a continuous basis and is committed to ongoing improvements of the benefits, when possible. Provision is therefore made in this Budget to increase the basic old-age grant from N\$450 to N\$500 per month from the beginning of this Financial Year.

I am pleased to report that by year-end 2009, 155,874 grantees were registered with my Ministry, of whom 133,456 were senior citizens (elderly persons) and 22,418 were persons with disabilities. Newly registered grantees numbered 11,214 for the Financial Year;

A total number of 4,485 beneficiaries benefited from the Funeral Benefit Programme during the review period;

In order to meet the plight of registered senior citizens (elderly persons), persons with disability, an amount of N\$1,040,997,000 is requested.

**Employment Equity in Namibia**

My Ministry is mandated to ensure the full implementation of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, 29 of 1998 through the Employment Equity Commission. The objective of this Act is to achieve equity and equality and to guide employers to eliminate employment barriers in the workplace so that no person shall be denied employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to ability. Furthermore, the Act seeks to ensure an equitable and representative workforce that is diverse in its composition and reflective of the demographics of Namibia at all levels of employment.

I wish to report that during the period under review, there has been some encouraging progress towards equity in employment. The latest national

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workforce profile figures show that previously racially disadvantaged now account for 63% of positions at the management levels. Previously, management positions appeared to have been the preserve of White employees while Blacks were employed mainly in subordinate positions.

I wish to give this august House feedback on the implementation of the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development in its July 2006 Report, on the “*Motion on Unsatisfactory State of Affairs and lack of Affirmative Action both in the Public Service and the Private Sector*” which called for the enhancement of the Office of the Employment Equity Commission capacity in order to enable it to carry out its mandate effectively and efficiently.

I am pleased to report to this august House that the Employment Equity Commission, with the assistance of other law enforcement agencies, is now firmly guiding relevant employers (that is, those employing 25 or more employees) to comply with the Affirmative Action Law.

As a result of the efficient and effective action of the Employment Equity Commission, a total of 143 relevant employers were charged with Affirmative Action related offences during the 2009/2010 period. 52 employers already appeared before Courts and were convicted, while 91 cases are still pending against relevant employers.

In order to maintain this momentum and to ensure that discrimination and employment barriers against persons in designated groups are eliminated, an amount of N\$11,404,000 is requested.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in summary my Ministry implements those five programmes for which I am asking this august House to consider and approve:

<b><i>Programmes</i></b>	<b><i>N\$'000</i></b>
Labour Market Information	40,598
Labour Services	26,899
Industrial Relations	20,284
Social Welfare	1,040,997
Employment Equity Commission	11,404
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>1,140,182</i></b>

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HON KAVETUNA**

In conclusion, I wish to request this august House to approve the amount of N\$1,140,182,000 for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. I thank you

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** On that note I would like to thank all the Ministers for motivating their Budget Votes to the House.

Before I suspend the Whole House Committee to allow the Deputy Chairperson or Assistant Chairperson to take the Chair, I would like to make a very important announcement on behalf of the Speaker.

Honourable Members, take note that Paulus (Hitman) Moses, our WBA light heavy weight champion will be defending his world title for the second time on home ground, namely Namibia, on 29 May 2010. The challenger is Miguel Acosta from Venezuela. Mr Nestor Tobias and Mr Joe Kaperu, who is the Secretary General of the Boxing and Fitness Control Board will be accompanying Hitman to address the Honourable Members of Parliament in the Parliament Restaurant tomorrow afternoon during tea-break. The purpose of the address is to invite the national leaders to attend the fight, to inform the leaders of his commitment to retain his title and also to solicit national support as he is preparing for the fight.

I would urge all the Honourable Members to make use of this opportunity to demonstrate their support.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put **Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”** put for Discussion.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to contribute to this very important Vote with a bleeding heart for the continuous killing of women. A headline in one of the daily newspapers today reads as follows: “*A Woman Burnt to Death*”. May the soul of Ms Steenkamp rest in eternal peace.

I want to contribute to this Vote on four points, the first one being the

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orphanage care homes mentioned on page 4.

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, I do appreciate the efforts of the caregivers to provide care and love to our orphans and vulnerable children. I had the opportunity to visit a number of these institutions, if not the majority of them, but I came to realise something which the Minister really has to really take into consideration. These places are overcrowded, sometimes they do not have balanced diets and their guidance is only on biblical and moral issues. They do not give guidance related to social and other important factors in life. African people are caring people and I think a child will be better off with an aunt, grandmother or sister, rather than being in an orphanage where she has to share a room with fifty other children.

I would like to request the Minister and the entire Ministry to consider the possibility of encouraging families to take care of the orphans and vulnerable children rather than dumping them in orphanages.

The adoption process in this country is guided by the outdated apartheid law of 1966, which still talks about a child born out of wedlock or a child of a black man and a white woman. It is very important for us to look at this process, because it is frustrating and cumbersome and this law should be repealed or amended in order to fit the current situation.

My next point is on maintenance, which is really a heartbreaking issue. The process is terribly slow and at the end of the day a Managing Director of a company will be ordered to pay N\$150, because he said he has a child at St George's, a child at St Paul's, therefore this poor child from Katutura must just be given N\$150. This law must be reviewed, so that at least 5% of the person's income must be given to the child.

My last remark is on income-generating projects. I have seen that the Ministry is really trying to be of assistance with the income-generating projects in our country, but I have seen that these projects are not really sustainable in the long-run. If you should look at the data of how many projects you have assisted since 1990 and how many are still operating, how many have grown from under-a-tree to shelter, I think you will feel pity. I have seen projects where the people have made five hundred dresses, but I cannot imagine that I would wear that type of dress. Therefore, it is very important for us to

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI / HON SWARTZ**

capacitate the people in order for them to consider the demand, the viability of the project, marketing and innovation of diversity of production. I thank you.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Thank you, Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Minister and Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and their team.

Assistant Chairperson and Honourable Members of the august House, we are being reminded by the Ministry that in spite of the positive changes that the Government of the Republic of Namibia has made in the area of gender equality and the general development of women in this country, we continue to face profound challenges. This is particularly in relation to gender-based violence. The person who spoke before me referred to headlines in our local newspapers. We are, therefore, being called upon to act decisively in controlling the ever-increasing cases of gender-based violence in our society.

Assistant Chairperson, we simply cannot afford to be held back by the perverse actions of misguided men who are threatening to reverse the progress that has been achieved in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. In this connection, in order to keep the issues of gender-based violence under close observation, I suggest that an audit of this pandemic be established and I believe that this will enable the Ministry and the country to review this critical matter.

Chairperson, I also urge the Ministry to embark upon a nationwide campaign aimed at sensitising the Nation as a whole to stop this violence. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Swartz.

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**HON SWARTZ:** Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I read on page 7 that there is an orphanage in Eros with 124 children who are being supported by the Ministry and there are also after-school activities. We have Non-Governmental Organisations in the Regions which are providing after-school activities and maybe the Ministry could interact with them so that we do not

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HON MUSHELENGA**

have a duplication. The children in all the Regions should have after-school activities where they are assisted with reading and homework.

The Honourable Minister also mentioned the small grants given for women to start income-generating projects, but it is important that a feasibility study be done beforehand and also that people be equipped with skills and knowledge of their projects. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Peya Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My remarks are based on pages 191 and 192 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and it relates to orphans and vulnerable children.

When I was a Member of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Economic Development, we came to realise that some Regions by their very nature are so vast that one Social Worker is unable to cover the entire Region in terms of registration and monitoring in the sense that some guardians are misusing the grants given to the orphans and vulnerable children by the Government. It is the same with the maintenance that the Comrade behind me talked about, which is being misused and becomes entertainment funds for some people. Perhaps the Ministry would consider increasing the number of Social Workers.

I mentioned last year that I fail to understand the registration process. When the social workers are registering children, they first call for children which have only one parent. I would have thought the priority should have been given to the children with no parents. You even hear on radio that they calling for children with only one parent to be registered, while those with no parents receive the least priority and I feel the Ministry should reconsider this situation.

Honourable Minister, they say a new broom sweeps better. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON KAIYAMO / HON RIRUAKO**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Kaiyamo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Comrade Chairperson, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare who took over this Ministry.

Comrade Minister, on page 4 of your speech you mentioned that there are OVC Forums in all the Regions and all the constituencies. When I was the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Resources I went through the country and I did not see these forums. Maybe there is a need to make the Committee aware of those forums.

When one goes through the whole country, you see Ministry of Gender, but when you go there to speak about gender issues, there is nobody for gender, they talk about community officers in those buildings. Maybe you should have gender persons in those offices.

On the issue of gender-based violence, maybe we need to have houses of safety for men who are being beaten by women. (Interjections).

I looked at the Budget and realised that there is a need to increase the Vote on early childhood development I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Chief Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I feel pity that we have forgotten that we are Africans. We have followed foreign culture and forgotten our own culture. We have a culture of extended family. (Intervention)

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Chief, which page?

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON RIRUAKO:** I am not going to talk about a page. You followed foreign culture and forgotten your own culture and I reject that. You have mentioned how orphans are being taken care of and in our culture we never had to think about that as we had extended families to take care of our orphans. This must be encouraged instead of supporting a foreign culture. (Interjections). I am not here to joke. You keep on joking while you are at a funeral. That is the attitude you have here. We are talking about orphans and you are joking. That indicates what kind of person you are. This is not the time to joke, it is the time to think about those orphans who need help. I reject adoption. If you are Europeans, go there and take care of your adoptions, but do not tell us to adopt our own family's children. That is irrelevant here and if you want to follow a foreign culture, do so, but we are not going to take part in that kind of discussion, it is irrelevant to our own culture. We never had an adoption in Africa, we took care of one another. (Interjection)

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Please speak to the Vote, Honourable Member.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Chairperson, if you do not want to hear what I am saying, go ahead and do your own thing, be what you want to be. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** On page 190, I would really have liked to have a breakdown of the orphans and vulnerable children, how many orphans we are talking about and how many people are classified as vulnerable children. Maybe the Minister could attempt to give a breakdown, because when I look at the figure of 250 000 orphans and vulnerable children in eleven years' time, it is very much worrying because that is almost a quarter of the population of Namibia. You probably need to look at this and give us a breakdown so that we see how we can mitigate the situation, so that at the end of the day the whole society will not be turned into orphans and vulnerable children.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

Orphans one can handle, but there needs to be a much more holistic approach and strategy to vulnerable children.

Coming to page 198, I do not know whether the Minister realises that the Ministry is basically fighting a lost battle already, because if you look at column 2, seats held by women in Parliament, all those forecasts are completely out of place. They are completely unachievable because the Political Party have probably failed the womenfolk. (Interjections). I am the only one here. Honourable Minister, this is not a joke, this is very serious business, because we cannot preach gender equality when we do not include women. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** May I ask Honourable Shixwameni a question? Honourable Shixwameni, in order to assist the situation, will you make a public promise to this House and outside there that after serving two and a half years, you are going to leave in order to allow a woman of your Party to serve the remainder of your term?

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I would make that commitment and I would like to throw the challenge back to the SWAPO Party, which the Honourable Member represents, that if the SWAPO Party here makes a commitment that after two and a half years they would ensure that half of their 52 Members are women, I shall do that.

This is basically the lost battle we are fighting and I would urge my sister that you probably need to bring a Bill to this House just as we have done in terms of the Local Authorities, which would ensure that the next Parliament which is formed in 2015 would have equal numbers of men and women. That is the challenge that I would like to put to the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** May I ask Honourable Shixwameni a question? Honourable Shixwameni, it is always easy to talk. A challenge was put to you and you put a counter-challenge. How can that be practically done? If you say there is no democracy then you would not have been here.

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON SHIXWAMENI:** The Honourable Colleague does not have any philosophical thinking, so I cannot respond to his question.

I hope the Honourable Minister takes care of this situation together with the women's organisations of this country and that a Bill be brought and passed here, so that we can ensure that in five years' time there will be fifty-fifty representation. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. The British tried their best, they had Queen Victoria and it has taken a long time to have a Margaret Thatcher afterwards. Count the years in-between. It is self-explanatory.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** The other issue that I would like to raise is on page 192, gender equality and women empowerment. When you read this presentation in this book, you basically get the impression of what Honourable Kaiyamo was talking about. It is like the Ministry is not a gender affairs Ministry, because there is no focus on the gender aspect of the Ministry. When you read this document, you basically get the impression that the gender only comes in with training. When it comes to training, men are involved, but when it comes to projects, it is only women projects that are sponsored. The impression is basically created as if this is a Ministry for the women and we need to get away from that. (Interjections). If you read these five pages, that is basically the impression that is created. Therefore, the Ministry should try to go out there and explain that it does not only caters for women. If we are talking about gender, it should accommodate both men and women in all their projects.

With those few remarks, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. On page 9 of the Minister's statement there is mention of the National Gender Mainstreaming

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

Programme: Gender Sensitisation Awareness and I want to congratulate the Minister for the figures given here and I want to comment a bit on gender-violence and perhaps look at the causes of gender violence.

I would like to challenge those who are condoning gender violence in the manner it manifests itself, but I think at this point it is a societal challenge, it is not only a challenge facing the Ministry because it goes deeper. It goes into the roots of how we socialise ourselves and it goes into the issue of culture, as the Chief has also mentioned. Without belabouring the issue, I would appeal to the Minister to come up with mechanisms and measures on how to determine the causes of gender violence, because they may be deeper than what they seem.

It is a pity that when we talk about gender violence, it is always portrayed as if the perpetrators are men. That is the psychology of the matter although it is not like that. For example, when you are proposing to a lady, you are condemned as a man that you are not supposed to do certain things, but the society expects certain things and there is no platform where the two partners can discuss their frustrations. Sometimes people are aware that something is wrong in this relationship, but because the man is the breadwinner and the family is dependent on this man, people will take a backseat until things start and then we say it is gender violence. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. A man does not want the woman to be the breadwinner and that is our weakness. If the man is the breadwinner, he wants to remain the breadwinner forever. We do not accept that they can also be the breadwinners.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I wholeheartedly support the programme on sensitisation and what the Chief has said is the exact psychological socialisation I mentioned. Sometimes when the lady is the breadwinner the society will condemn me that I am depending on the lady. This will hurt my ego and I will become arrogant for no apparent reason, while she is innocent. These are the causes, whether we want to believe it or not.

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**HON KASINGO**

Sometimes a gentleman spends money to educate a lady and then all of a sudden she slams the door in your face. The whole community were supporting you, including the parents, but now they will say, “*this criminal is around here, close the door.*” These things are also the causes for violence.

Let us bring a new psychology of putting up mitigating factors. With these words, I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Comrade Kasingo.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for giving me the Floor. I also have to congratulate the Honourable Minister for the new portfolio. We will assist you in this struggle for equality.

My comment is on Programme 1, Child Welfare, sub-programme OVC Grants and I would like to proceed where Honourable Mushelenga ended and I think Honourable Kavetuna also touched on this issue. Before that I want to thank our Government for assisting these needy children. If I am not mistaken, the UN Report of last year recognised Namibia as second in SADC – the first was Mauritius – in terms of having a law and other activities to benefit the children.

I am of the opinion that this grant which is received by the caregivers is mostly being used for the intended purpose, but I should think that there is really a need for you, Honourable Minister, to send a team of social workers to these houses where the children are accommodated, because we receive reports that sometimes this money is being misused. Some of the children know that they are getting the money from the Government and insist on buying cell phones. The social workers need to have discussions with these children.

Maybe your Ministry and the Ministry of Education could think about hosting these orphans in hostels, in particular in the neglected Regions such as Kavango, Caprivi, Ohangwena and Oshikoto. Those are the Regions where the children are expected to prepare the meals after school and you find that the child does not have time to read. There must be hostels for these children where they could be accommodated during the week, while during weekends

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HON MAKGONE**

they could go to their aunties' houses. In my opinion, these hostels should be managed by retired nurses and teachers who could assist these children.

We know that our education system is going to be changed and I do not think the hostels in those areas I have mentioned will be able to cope with the education of these kids. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Makgone.

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**HON MAKGONE:** Thank you for the opportunity, Chairperson. I have a comment on page 12, training for Gender Focal Points. There is an organisation called Women Action for Development which says they have focal points in all the constituencies and I just want to know whether there is any coordination between the Ministry and this body, because they are also saying they are not only for women, they are gender inclusive. Perhaps you could coordinate on your programmes and help each other in that process.

On page 11 the two last lines read: "*Enhance the Members of Parliament capacity to mainstream gender in the Parliamentary Debates and Discussions.*" Comrade Minister, I think that is very important, because Members of Parliament are leaders and we should know that the people outside are listening to what is being said and if we are not sensitive towards gender issues, then we are creating a culture. Our kids are out there listening to what we are saying and they think it is normal that men should attack and women should defend. We have to be sensitive in what we are saying, because if not, this culture will continue.

With regard to the OVC Programme, I know in 2008 there was a programme in Omaheke, funded by UNICEF, and this programme was under the Omaheke Regional Council. They were registering orphans and vulnerable children and this programme was very successful because on the Committee they had someone from the Police, Home Affairs, Education, all the Ministries and they coordinated with the Councillors' offices in all the constituencies to register the children and Home Affairs would see to the birth certificates. It worked very well, it is only that it was funded by UNICEF and the Regional Council

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

provided transport. Perhaps the Minister could think of doing the same in the other Regions. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Comrade Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** I thank you, Comrade Assistant Chairperson. I am addressing the programme on orphans and vulnerable children mentioned on page 3. I have to thank the Ministry that we have captured quite a good number of these children, as reflected in the information provided by the Ministry and having done that, I fully agree with the Deputy Speaker that it is now the time for us to seriously consider how we can assist these children in order to empower them for the rest of their lives. Giving them a proper education is the best we can do.

We can talk about assessing the situation at home when these children are getting grants, but I believe it is not going to be helpful as such, because you would find that there are fifteen children in one family, three of which are registered because they are orphans or considered vulnerable because their parents have neglected them. However, the other twelve children have parents who are making a living somewhere else and they were left with the grandparents. This grant plus the pension are now being used to look after the 15 children and that is not helping this poor old person. If these children are taken and they are given proper care during school-time, maybe that would be helpful.

We also have the feeding scheme, but the feeding scheme is also a catch, because these children end up going to school to eat, because at home there is no food and they do not really pay attention to their school work. If we try to capture as many children as possible in hostels and take care of them the whole week, it will be much better, as they will know they are not going to sleep hungry.

Page 8 deals with gender equality and I like the sentence which the Minister has used here: *“This programme is charged with the responsibility of promoting gender equality and women empowerment.”* One Member here

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

mentioned that when you go around you do not see gender. What is gender in the first place for one to see it? If you are saying you do not see equality between men and women, who is more advantaged and who is disadvantaged? Then one could have a programme to ensure this balance. That is what we need to understand.

I even saw in our immigration forms that we are using the word “*gender*”. What is it we are talking about? It should just be “*sex*”, as simple as that. Gender is an activity, it is a behaviour and you cannot indicate on a form what is your behaviour. We brought it in and we did not really digest it properly.

The gender sensitisation mentioned on page is the key, because when we are now talking about gender sensitisation we are sensitising ourselves to understand the different roles in the community and how they are being used to surprise one of the sexes and what we should do in order to avoid that situation. I think it is important, Comrade Minister, to strengthen that and all of us need to take part in this. We as Parliamentarians could have gender sensitisation workshops and I hope we will make an effort to attend, because that is one challenge facing us as Parliamentarians, that we are not using the opportunities. When talking here we might even mislead the public, because they believe what we are saying, while we are not properly informed.

It is very good that we are simplifying the UN Resolution 25 on children, because as an initiator of that resolution I know it is a Namibian resolution and that is our contribution to peace. It is good that we are simplifying it so that our people understand the importance of peace, not only peace at home, but peace in the country, peace on the continent and peace in the world.

The community and integrated early childhood development is welcomed and we have to recognise the Government’s decision to bring early childhood development into the mainstream, so that we can properly prepare our children for school. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND**

**CULTURE:** May I ask a question? You commended the Minister for the Gender and Women Empowerment Programme. Where are the poor men who were empowered? It is not a question of a man attacking a woman or vice versa, but where are the men?

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HON NAMBAHU**

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you very much for that question and it will enable me to explain further, because I was pressed by time. Where are the poor men? Look around this room and you will see the poor men here and you will see the limited number of poor women in this room. You will see it in almost every structure and that is why we are talking about gender equality, meaning that we are identifying that when it comes to development, both men and women can play the same role. However, because of our historical and cultural background, women continue to be absent. When we have the same understanding and when we all agree that that is necessary, it can be done without any fear. I always say our problem is our fear of the unknown. The poor men are there, but the poor men are resisting aggressively because it is a power relationship and they try to access that power which causes them to behave the way they behave. We can work on that with a strong gender sensitisation on the important roles of both in the society. I thank you very much.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I only want to touch on one point and that is the gender-based violence.

I always feel sad when we discuss this in the House, because every year when we discuss this point we become partisan and divided and sometimes we do not really address the roots of this point. Most of the time the society is to blame, because we become very angry with the end-results, but when the process is taking place, when the volcano is simmering, we turn a blind eye and when it explodes, we do not like the lava, the ashes and the fire from the volcano and we condemn. However, all along we have seen these things simmering in the society, but we are turning a blind eye. Until the time we research this issue to its roots, the Debate will not be helpful. (Intervention)

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON NAMBAHU**

**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** May I ask the Honourable Comrade a question? Honourable Nambahu, how are we going to stop that volcano if the men are still the main problem, impregnating girls and women and telling them not to name them and then we have orphans and children who are not registered, because they do not have names? How are we going to put an end to that?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I understand that very well and I sympathise, but Honourable Member, when we have this Debate we really have to take the bull by the horns and call a spade a spade, otherwise we will never change the situation.

I think the workers have a centre for research on information and labour which does research so that the policy –makers could base their decisions on researched information. If it is an observation, informed by our own values and cultures, we would be able to go far.

When you go to a Maintenance Court and see your brother paying maintenance for a kid that looks totally different from that person, then I have a problem with that. Therefore, we must do research instead of just talking. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask Honourable Nambahu a small question? I have no intention to jump on the bandwagon of stereotypical approaches to gender and gender-related issues, but there is a strong school of thought that could be corrected, namely that inasmuch as we talk about women upliftment, when it comes to the actual subjects of that upliftment, there is a high degree of antagonism amongst themselves, to the extent that if they have to choose between voting for a male or female, the perception exists that they would rather vote for the man. As a person living in the society called Namibia, you see so much antagonism between the ladies themselves in terms of supporting one another. Is it true that that stereotypical perception that is taking root in our society has any substance in reality?

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 12**  
**RT HON ANGULA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I do not want to be derailed by questions coming my way, but I am telling you that we are facing a cultural crisis. These are things that should be approached scientifically and we should establish a centre to do research so that when we debate we are actually informed by researched scientific information. I ask the Ministry to depart from this kind of scientific approach to this problem, otherwise our children and our grandchildren will come and grapple with the same problem of gender-based violence. I thank you.

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**HON ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Comrade Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you. It was not really my intention to take part in this Debate, but certain things have been said that need to be corrected and I am talking to Programme 1, Child Welfare. I want to amplify on what Honourable Chief Riruako said. He mentioned something very important and I think people were not listening.

Honourable Riruako said in the African society a child is the responsibility of society, especially the extended family. I hear voices here that we want to institutionalise children by putting them in Hostels. These are evil things. The crisis facing the Catholic Church about child abuse is as a result of these kinds of institutions.

In Eros there is a children's home and I can tell you, you would not want to send your child there (provided you have a choice). Please let us encourage family care, community care, extended family care. Let us support the families, let us support the extended families to be able to take care of the vulnerable children.

Like in everything else, there must be abuse by some irresponsible parents or caregivers, but there is safety within a family situation. Do not encourage institutionalisation of children, please. That is my humble appeal.

Secondly, Honourable Sioka, there is a paragraph missing in Programme 1.

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HON SIOKA**

This paragraph is supposed to deal with child-headed households. These children need special support and not only money, but the social agencies need to be mobilised, such as the church, Traditional Authorities and the neighbourhood to support these child-headed households and I think the Ministry of Gender should think about this and next time have a paragraph on how you are supporting these children in conjunctions with the existing institutions. You do not need to create new institutions, you only need to work together with the parish church and get a deacon to visit these houses from time to time so that these children get support from the community. If you can do that, then you really talk about child welfare as a whole. Thank you, I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much. If there is no further discussion, the Minister may reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Assistant Chairperson. The first contribution to the Debate was by *Honourable Kavetuna*. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare does not give subsidies to orphans, we only help children's homes, such as the one being questioned by the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

The question of encouraging family care is being addressed in the Child Care and Protection Bill which will soon be tabled in this House and which will need your support. The amendment of the outdated law is addressed in the new Bill as well as adoption.

Maintenance does not fall within the ambit of the Ministry of Gender, but rather the Ministry of Justice and we are not the ones delaying the process.

*Honourable Katjavivi*, thank you very much for supporting us, especially on the issue of gender-based violence. We do have a database and the Ministry of

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HON SIOKA**

Safety and Security and the Prime Minister are also involved. We are looking at a plan of action on gender-based violence and I addressed it in my speech.

*Honourable Swartz*, the grants are in the pipeline and training is an ongoing programme. We will try by all means to train everybody in the Regions, if possible.

*Honourable Peya Mushelenga* said we do not have enough social workers in the country. We have community childcare workers in all constituencies and I addressed it here. Home Affairs deals with birth certificates and the Ministry of Justice deals with foster care.

*Honourable Kaiyamo*, the Ministry of Gender can be found in all the Regions. Forums are groups of people and it is also addressed in my speech.

*Chief Riruako* rejected adoption. We have to consider what the Prime Minister has suggested, namely to adopt a system of family care. I agree with a system where they are looked after by guardians. I still need to visit the children's home at Eros, and I am being encouraged to do so, because their parents are not there, it might become a nest of evil.

*Honourable Shixwameni*, I think you need to put a question on a Thursday on the breakdown of orphans and vulnerable children so that I have time to do research and bring the correct answer.

On the issue of the National Assembly representation, I was supposed to give you letters today, asking for your support of the Electoral Bill. I have already consulted others and maybe Honourable Shixwameni is not aware of that. It is not only the SWAPO Party which is to blame, even the Opposition Parties are to blame. Look at NUDO who have two members, the Chief was supposed to come here with a lady, but he came with Honourable Tjihuiiko. The Bill will provide for zebra stripes.

*Honourable Kazenambo*, thank you for your support. *Honourable Kasingo*, I also thank you very much for your support and especially that we should send a team to investigate what is happening in the Regions with regard to the grants to children. I also need the Parliamentary Committee to assist me as this should not be the concern of the Ministry of Gender only, but a concern to everybody.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 22  
HON NGHIMTINA**

There was mention of the attack of women and defence. I have three bulls in my kraal and the three of them are always fighting, but they never fight with the cows. Even animals are not doing that, we as human beings should change.

*Honourable Ndaitwah*, thank you for your support and you have addressed the concern of Honourable Shixwameni. I do not know whether you meant the children from zero to five years. We should meet with the Ministry of Education and discuss this issue of children under five. I would like to see them fall under a Ministry one day.

*Honourable Nambahu*, thank you very much. Gender-based violence takes place every day and society should be blamed. We have to push to find a scientific system.

I know what the Right Honourable Prime Minister said is what should happen and I obviously take note of that. I am sure I had a paragraph on the child-headed households, but I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 12? Agreed to.

I put Vote 22 – “**FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES**” for Discussion.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Comrade Assistant Chairperson. I support Vote 22. On page 6 the Minister said: “*There are nine fish distribution outlets in 6 Regions of our country.*” This is very good, but we should probably be told the names of those outlets, so that once we are there, we know exactly where to buy our fish. Namibia is a fish producing country, but we do not know where to buy fish. You said there are outlets in Erongo, Oshana, Kavango, Khomas, Karas and Omaheke, but we would like to know exactly where these outlets are and when the other Regions will also have distribution outlets.” Thank you.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 22**  
**HON ESAU**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** If there is no further discussion, the Minister may reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you very much, Comrade Assistant Chairperson of the Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me first take the opportunity to thank all the Honourable Members who have supported Vote 22 in silence. I want to respond to the question by Comrade Nghimtina on where these outlets are situated.

I visited the outlets in the Erongo Region, one in Walvis Bay and two in Mondesa, one being right next to my parental house. I have not been to Oshana yet, but one is in Ongwediva. In Kavango Region the outlet is in Rundu and in Khomas Region, in Katutura. In the Karas Region we have one in Tseiblaagte. In Omaheke Region it is in the township there.

However, we are planning to expand these outlets and have more than one per Region, because there are many districts. The issue is just to have the means to expand, but we are working on that. I thank you once more for the questions and support.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 22? Agreed to.

Vote 25 – “**LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT**” is put for Discussion.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 25 and I want to refer to Programme 1 – Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement.

I applaud the Ministry for a job well done, but at the same time I feel very sad because it seems the Ministry is working under extremely difficult conditions, in the sense that the process of distributing the land, both under the National

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HON DR NAMWANDI**

Resettlement Programme and Affirmative Action, is moving at a snail's pace and I would like to know the reason for this. Is it perhaps that there are people who are applying brakes to these progressive programmes aimed at helping the disadvantaged Namibians? Are there perhaps people who are trying to inflate the figures and as a result the Ministry has difficulties to acquire land? I think it is about time, if at all people are applying brakes, that they reconsider their positions, because we must not push our luck too far. Any situation can be blown out of proportion very easily.

Therefore, it is important that we embrace the famous Asian expression of "*prosper thy neighbour*", because as long as there are people without land, there will not be peace in the country and that has to be noted by each and everybody. It is important for those who have land to take note of this and after all, they are not going to give the land free of charge, they will be compensated.

I am very pleased to note on page 6 that the Ministry is considering training and membership programmes and I would think that the agricultural and farm management skills are very essential, because it will be a waste of money and resources to settle farmers who do not have the skills to develop the land, let alone to continue with what was produced by the former farmers. I want to appeal to our brothers and sisters, fellow white farmers with proper skills and technology, to transfer technology to the new owners of the land in order to ensure that those who are resettled would continue to be self-sufficient, to feed others and themselves, because if we do not do that, the Government will be compelled to continue feeding these people through the drought relief programmes. The drought relief programmes should be meant for those who really need it and those who were resettled must work very hard and turn those farms into productive units. That is my humble contribution and I support Vote 25.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Muheua.

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HON MUHEUA / HON IILONGA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Thank you very much, Comrade Assistant Chair for this opportunity and I will be very brief. I rise to support Vote 25, Lands and Resettlement and also to express my profound gratitude to the Minister and the staff for having addressed all but one of the issues that I raised in my maiden speech, which is the issue regarding the skyrocketing prices of commercial farms.

I suggested that a survey should be conducted to determine the value of land per agrarian area according to the carrying capacity. I would like to support Dr Namwandi that the struggle was about land and there is a serious outcry out there for land and if we do not address the question of land, we might be faced with a second *Chimurenga*, something we should avoid at all times.

The commercial land prices are very high, there is no basis for these high prices and it is about time that Government should step in and determine the prices. I am not talking about the improvements on the land, but one should be able to determine the price of land per hectare according to the rainfall and the carrying capacity. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 25.

Comrade Minister, in your statement you indicated the slow pace of land acquisition and distribution, which is caused by the concept of willing seller, willing buyer. I know that we are sensitive about what we died for and that is why we are always laughed at.

We really need to look seriously in the issue of land and the price of land. We must know that there are only two countries in Africa where land is owned by individuals. When are we going to have another look at Chapter 3, which is the holy cow and which makes property right a fundamental right? A

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HON SHIXWAMNEI**

fundamental right for whom? The majority of Namibians are also protected by the same Constitution but they do not have that right. Where are they going to get the money to buy that property? Even the Government itself cannot afford to buy those farms.

The issue of farms being registered as close corporations is another crime being committed, because that is a silent war waged to prevent the Government from getting land. They turn everything into game lodges and if that is the case, their taxes have to be increased to 50%, because those are businesses, so that we do not fall into the trap of Zimbabwe being wrong, while they are not wrong.

I support Vote 25 with that concern that we need to look into the land issue very seriously, because our compatriots who were lucky to be given this land free of charge, tend to say they bought it.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I have only three issues I want to raise and the first is on page 1. The Minister says the process seems to be slow, but I think we need to admit that the whole process is indeed slow and what we need to do is to fast-track land reform. We as a Nation cannot accept that when a lot of money is budgeted for buying farms, we only buy eight farms per annum. That is really very negligible. I would hope that the Minister would be able to fast-track the process of land reform, because otherwise we are going to get to where Zimbabwe ended up. They took it for granted that people perceive it to be slow, but by the time people become angry, you will have farm invasions and, therefore, we need to fast-track the land reform.

On page 5 of the speech, I appreciate the consultations you are doing with stakeholders around the country, namely the commercial farmers and others that are involved, but I feel we probably need to find room to get together in one forum so that we can all talk with one voice as to how fast do we want this whole process of land reform to go. It is my belief that 20 years after

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Independence it is time that we need to sit down as a Nation and discuss. I remember quite a lot of research went into the first National Land Conference and everybody attended, but some issues were overlooked due to the fact that we were entering into reconciliation.

Honourable Minister, 20 years after Independence it is high time that we look at convening a second Land Conference to look at issues that need to be looked at. I am particularly interested in this whole issue of ancestral land rights. We cannot say that is a closed and forgotten chapter. People lost land in this country and now they drive past areas where their ancestors lived hundreds of years ago while they have to live in the reserves. We need to convene a second National Land Conference where we all sit under the same roof and revisit the concessions made in the first National Conference. We could also revisit the progress that has been made, so that people do not discuss it in isolated corners. However, I appreciate the fact that you are consulting and that you want to consolidate the two.

My second-last point is on page 6, the infrastructure improvement programme for resettled farmers. The resettled farmers are mostly in the commercial areas and I want to know why this programme is not extended to people living in the communal areas. I am sure a number of Members here are also farming in the communal areas and they also need support so that they are able to buy livestock and improve their farming activities.

Lastly, when one looks at the consolidation of the two Bills, that is the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Bill and the Communal Land Reform Bill, we have to look at a system that was adopted not so long ago in Zimbabwe, which was recommended by Professor Sam Moyo, where the communal areas, particularly the villages, are turned into trusts, so that these trusts in turn are used as commercial vehicles for villagers to acquire shares in companies, so that the villagers are able to share in the wealth of the Nation. With those few remarks, I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Comrade Ueitele.

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HON UEITELE**

**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 25 of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. I also want to congratulate the former Ministers of Lands, the current one and the Ministry for their efforts to redistribute land to landless Namibians.

My contribution is on page 3, Programme 1 – Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement and I will start there where the Minister said that, “*Namibia has approximately 69 million hectares of agricultural land of which 36,2 million hectares are freehold and 33,4 million hectares are communal or non-freehold. The Ministry has earmarked under the National Resettlement Programme and Affirmative Action Loan Scheme to redistribute 50 million hectares of freehold land by the year 2020.*”

Comrade Minister, I know it is so difficult to give land to all Namibians, but in some parts of our Regions, especially within the Omaheke Region, there is virgin land where you will find those with money erecting kilometres of fences. I still believe that if the Ministry of Lands could demarcate 2,500 hectares into farming units, we could get more than twenty farms to resettle our people. That would lessen the burden of buying farms for resettlement.

I see that Government is trying its utmost best to buy farms for resettlement, but the colleagues who are resettled are sometimes not serious. These farms are turned into *kambashus*, the houses become dilapidated as some of these people cannot maintain the houses. There must be a system whereby the Minister could monitor whether the resettled people are productive and if not, that they be replaced by productive farmers. With this I support Vote 25 of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and I thank you very much.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much. Comrade Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:**

Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. On page 3 of the Minister's motivation speech he dealt with land acquisition, distribution and resettlement. I have been talking about the land question for as long as I have been in this House, because to me it is an emotive issue. It is about me, whether I like it or not, I do not know about others. Sometimes I realise that as Namibians we sometimes do not appreciate the sensitivity of certain issues, but I will remove my emotions from this issue and try to address the programme. My parents were dispossessed of land. Whether one likes it or not, it is a fact. They did not go to Botswana and become refugees for nothing. They were dispossessed of their land and that is a historical fact.

Comrade Minister, I know the Government has policies, but the issue of resettlement needs to be revisited and if the policy needs to be amended, it should be done. Why am I saying so? There are today two, three people who are resettled on a farm of 2,500 or 5,000 hectares and these farms have become unproductive. Some of them are working in town, they have decent jobs, but they were resettled and they are part-time farmers, they do not care about farming.

I would suggest that when we are reconsidering this matter at a national conference or wherever, the resettlement farms should target communities whereby you resettle communities through traditional leaders. For example, the five northern Regions of Namibia are overpopulated, be it Caprivi, be it Kavango, be it Oshana, be it Omusati and their geographical areas are very small. The populations in those areas are growing and the towns and settlements are also taking away their traditional land. You should resettle groups of people on farms bought in those areas rather than individuals who turn out not to utilise the land, which approach is counter-productive. We could approach our traditional leaders in some of these Regions who could recommend groups of people whose land has been taken for development of towns. Then we would be empowering a group of people rather than empowering an individual who has a job in town and then becomes a part-time farmers. Individuals should be resettled through the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme and the resettlement farms should target youth groups or women groups.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

To conclude on that one, some of the former reserves are smouldering volcanoes. The population in former reserves of Omatjete, Otjimbingwe, Karibib and Omaheke is growing and it does not help to take an individual from Omaheke while towns are proclaimed and people find themselves on the street. Let us buy farms adjacent to these reserves in order to expand their size.

Currently we have a situation where people are resettled on farms for 99 years free of charge and when I die my kids will inherit and they just sit on those farms, doing nothing. Apparently what the apartheid Government used to do, they used to lease them for 99 years instead of just giving them for free.

Currently they are getting it free of charge and whether you produce or not, it is forever. This needs to be revisited.

Lastly is on our white Counterparts. Whether we like it or not, these Colleagues are joking. Zimbabwe is not far from here. Let us not think that when you are in the shade, the shade is not moving. The shade is moving and the frustration is growing. These Colleagues are speculating with the land, they can see that this Government is a toothless bulldog, it barks but does not bite. The Government may be a toothless bulldog, but I can tell you that the people in the overcrowded villages will march and then the shade will be gone. These Colleagues must start addressing the issue of land reform seriously and the farms of people who live in Germany must be expropriated with immediate effect. They must start collaborating and not only think of money, because money is always accompanied by blood. I rest my case.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank the Minister. Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. Some of the points I wanted to raise have been taken up by others and I will concentrate on a few that remain.

The first one is with regard to the use of land tax as an instrument for land redistribution. I want to applaud the Ministry for going ahead with the

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introduction of this system. I believe that at this point in time, because the land zoning process is yet to be finalised, we are not able to increase the taxes for those farmers that own excessive land. I think this will be the ideal thing to do, to have a very steep tax scale after what is considered to be an economical farming unit, so that it becomes very expensive for people to hold onto commercial farmland and to be forced to put these farms up for sale to the Government and to those from the previously disadvantaged communities who want to acquire farms. Therefore, it has become very important for us to expedite the process of land zoning and once we have done that, to revisit the land tax system so that we increase the tax rates for those who have excessive land.

Secondly, because the land tax was not introduced primarily to raise funds, but also to consider the land redistribution aspect, I think the previously disadvantaged persons who are acquiring commercial land for the first time should automatically be exempted from land tax, because it does not serve any purpose for the Government to give public funds to AgriBank to advance loans to previously disadvantaged people at subsidised interest rates to acquire farms and then we follow them with land tax again. It is contradictory and we should again look at it from the point of view of equity where we will exempt such persons for one farm or for a total land area that does not exceed an economical farming unit. Beyond that they can then be taxed.

I also want to suggest that we should find a way of facilitating dissemination of information on available commercial land for sale, because it is very difficult to get this information. When you want to buy an erf in town, it is very easy to go around town and look for these boards that say "*for sale*". You cannot go all around the country to look for commercial farms which are for sale and there must be a system that would assist these people to know which land is for sale.

Thirdly, I want to amplify the point that was raised by Honourable Kazenambo with regard to land acquisition. I think for purposes of providing extension services to the resettled farmers, it is important for us to consider a targeted land acquisition programme, so that we do not just buy the farms that are offered to us. Today it is one in Aus, the next day one that side and it is very difficult to provide the resettled people with schools, clinics, clean water and all the other support that they need because they are scattered all over the

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place. We should have that targeted area where we say it is good for crop farming, we want to buy five or six farms and then we can provide them with all the support that they need.

I know that the extension services provision is a challenge to the Ministry because the Ministry is not equipped to provide technical extension services in the area of farming and, therefore, coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture becomes very important. It is also important for us to utilise the graduates from the agricultural colleges, because these people will not only be useful for purposes of providing extension services to the resettled farmers, but they can also be empowered. In fact these graduates render themselves suitable to be resettled because they have the skills in farming and they can give us our success stories in this land reform programme.

Finally, I should thank the Ministry for finally deciding to set aside a portion of the funds in the Land Acquisition Fund to assist resettled farmers, because this is an issue that we have been reiterating in this House repeatedly. The Ministry has now put aside an amount that will be used, in cooperation with AgriBank, to assist these people to put their land to use and we have also allocated money on the Budget to AgriBank for the next three years in order for them to give productive loans. I understand the Ministry is now thinking about amending the Act in order to make that possible, for all previously disadvantaged farmers so that our Land Reform Programme becomes really integrated. We cannot only concentrate on land acquisition, because land acquisition alone is not going to bring about empowerment and equity. We are redistributing land because land is an important means of production, but by itself it is worthless unless it can be put to productive use. Therefore, the programme should be integrated, incorporating all the essential aspects of land reform in order to make a success of the new farmers that we resettle. With that, I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. The Minister may reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Assistant Chair of the Whole House Committee. I want to thank all the Members of this august House for the time they have taken in primarily raising comments and also those who supported Vote 25.

If you allow me, I will start with the process of distributing land, both the Resettlement Programme as well as the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. This is of equal concern of the Ministry and I will not repeat what you have said with regard to the attitude of some sectors of our society, they are probably best placed to know how they are behaving in terms of support or lack thereof with regard to the programmes of our Government consistent with the approach of nation-building and reconciliation. We are seized with the approach on a daily basis, trying our utmost to get them on board, but it is a long process.

20 Years since Independence appear too long, but I know of countries who have been independent for 200 years that are still grappling with the issues that we as a Nation are grappling with. All I can say is that we should not give up on one another, we should try and engage them and there are definitely positive signs. We have probably been saying for the past twenty years that we must engage them and we are still engaging them. Let us hope that they will eventually change for the better.

*Honourable Muheua* said that prices are sky-rocketing. Yes, the struggle was about land and we have to find a solution as nationals. Frustrations are omnipresent and it should not end there. We must engage the people who have land. It is probably immaterial how they have obtained that land. We know it, but the approach is that we should get them to accept what we are telling them, because anything short of that would usher in perceptions and things could develop in a way that would probably not be opportune at this point in time while we still believe that we can reach out to one another.

*Honourable Ilonga* mentioned the slow pace caused by the willing seller, willing buyer, Chapter 3 of the Constitution which is a holy cow and the fundamental issues therein contained. That is the reality of the present-day Namibia. We can say many things about it, but that is the reality. Chapter 3 enshrines provisions in our Constitution and that is unfortunately the way we have to go as a Nation.

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HON !NARUSEB**

We can get frustrated, but when I was young and I buy a watch through Mohameday's and it was not working, I put it on a stone – and there are plenty of stones in Otjimbingwe and Usakos – and I was hammering it. But can I do it now? We have to be able to deal with situations that we do not necessarily like, but we have to manage them and as citizens and leaders we must be able to get the other people to understand what we are trying to do. Otherwise there are so many talks about regime change and they might see our attitude as an opportunity to get those who are probably waiting in the wings to come on board and take our country in a direction that none of us would want it to go.

*Honourable Shixwameni*, we want to fast-track this process of land acquisition. The way you know me, it is simply frustrating if you look at our background as a Nation, if you look at the process of land dispossession and how it has impacted on our different communities – some probably more than others. When you are a product of that background and you are the Minister of Lands, today people are streaming to your office on a daily basis, demanding, crying, explaining to you that they are even being denied putting their loved ones to rest on farms where their forefathers were staying. However, because of the parameters in terms of policies that we as a Nation are expected to function under, you are left naked, you cannot do anything. You are unable to assist them constructively because we consistently follow the letter and spirit of our policies, although you know their forefathers hail from that area.

If you for instance take !Ao-/Aexas, which is today referred to as Daan Viljoen, I must tell that community that they cannot go there and bury their loved ones. I am a member of that group, but today it is private ground and that is the reality. I would be one of the first ones to fast-track this process, but we must plan, we must be smart in the way we deal with these issues so that other people who want us to act in haste should not be able to find loopholes to use our good intentions to our disadvantage. That is the issue here.

All of us hear the pronouncements with regard to the convening of a second land conference, but we must also be cognisant of the fact, as you have correctly stated, Honourable Shixwameni, that the Land Conference was in 1991, barely a year after our Independence, and the prevailing circumstances then that prompted us to take the approach that we did in terms of totally disregarding any talk about ancestral land and many other things. People were talking about the spirit of Nation building, reconciliation and so many other

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issues and that reality probably needs to be revisited, but is something that we as a Nation can jointly decide. No single Minister can sit in his office and coin an approach that we have a second Land Conference. We as a Nation have to look into that and decide accordingly.

You mentioned the infrastructure improvement programme and asked why communal land areas are not included. The whole thrust with the efforts of the Government, as spearheaded by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, with this initiative of harmonising the two Acts that deal with land administration in our country is primarily, to make it possible that land is treated equally in this country, so that those who are farming in communal areas will also, through the provisions of the Act, have access to the Land Acquisition Fund created through the Commercial Land Reform Act, resettled farmers who find themselves on commercial land can those also make use of the available facilities through this fund.

You mentioned the idea of a trust and there was a book that was circulated by one Latin American writer which spread a good message. Maybe it would do us well if Honourable Members obtain a copy of that book which was circulated in the National Assembly some time back and read it.

*Honourable Ueitele*, thank you for congratulating my predecessors, myself and the staff. These farms which we are paying exorbitant prices for were started as small-scale farming units some years ago and that is already part and parcel of the Ministry's approach. It is fairly advanced in some areas where we have what is referred to as small-scale farming units, demarcated in sizes ranging from 2,000 hectares to 2,500 hectares. Having studied similar examples in Botswana, we believe that the way to go is to develop our communal land and I thank you for strengthening our approach.

Resettled farmers should not be seen as people from somewhere else. They behave as any other human being. If a teacher or a food scientist sometimes behaves in a way that is not socially acceptable, then we should not think that resettled farmers as human beings would act any differently. The secret is for those of us entrusted to uplift them, to empower them through passing on skills, so that they would be able to appreciate that to get a farm of 2 000 hectares and you did not pay for it, something should be awakened in the mindset of our people to start to appreciate the good things coming their way

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HON !NARUSEB**

through the efforts of our Government on their behalf.

*Honourable Kazenambo*, as usual I am so happy that you have controlled your emotions. I am told there were so many battles, pre- colonial battles and after 26 August 1966 until we concluded with that battle in Cuito Cuanavale. If it was about land, we as a Nation probably need to sit back and reflect whether we are paying the requisite importance to dealing with the land question in our country. That is an open question, probably more philosophical than it is clear.

I do not want to negate the social upliftment that we attach to education, health and probably to our defence, but if you juxtapose the allocations to those Votes to the allocation to land acquisition, then as a Nation we have to think about it.

You said we should target communities needing land through Traditional Authorities and I think that is an approach worth listening to. The Traditional Authorities are already involved, but to target large groups of citizens to be relocated on resettlement farms adjacent to the communal areas could alleviate over-grazing in communal areas, because that is a practical reality. The examples I know are Otjimbingwe, Okombahe, Omatjete, Ovitoto and so many others.

I also think the leasehold of 99 years is too long, but it is following the pattern of what has been happening since time immemorial. If it is really relevant for us to adjust the contractual terms with regard to leasehold, why not?

I do not want to dwell too much on our white compatriots. They know what they are doing, they know their attitude. The lawyers assist them to find very innovative approaches to sidestep the provisions of the law and that is really the essence of the Amendments that we are in the process of concluding. It is fairly advanced and in the interim period we will have some Amendments that will fast-track the process. They may end up on the table of Cabinet in the not so distant future and we are really planning to deal with it, but we do not want to talk too much.

*Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila*, what more can I say on the land tax after you stated your case so eloquently? The Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries simply need to request exemption, but I noted that you said it needs to be an automatic exemption and we shall look into that. There

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HON MUSHELENGA**

are so many beneficiaries that I hope there is not a conflict of interest.

We do not advertise farms which are for sale, but we are compiling a list on a weekly or monthly basis and if there is no legal impediment, I do not know why we should not do that.

The land reform targeted areas sounds like a good idea, but as much as you would like to target an area, does it necessarily mean that you would find farms that are for sale?

On the extension services, we have a very good working relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and terms of reference by our appointing authority to work together and it has been extremely well.

I want to thank all the Honourable Members for their interest and their contributions.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 25? Agreed to.

Vote 06 – “**POLICE**” is put for Discussion.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My comment is on the programmes on crime prevention and border control.

I must applaud the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, and his able Deputy, Honourable Utoni for the progress with crime prevention, especially for the construction or refurbishment of the police stations.

Coming to border control, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I must state that last year I had an opportunity to visit some of the border stations where our police officers are stationed to control our borders. I was trying to see whether under the stations to be refurbished or constructed I

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HON KAIYAMO / HON KASINGO**

will see the Dobe Police Station. That is one at Tsumkwe, going to Botswana. I would want the Minister to visit that station because much needs to be done there, because the conditions in which our police officers operate at that station really need to be improved as a matter of urgency.

This is all I wanted to say. I have so many things, but I can always see the Minister or the Deputy Minister on their own time. I thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kaiyamo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** I want to support the Vote and add that the police are doing good work. My only question is on the accommodation of the police. I would like to know whether they are still going to stay in these tents. They are doing good work, they are really patriotic but some of our officials are refusing to go to the borders, but the police are always ready. Are we going to do something about the accommodation especially at the borders?

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank the Honourable Member. Comrade Kasingo.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank you for the Floor. I have to congratulate the Minister and his Deputy and I wish you wisdom from above to manage this important portfolio, because we all know safety and security is a condition of *sine quo non* without which we cannot do anything.

Having said that, my comment is on combating of crime and I would like to limit myself to the investigations by the police, which lead to arrests, in particular when a crime has been committed and the fingerprints taken. I would just like to know how long will it take for the fingerprints to be processed. I am asking this because I happen to be a victim of criminal

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activities. My house was broken into in November while I was out on a mission. I have to thank the police that they acted swiftly and took fingerprints, but up to now there have been not results.

I also agree with your statement that criminal activities are societal phenomena. Some of us have been talking about this for years and our proposals are contained in the HANSARD. I agree that the criminals are diversifying their criminal activities and they come up with all sorts of terminologies. One is “tendering”, which means you have a person whom you trust, working in your house and he has been tendered by the others. I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister that sometimes the victims have a reasonable suspicion who the criminals are. In my case I have a reasonable suspicion that this criminal activity was done by the youngsters, because they were searching for money, the mattress cut as they were probably looking for money. Fortunately, they got drunk and at the end of the day they just left the television there. Had it been somebody else, my house could have been emptied. My question is how long will it take for the fingerprints to be processed.

My second comment is on the promotion of the VIP members who are protecting our houses and driving us. I would like to propose that there should be automatic promotion from constable to sergeant after they have worked for at least three years. The drivers of the Ministers are very important officials and they ask us to write motivations so that they can be promoted.

I was asked respectfully by the police that we, the politicians, must have the structures of the police so that we can respect them. This request was also made previously, but I do not think it will be a problem to be repeated. They asked me to tell my people that they must respect their ranks. I support Vote 06.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Simataa.

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18 May 2010

**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON SIMATTAA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:**

Thank you very much, Comrade Assistant Chair. I will not agree with the Honourable Minister any less in terms of the emphasis that he is putting on the need for Namibia to maintain peace and security, the reason being obvious and for the term of office that I will be in this august House, I will continue to be a very keen supporter of particularly issues pertaining to peace and security. It is through peace and security, and by extension, stability, that we can have orderly participation in the democratic process in this country. It is through peace and security that we can continue to harness the potential of tourism, particularly in terms of creating employment and in terms of foreign exchange that could assist the country.

Whilst we acknowledge that tourism is a potential growth sector, we also need to recognise that it is one of the sectors which is very sensitive to instability and a lack of security in any given country.

However, my specific intervention is on border control where I feel, resources permitting, we need to allocate more resources to border control. My reasoning is very simple: If we can strengthen border control and be in a situation where we can detect and prevent certain cross-border criminal activities, we would be doing an excellent job in terms of preventing the possibility and the likelihood of criminals committing crimes within the borders of Namibia.

One thing that I did not detect here under border control is the important element of curbing cross-border cattle rustling activities, particularly for border Regions such as the Caprivi and many others, because that affects some of us who are distant communal farmers. I somehow missed cross border control.

The other suggestion that I want to make is a long-term suggestion, namely to investigate ways of acquiring a helicopter and other aircraft. May I suggest that maybe some of these helicopters, depending on their numbers, should be strategically placed in certain critical border areas, so that at least they can serve two or three Regions with rapid response and arrest perpetrators before they cross into neighbouring countries.

In short, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, that is the intervention that I wanted to make and I support the Vote.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06**  
**HON TWEYA**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Comrade Tweya.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have three questions and the first one is on page 3. What happens to the career development of the police officers who are deployed to the various foreign missions, be it Sierra Leone, Haiti, Sudan, etcetera? If they are, for example, posted for three years as Constables, do they remain Constables until they return or are they evaluated in terms of their own career growth, so that there is also a bit of an incentive, that you do not go out for five years, representing your country, get back and remain a Constable.

I am aware that they are remunerated with US Dollars and financially they may be better off, but certainly, when they get back, one would also not like to see that your peers are five steps ahead of you. This may discourage the commitment of these Namibians who are serving in these missions.

The second question is on page 5, Comrade Minister, and that is in paragraph 2 which refers to the outstanding cases, that the Force dealt with 236,000 plus cases and only managed to clear 90,000. Clearly the criminals are becoming more complex. Instead of the Ministry's training programme, does the Ministry have a specialised training programme in place to counteract the minds of the criminals, so that they are also a step ahead and not five steps behind the criminals?

The third question relates to the number of police officers that for one or the other reason left the Force for perceived greener pastures at other Government agencies, such as the Anti-Corruption Commission and this perception is becoming a reality, that when they feel they no longer want to serve the Namibian Government through the Police Force, they just walk over to a higher salary at the Anti-Corruption Commission. There is this wrong perception that as if it is a grudge against others because it is higher pay compared to one being in the Police Force. They do some investigations which by nature were supposed to have been done by normal police officers or ordinary secretaries on missing money and now it goes to the Anti-Corruption Commission as if it is a serious corruption case. Some pure theft cases are

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06**  
**HON AMATHILA**

being investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission officers who may have dealt with the same case while they were in the Police Force. Is there perhaps some working relationship in one way or another, so that you do not train them, they do not do what they are supposed to do and just the next day find themselves on the other side, better remunerated than in the previous position? Is there perhaps that kind of harmonisation of these two Forces?

With those three questions, I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Ben Amathila.

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**HON AMATHILA:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would have loved to continue where the last speaker ended and that is page 6, that maybe the Ministry seriously considers to employ a strategy of retaining the people that it has, meaning that they should not allow a situation to develop where they are going to lose their best, forcing them to retrain and train people afresh. There seems to be a very strong competition and I am aware of the fact that many people leave for either the Army, the City Police or the private sector because of conditions that the Ministry of Safety and Security cannot provide. If the Minister could study what the others are doing better, not to lose your loyal and well-trained police officers.

With regard to page 9, I recall that when I was the Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security about four and a half years ago, the Committee made a recommendation to the Ministry of Safety and Security that the Ministry should consider putting up a programme for breeding and training horses for patrol purposes and also breeding sniffer and tracker dogs and training programmes. Obviously this has not been followed, maybe for a good reason.

About three months ago I came across very hardworking, diligent police officers in the district of Omaruru, trying to track a person who ran away from legal custody. This person was involved in a murder case and managed to escape from the cells. The police were there with their cars, tracking the

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON MWANINGANGE**

spoons and they could not penetrate the bushes, they did not have dogs to help them and this person was just running up and down all the time. I was later told that they lost the track of this particular person, to the extent that he has up to now not been apprehended. Maybe the Honourable Minister would like to consider that programme again. At least with horses you would be able to be one step ahead. Horses can be used to patrol our borders and enhance our security. I am pretty sure that when you start developing a training programme for sniffer and tracker dogs, the private farm owners will be able to buy the surplus dogs which you cannot use.

The area of Omaruru and Omatjete is infested with cattle rustlers. It is not only in Katima and the Caprivi as the Honourable Colleague mentioned, where people, using information from the farm workers, are always one step ahead of the police. I am not saying the police are not doing their level best. There is a young man who is the head of the police in Erongo who has been doing very well under very difficult conditions. Comrade Minister, if you could consider breeding programmes, because buying those dogs and horses would be very expensive, but breeding them and getting trainers will certainly help the situation all over the country. I thank you very much and I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much. Comrade Mwaningange.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members. My comments are on the combating of crime on pages 6 and 7. First of all, Comrade Assistant Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is really pleasing to note that our Police Force after 20 years has gained ground as far as the combating of crime is concerned and my congratulations go to the Honourable Minister who previously headed the Ministry. Indeed, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba and your Deputy, you have to continue where the others left off and uplift the Force in terms of advanced technology in the combating of crime.

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, there was a time when the police relied on very few vehicles and two-way radios, but today cell phones are very useful in

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON NAMWANDI**

the combating of crime. I would like to ask whether there is special provision for those stations and sub-stations in the remote areas of our country where the roads are not good and the cell phones would be useful for the police to deal with very sophisticated criminals. Criminals are also using cell phones to avoid being arrested by the police and therefore there is a need to equip our Police Force with modern technology.

Secondly, our new and major police stations in the country are well-equipped, but some sub-stations are operated from sub-standard structures or offices which were built by the community. Some stations have been there since 1995 and our police are there, but those are traditional structures or tents. Could we not make use of mobile caravans where the communities have built small stations?

Having said that, I want to comment on the roadblock services, especially the permanent control points. The one at Brakwater is in order, but others countrywide need shade. The police officers stand in the sun all day and if it is raining, they are not protected at all. They are even forced to allow some vehicles to pass improperly checked because it is raining. I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Comrade Namwandi.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Comrade Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to be very brief. I rise to support Vote 06 with the following few comments:

The level of sophistication of criminals, which automatically has increased criminal activities, is something which should concern the Ministry and the country at large. I am very happy indeed that the Minister is stressing the importance of a highly trained and motivated Police Force, because motivation is very, very important in any set-up. Hopefully our policemen and women are motivated.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON EKANDJO**

I am equally pleased to know that the Minister places emphasis on a commensurately remunerated Force. I believe the Minister has placed this emphasis on a commensurately remunerated Force because there is a need to review the current remuneration. May I ask the Minister to reveal to this House the percentage of the N\$1,8 billion that would be used for the salaries of the men and women in uniform?

There is a rumour, which I think is true, that there is a shortage of vehicles in the Ministry. Sometimes criminal activities are reported and then the response is that there is no vehicle. What percentage of that N\$1,8 billion is allocated to vehicles?

My other comments have already been mentioned, but what is important is that because of the sophistication of the criminal activities in the country, it is important for us to equip our men and women accordingly to fight criminal activities head-on. I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Comrade Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Chair, our Police Force needs our support countrywide and the country is big, the areas are vast with a small population of two million people and the police vehicles run 24 hours. Therefore, the police need our wholehearted support and the Government must do everything in its power to support the police.

During the Independence celebrations or political rallies or any kind of gathering I have observed that when the National Anthem is being sung, in some instances the police on duty will stand at attention or when a reverend or somebody prays, they take off their hats and they pray. I feel whether the National Anthem is sung or people pray, they should guard and do their duty, because anything can happen. Otherwise the police are doing a wonderful job. I thank you.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON UEITELE / HON NAMBAHU**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Comrade Ueitele.

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**HON UEITELE:** I thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I also rise to support Vote 06 of the Ministry of Safety and Security. I only have one concern and that is on the disappearance of docket. You never hear of a docket disappearing in a shoplifting case, it is just the docket of some high-ranking people. Are these docket with the Investigating Officers or the Regional Commanders or where are they kept? Comrade Minister, we must find a mechanism where we ensure that these docket are safe, because it is so painful if a relative or a Namibian citizen has been killed, but the docket has just disappeared and the case is thrown out.

My other question is just for the sake of interest. The Comrade Minister has mentioned classes of police stations. I just want to know what are the classes all about. Is it the sizes of the police stations or how are they classified as Class A or Class B? I support the Vote and I thank you very much.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much. Comrade Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I only want to make reference to one point on page 9 and that is the crime combating strategy.

I feel it is a commendable approach that there is a strategy for combating crime and I think that strategy cascades into a Regional, community and constituency strategy of combating crime, but there is also another aspect and I do not know whether the Comrade Minister has considered including it and that is the crime prevention strategy. Will it be an integrated crime prevention and combating strategy or will you separate it? Even when we say people should support the police, they should do it according to the strategy. The police cannot do this without the support of the community and they should do it in according to the

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HON MBUMBA**

laid down strategy and that strategy should dovetail into a Regional, constituency sub-strategy and should also be adapted to the crime prevalent in a given Region, because crime is not necessarily the same everywhere. Drug abuse is not necessarily the same in all the Regions and, therefore, this strategy should also be owned by those who are not necessarily in the police so that they could give proper support to the police. It should be integrated in such a way that it is multi-disciplinary and those other stakeholders, either the church, youth organisation and Political Parties, cannot say your church is against that but my church is not against it or my youth organisations is not against it or my Party does not talk about this. We must have a strategy that is shared by everybody.

My last comment is on these security organisations which are all around. Who register these organisations? These are the persons who come and put an alarm in your room, they know everything about you and I do not see any confidential clause for the person not to reveal this type of information to anyone. Now you have the police guarding you, but they have never been in your bedroom and you are happy, you do not even know whether this person has link somewhere outside. Come the day of reckoning, you will be dead.

Therefore, I want to exercise our minds on who is actually regulating these people, where are the confidential clauses, what information can they reveal or not reveal so that we understand. With these remarks I support the Vote.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. The Minister may reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, all Honourable Members who participated and made recommendations on things to be aware of, things to take care of, etcetera.

Firstly, we appreciate that there is a general support for the people who protect us, our lives, our properties, our cattle, our money, including our borders. There is no special consideration that some people's cattle are more protected than others. Forget about that, we protect everything that needs to be

protected.

The need for the police to be trained is recognised, but they need accommodation, because every time you create a sub-station there is manpower deployment and naturally you cannot wait until you have a building there before you deploy. If the community needs something, then you do assign the police to do so and the easiest way to do it is to put a tent there. Once you have put a tent there and deployed three or five police officers, you think you have solved the problem, but you have not yet solved the problem. We have N\$139 million for Capital Projects and that is not even enough for a major building in Windhoek, but that is the money we have. When you talk about vehicles, you need money, training costs money, putting up the Joseph Kaundu Training Centre east of Gobabis and Ondangwa Training Centre for the police officers costs money. You have to train these young people with equipment that costs money.

We have one single helicopter and most likely we can get a second one this year or next year and they are strategically used only when there are cases. For example, children went on an excursion and this very active child was ahead of the others. We spent weeks looking for that child and up to now we have not found him. It is money spent, it is the life of a young person. When vaccinations have to be done, there are certain areas where you cannot reach, especially in Kunene North and water issues in Eastern Caprivi. Then you use the helicopter for strategic reasons. Then we have my sister Netumbo's elephants. Some elephants are so clever, they get out of Etosha Pan and when they hear the sound of the helicopter, they go back. You will never have a helicopter for each Region and please, let us not get too much ahead of ourselves.

We have a number of cooperation agreements with countries on the training of senior officers and I do not think I need to mention which countries are cooperating with us on what. Our people are sent for training to our neighbours and major international powers, but we first have to train the youngsters who are joining the Police Force and identify who has leadership for what and then we prepare them for further training.

There was also a question on the amount of money spent on salaries. 80% Of the Budget of the Police goes to salaries and it is the same in all major

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06**  
**HON MBUMBA**

Ministries with a lot of people. Even if you think the salaries are low, once you have ten thousand individuals to be paid, the money goes.

The officers assigned to international duties at the African Union or the United Nations are the very top ones because they are properly selected. They are semi-intelligence, semi-police officers and even semi-diplomats. They are going to interact with people from other countries who are very well trained and therefore, they have nothing to lose. Actually, it is the best chance you have for possible promotion, because you get a medal that you have served in Cambodia. We are even wasting time sending people to Somalia, people who cannot even organise themselves, but as Africans we have a duty to help our friends. Somalia is really a unique case.

*Honourable Mushelenga*, you are my cousin, never say nice things to your uncles, that is not fair to others. As I said already, it is our duty to visit border stations, police stations and prisons. I heard of Education who visit schools, Health who visits hospitals, Home Affairs and Immigration who visit their stations and we too have a duty to visit all those border stations and actually it is the instruction from the appointing authority.

Then my sister whose house was broken into, it is really a pity. You know, criminals do not even have an understanding of power or beauty, they just break and steal. I hope those who tampered with your properties will one day be caught. We are trying to automate the fingerprinting system so that it is much faster, but honestly, right now I cannot give you a specific time.

On the promotion of the police officers who guard Government properties and who even guard Parliament, I do not think they can be separated from other officers. The fact that you belong to this or that unit does not mean you will get preferential treatment and they will follow the structures as established by the Police Force and in line with international practices. Let us not create the impression that we will pay our drivers and security better. We want all the police officers to be remunerated according to rank and status.

*Comrade Simataa*, I think I have answered on the issue of cattle and helicopters. We will really benefit from the information technology. We have a new Permanent Secretary who is an IT-savvy and he will help us.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON MBUMBA**

*Honourable Tweya*, the outstanding cases include security, policing, prisons and also justice and that room is sometimes too large and it takes time for you to complete it.

We should not over-emphasise the issue of greener pastures. How many police officers can the Anti-Corruption Commission hire in one year? They will take one here, one there, and it is really not an issue that they can deplete the Police Force and we continue to train. We will continue to remunerate and train and retrain the best of our officers and promote them so that they are not taken by other institutions.

*Honourable Amathila* mentioned the introduction of horses and sniffer dogs. We will be celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Police Force. We will have a Police Day later and we will invite all Honourable Members to a programme to give you a full picture of the Police Force and what we have and to not have. There will also be a demonstration where everybody can see.

Training was already mentioned. I come from a training background and I want my police officers to be trained. All of us come from that background.

*Honourable Mwaningange*, we want to give thanks and appreciation not only to the most recent Ministers like Minister Iyambo, but also the ones who have been there such as my senior brother, Peter Tshirumbu Tsheehama. They have established and given a status to this position, that they are people who are committed, that they are people who can communicate to other institutions that are familiar with security and defence of countries. We will always appreciate what they have done and the foundation they have laid.

The standing of police officers in the public eye is earned, it is not given. The police officer that does well, that solves problems, combats crime will increase the status. Cell phones are available, even my farm workers are using cell phones.

The issue of shade at roadblocks is a question of resources. In Walvis Bay they decided they are going to have a police station in the harbour and it is the community who decided and we said we will work with them to have a police station in the harbour. There is a small station to be created at Kapps Farm.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON MBUMBA**

The land was given by the community and the Inspector General of Police opened that station two weeks ago. It is the community who is involved and we appreciate that.

*Dr Namwandi*, I have answered on the training and the vehicles and as I said already, the salaries have to be in line with the structures.

*Comrade Ekandjo*, there are international standards when the National Anthem is being sung. They do not close their eyes, they take off their hats and it is a form of salute. However, it does not mean that if you disturb the peace at that moment, they cannot shoot at you or grab you and wrestle you to the ground. Let us not interfere with certain structures that are already well-established.

The issue of the missing dockets is the most embarrassing thing that can ever happen, because basically it means there are criminals outside and criminals inside and I do not want this to be called the cases of high-ranking people, they are criminals, that is all. High-ranking for what? High-ranking for stealing?

We agree to the sharing of strategies. I have covered everything, give me the money and I will ensure that the police do their job.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection to Vote 06? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The business of the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:40 UNTIL 2010.05.19 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
19 MAY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, kindly take note of the following announcement: That in terms of Rule 38(6) of the Standing Rules and Orders, I hereby announce that the following Members have been nominated by their respective Political Parties to serve on the following committees of the National Assembly and other bodies:

**Standing Committee on Privileges**

Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab  
Honourable Ben Amathila  
Honourable Justus Garoëb  
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi  
Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele

**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua  
Honourable Agnes Tjongarero  
Honourable Dr Moses Amweelo  
Honourable Juliet Kavetuna  
Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni  
Honourable Arnold Tjihuike  
Honourable Simson Tjongarero  
Honourable Sophia Swartz  
Honourable Piet Van Der Walt

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**NOMINATIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES  
HON KASINGO**

**Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs**

Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele  
Honourable Elifas Dingara  
Honourable Justus Garoëb  
Honourable Juliet Kavetuna  
Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube  
Honourable Billy Mwaningange  
Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni  
Honourable Arnold Tjihuiko  
Honourable Ben Ulenga

**Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security**

Honourable Paulus Kapia  
Honourable Festus Ueitele  
Honourable Justus Garoëb  
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi  
Honourable Billy Mwaningange  
Honourable Kuaima Riruako  
Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni  
Honourable Ben Ulenga  
Honourable Lucia Witbooi

**Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration**

Honourable Ben Amathila  
Honourable Dr Moses Amweelo  
Honourable Maureen Jankowski  
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi  
Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua  
Honourable Arnold Tjihuiko  
Honourable Simson Tjongarero  
Honourable Piet Van Der Walt

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**NOMINATIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES  
HON KASINGO**

**Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development**

Honourable Juliet Kavetuna  
Honourable Elifas Dingara  
Honourable Maureen Jankowski  
Honourable Kuaima Riruako  
Honourable Agnes Tjongarero  
Honourable Festus Ueitele  
Honourable Ben Ulenga

**Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology**

Honourable Dr Moses Amweelo  
Honourable Elifas Dingara  
Honourable Sylvia Makgone  
Honourable Sophia Swartz  
Honourable Agnes Tjongarero  
Honourable Lucia Witbooi

**Standing Committee on Women and Gender**

Honourable Sylvia Makgone  
Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube  
Honourable Paulus Kapia  
Honourable Sophia Swartz  
Honourable Lucia Witbooi

**SADC Parliamentary Forum:**

Honourable Elifas Dingara  
Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube  
Honourable Billy Mwaningange  
Honourable Ben Ulenga

**Inter-Parliamentary Union**

Honourable Dr Moses Amweelo  
Honourable Maureen Jankowski

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**NOMINATIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES  
HON KASINGO**

Honourable Maamberua  
Honourable Sylvia Makgone  
Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni  
Honourable Arnold Tjihuike  
Honourable Agnes Tjongarero  
Honourable Simson Tjongarero  
Honourable Piet Van Der Walt

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**

Honourable Justus Garoëb  
Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua  
Honourable Juliet Kavetuna  
Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube  
Honourable Lucia Witbooi  
Honourable Festus Ueitele  
Honourable Elifas Dingara  
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi

**Pan-African Parliament**

Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi  
Honourable Loide Kasingo  
Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele  
Honourable John Hakaye

Those are the Members submitted and agreed upon after consultations with the different Political Parties. I urge the other parties to submit the names of their Members.

Secondly, I would like to humbly request the Committees to go and elect their leadership. I now declare these Members as duly appointed Members of the said Committees with immediate effect.

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

19 May 2010

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON AMWEELO**

**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 14, 20 and 21 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Geingob.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to give this House an update on the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations with the European Union.

Over the past months a number of important developments have occurred. It may be recalled that in our SADC negotiating group, four States, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland, signed the interim EPA in mid-2009. Angola, Namibia and South Africa decided not to sign.

Thereafter the European Commission pushed for notification of the interim EPA to the World Trade Organisation and its ratification and implementation by those who signed. Doing so would certainly have resulted in the exclusion of Namibia from the current access that we have to the European market and very significantly, also probably the break-up of the Southern African Customs Union.

Despite the serious strains within SACU, the five Member States made a strong effort to reunite and they proposed a way forward that would keep the SACU Members together. We decided to call a meeting in early 2010 in South Africa to discuss the matter. We have agreed that notification, ratification and

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR GEINGOB**

implementation of interim EPA by those who have signed, should not be prioritised unless focus has been made in addressing the internal and external unresolved negotiating issues that still exist. This include the alignment of market access tariff offers, rules of origin issues, safeguarding the agreements reached during the Swakopmund meeting, explaining the remaining unresolved issues and a firm commitment from the European Commission with respect to inclusion of these solutions in the final EPA. We also stressed that we should from then focus on the negotiation of final EPA that would include the safeguards that we seek and which could be supported by all the parties, in these efforts to also obtain the support of Angola and Mozambique, the other two Members of the SADC-EPA negotiating group.

Consequently, a letter was sent to the EU to strongly emphasise that from then on there will be consultation before, after and between the meetings. We also requested a meeting of the new Commissioner to continue with negotiations on the EPAs. To our dismay, this was wildly and in a condescending manner rejected by the new European Trade Commission, Mr Karel de Gucht who replaced Baroness Catherine Ashton.

At the recent SACU Summit in Windhoek, we had to regroup and consider our response. We agreed as SACU Members that we would once again need to examine the risk that each Member State faces in signing or not signing. The meeting at which States will put up what they will gain by signing or lose by not signing is scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 in Botswana. After that meeting there is a proposed summit of SACU Heads of State at which we will comprehensively report for the Heads of State to take the final decision.

All too often we are forced to sign agreements that eventually hounds us. Take the example of the International Criminal Court. We signed the Charter, but now we feel that this Court is only targeting African leaders. The US Secretary of State Ms Clinton's, visit to Kenya provides a telling illustration. She urged the Government of Kenya to bring the people who have committed post-election atrocities to the International Criminal Court. A CNN journalist pointed out to her that the United States had not signed the International Criminal Court Charter, allegedly because it is not good for the Americans, how could it be good then for the Kenyans? Her response was simply, and I would like you to listen to this: "*We did not sign, Kenya did.*" Thus, my personal position on any agreement is that no agreement is better than a bad

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agreement. If you have signed a bad agreement, you must be ready to live with the consequences.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not wish to exaggerate the challenges that we are facing, but if the five Member States of SACU cannot find a solution for this problem, it may well spell the end of the Customs Union as we know it now. This issue is divisive, we have been warning that Europe is going to divide Africa. We are supposed to have deeper integration of SACU and SADC. We said they are dividing us, they denied that, but I am saying, watch out that this is not the beginning of the end of SACU.

A solution is, nevertheless, not simply for Namibia to concede and sign the agreement. We cannot sign an agreement just for the sake of giving in to the demands of the other side. Signing holds serious economic and policy consequences for Namibia. For example, if we sign, we would have to forfeit the policy option of using export taxes on raw materials as an important incentive for value addition to raw materials and as a potentially important new source of revenue. Uranium is a big source of income. We have a right as a sovereign country to tax, but that is going to be left out, you do not touch them.

This we are expected to do at a time when it is a national priority to diversify our sources of revenue to mitigate the declining revenues from SACU and tariff liberalisation in general. At the same time, our constituencies are demanding tougher measures against the exports of raw materials. We will also have to abandon our current system of infant industry protection in favour of a far much weaker system demanded by the European Commission. This requirement goes directly against our efforts to industrialise and would leave several industries that are currently benefiting from such protection completely exposed. We may have to wave goodbye to our dairy and pasta industries.

We would, furthermore, have to abolish all forms of quantitative restrictions on imports and exports if we sign. We should risk all our past achievements in horticultural and cereal production. As you know, we were depending too much on the import of food in the past, everything was coming from South Africa, but today, because of this policy, 30% of those vegetables are sold by our own Small and Medium Enterprises.

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Our advances towards food security and rural development were made by creating secure markets for our producers by restricting imports of fruit, vegetables and cereals. I fear that all our past investments in the Green Scheme, horticultural marketing, grain storage, agricultural expansion and value addition to food products would be lost and we would seriously discard rural economies and the livelihoods of thousands of small farmers. This alone is actually reason enough not to sign this agreement. We should not be expected by anyone calling themselves our friends to create such instability in our rural areas.

There are other instances which I will not elaborate on now, such as the most favoured Nation treatment demanded by the EU at the cost of future South-South trade relations, the unacceptable definition of parties that would create conflicts in how we operate as SACU and SADC and so on.

It is for fear of destabilising effects that measures such as these would have on our economy that we have not been able to sign the interim EPA so far.

Remarkably, for almost all of these problems we have already negotiated solutions with the European Union at Swakopmund, as a matter of fact. The European Commission, for reasons known best to them, has steadfastly refused to properly safeguard these solutions, either by making amendments to the IEPA, issuing a strong declaration, or by guaranteeing their inclusion in the final EPA.

We are currently taking of the European Union and we get the benefit of duty free market access by virtue of having initialled the interim EPA. This was so arranged to enable the European Union to meet their arrangements under the COTONOU Agreement with the ECP countries, namely that no one country should be worse off as a result of the EPA negotiations and I hope they are hearing that.

Some might think that we are free-riding in the European market. This I absolutely reject. The contrary is true. Our market is full of European products, heavily subsidised products, such as long-life milk, cheese, butter, chocolate, rice, wheat, wine, beer and other processed agricultural products imported on terms that we never agreed to. This is because the European

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Union concluded a free trade agreement with South Africa, the so-called Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) in 2004, which Namibia never endorsed, a right which we have in the SACU Agreement. European Union goods cross our borders from South Africa because of the free flow of goods within SACU. It is the European Union that has been free-riding in our markets since the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement was concluded. It was in fact Namibia that insisted that South Africa be included in the EPA negotiations in order to regularise the situation, to do away with the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement and to bring all SACU Member States back into a single trade agreement with the European Union. It would also ensure an alignment of the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement and the SACU tariffs, to re-establish a common external tariff for the Customs Union. Otherwise we will have two tariffs, one the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement tariffs and then the SACU tariffs. How are we going to manage that?

We also need to consider the over-arching threat of preference erosion, because we are told that we have access to preferential treatment, but let us look at the erosion of that. The duty free and quota free market access on issues that we are given by European Union may ultimately not be worth the concessions that we have to give in return. Let us not for one moment believe that we are getting duty free, quota free access for nothing.

First we have to make economic governance concessions and secondly, we have to open our own market to the European Union. Meanwhile the European Union is negotiating free trade agreements with other parts of the world, including countries that are able to compete with our exports, such as Latin American beef, Argentinean beef, Brazilian beef and also South-East Asia. What are we going to do with the ninety thousand tons that we are fighting for when their beef might be subsidised and cheaper?

Another issue that concerns me greatly is that no one, including my counterpart ministers in Europe, can tell me how long we would have to live with the interim IPA, how long is it going to be. Will it be one year, two years or much longer? This raises considerable uncertainty and could make a world of difference to us. This is one aspect that the European Union simply must clarify if we were to even consider signing the interim agreement. I asked my counterparts and they said they do not know. The World Trade Organisation is

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now nine years, ten years to go, still negotiating. If we are going to have a deadlock like that after we have reorganised our economy, how long are we going to wait?

We have played a constructive role throughout these negotiations. We have pressed, through our declaration made at the time of the initial IEPA, that solutions must be found for the unresolved issues in the Interim EPA. Other negotiating confederations have no signed EPA, yet we seem to be singled out for rebuke for not doing so. Kenya did not sign, Zambia did not sign and I am just mentioning the countries which are so-called middle-income countries. Kenya, Ghana, Zambia did not sign but they are not being pressurised and most of the East Africa Community did not sign. Why are we being singled out?

We see this in our media daily. Is this perhaps part of the tactics of divide and rule and playing us off against our fellow African countries? Bulldozing a member country surely does not make sense. Surely we should not condone this. We face this predicament for highly artificial reasons. Our sister country Angola, to mention an example, also has not signed the Interim EPA, but is not under pressure. Angola enjoys everything by arms market access given by the European Union to all least developed countries. In our case the European Union and others simply divided our GDP by two million people and they arrived at a high per capita income and they want us to believe that it is a fair situation, we must just shut up and accept it as if that is a fair situation, whereas we know that the majority of people are poor in this country. They know that and they are saying we are a rich country. Is that fair? They know we are poor and they know our background in this country and we are told, "*yours is an issue of redistribution.*" People play with fire. Suppose we grabbed from the rich people and give to the poor, who are going to be the first ones condemning us? The same people.

Imagine that an old country such as Angola or Nigeria has ADC status while Namibia, with a majority of poor citizens, is required to make serious economic policy concessions and offer reciprocity in market access in order to trade with the European Union. Furthermore, I will point out that I had a meeting with my counterparts from the European Union and I talked about the classification.

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The other issue is the question of our meat export. We are told we have a lucrative market. Yes, a lucrative market of fillet, no bones. You have to cut the nicest pieces only and export them to Europe. How many of us are exporting? We still have a red line after twenty years. That is not a EPA question, it is our problem. We still have a red line after twenty years while the majority of our cattle are on that side and the majority of our people are on that side, those who voted for some of us and they have to be told after 20 years and we agree to that. We have to make a policy decision here, EPA or no EPA, that after 20 years we still have a red line. Can the European Union, if they are friends, come and help us to remove the red line, so that all of us can be equal and export as equals?

The way forward remains uncertain. Our officials will next week meet their counterparts in Brussels to try to bring the negotiations back on track and we get support for the solutions that we have proposed. Many people speculate whether the European Commission will now move to exclude us from their market, even though we are seriously negotiating. We have initialled because we said we will sign if our demands are met. We initialled with good intentions and we are supposed to negotiate as partners to find each other and we are willing to negotiate. How do you punish a person who is still negotiating? I will not join in such speculations, but I trust that all concerned would realise how serious the impact of doing so would be on our exporters and our economy, but especially on our relations with European Union. They also have our fish in Europe, we can use it. Some countries which are members of the European Union depend on our fish.

I call on our friends in Europe not to abandon us and to work with us towards a lasting solution. After all, the EPA is about partnership. It is an Economic Partnership Agreement, so it is about partnership towards shared goals of poverty alleviation and economic development. Let us not use bully tactics or old colonial arrogance, let us be partners who are equal in sovereignty. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for a very good statement, Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry and I have to admit that the statement came at the right time. I urge that copies of that statement should be made available to all of us and in particular to the Members of Parliament

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serving on the different Committees. At least we must know the position of our country to defend it while you are waiting for the final results of the negotiations. Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I will agree with you that the statement just made on EPA is very, very important for all of us, because when we travel that question comes up and we have to be equipped to give the same answer. Thank you, Comrade Minister, Vice-President of SWAPO Party.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, on the 21<sup>st</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June the world will celebrate the International Day of Biodiversity and Environmental Day, respectively. Nature is rich in variety and is beautiful. Moreover, biodiversity and intact ecosystem are essential to life on this planet of ours in so many ways. Biodiversity provides us with the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the clothes we wear and it further regulates our climate. Biodiversity is the premises on which every aspect of human well-being and the achievement of our national development goals depends. Therefore, biodiversity is not only about plants, animals and insects, it underpins our survival. Today the ecosystems are under massive threat worldwide. Changed habitats, over-exploitation of both renewable and non-renewable natural resources, as well as environmental pollution, are reducing biodiversity and destroying ecosystems, compromising the benefits and services they provide to humankind.

Every hour two species of animals and the plant kingdom are irrevocably lost and twelve thousand hectares of forestry vanish. Most of these are due to human activities. We are, indeed, compromising ourselves, as the very resources that ensure our sustainability on this planet are the ones that we are threatening.

As our natural resources are lost, so are our prospects for sustainable development lost. We need to take care of our environment for our

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environment to take care of us. The loss of biological biodiversity has great consequences for developing countries, for most of the people living there immediately depend on the wealth of the flora and fauna to survive.

It is also important to note that 2010 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Biodiversity. The celebration of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity offers a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of biodiversity and a wake-up call about the devastating losses being experienced.

Environmental degradation by biodiversity loss is one of the main imbalances of our time. Thus, commitment for integration of biodiversity conservation into development objectives needs to be at the highest level, both nationally, regionally and internationally.

Namibia has achieved remarkable milestones with regard to biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use. Indeed, Namibia is among the very few countries that have a provision in their Constitution that is dealing with biodiversity.

During this year, Namibia as a Nation has to showcase our achievements made in the area of biodiversity and environmental protection and also to make our population aware of those facts. Our country offers a very wide variety of habitats and ecosystems, ranging from an extremely arid desert area with less than ten millimetres of rainfall per year to sub-tropic savannas with over six hundred millimetres rainfall per year. Those different habitats and ecosystems are home to a very rich number of species and also a high number of endemic species. Those species of flora and fauna have been the basis of the livelihood of rural people for centuries and they also represent a significant national asset and are playing an important role also in our economy, more particularly in attracting tourists to our country.

At Independence, we as a country were very quick to realise the importance of biodiversity, hence including a clause in our Constitution which give us the responsibility to safeguard biodiversity – Article 95(1). Indeed, Namibia is among the few countries that have such a provision in the Constitution. Thanks to the visionary leaders who were responsible for the drafting of our Constitution that such a provision is available and I am happy to speak when some are present and just after the chairperson of those particular leaders.

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Namibia has ratified the UN Convention on Biological Biodiversity and is part to the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species. A National Biodiversity Programme 1994-2005 was adopted and implemented in order to enable us to focus on the Convention on Biological Diversity. Lessons learned from that programme have resulted in a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2001-2010. The fact that we are now in the final year of that Plan and in the year 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, represents a good opportunity for us to take stock of some of our achievements and we are now working on the next plan of action.

Our commitment to biodiversity conservation is mostly evident in that over 30% of territory is now under some form of conservation management. This represents a very high figure of 16,5% of the country being covered by national parks and protected areas. The latest national park to be proclaimed is the Sperrgebiet national park, which represents the jewel in the crown of Namibian national parks. It is located in the internationally recognised Succulent Karoo biodiversity hotspots and contains an astonishing diversity of plant life only found in Namibia. These resources are like the diamonds that are mined in the same area, representing an inexhaustible resource that Namibia can benefit from for many, many years.

A new national park is also said to be proclaimed this year between Namib Naukluft Park and Skeleton Coast, which will see a consolidation of the entire coastal area of Namibia into one continuous conservation area. This new park will be the largest in Africa, the sixth largest territorial protected area globally and the eighth largest protected area in the world. Namibia will become the first continental country that has its entire coast protected by means of a great national park.

Honourable Members, we are also closely operating with our neighbours, bearing in mind that species typically cut across national borders. This year we are taking a leading role in the coordination of the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area, which is said to become the world's largest trans-frontier area, roughly the size of Italy. It is a joint project involving Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia and in the south we have the Ai-Ais Trans-frontier Park, which was established in 2003 and is successfully jointly managed by Namibia and South Africa and in the north-west, the IONA TFCA with Angola is on the cards.

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Communal conservancies and community forests now covers 18% of the country's area and this percentage is increasing at a rapid rate. By-and-large, fifty-nine conservancies have been established, involving over 230 inhabitants in the rural areas. Conservancies and community forestry are the core parts of Namibia's people-centred approach to conservancy, which was rejected in the past. The success of the conservancy programme is a living proof that resource users at community level, when provided with incentives for sustainable use of natural resources, are the best managers and custodians of those resources.

Money, in the rate of N\$4 million per year, is being generated from different activities carried out in the conservancies. Namibia is one of the few countries in the world that is trans-locating wildlife from its national parks to communal areas. Communities are now seeing the benefits from managing with these resources with N\$14,3 million being earned by them from trophy-hunting, permits and auction of trophy-hunting animals.

Recent research from the Environmental Economic Unit, using wildlife data from 2004, estimated that wildlife contributed N\$1,3 billion to the Namibian economy in that year. It was also estimated that there is a considerable scope to enlarge this contribution sustainably.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have to admit that our conservation success comes with challenges, for example, human-wildlife conflict. The Government, through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, working with the community and in line with the human-wildlife conflict policy are looking at all possible ways to mitigate the impact of such conflicts.

The integration of community forestry and conservancy, as well as the need to guarantee their financial sustainability, has recently led to increased focus on the sustainable use and development of indigenous plant resources. Namibia is also well positioned to benefit from the increased worldwide demand for natural cosmetics, medicine and food products. We possess a wealth of plant resources with much association traditional knowledge. How to enhance those international opportunities while benefiting local communities is the challenge that we now face. Access to generic resources and benefit-sharing agreements are very crucial in this regard. A case in point is the marula oil and the hoodia, which are generating benefits for the community.

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Great progress has also been made in the sustainable harvesting and marketing of devil claw. Communities are beginning to see the true value of their traditional knowledge and are being trained to ensure that value is added to this knowledge.

Namibia is also building upon a core expert knowledge in biodiversity management. A biodiversity management and research master's level course has been developed and is now producing qualified graduates from UNAM. In addition a wide variety of information material is now available to guide biodiversity management in Namibia. Examples of this material include a Tree Atlas book, a Wetlands Database, Maps of Forestry Hotspots, completion of red-listed species and a Country Study on Biodiversity. In addition, biodiversity has also been mainstreamed in our micro-policies, for example NDP3 and Vision 2030. Such developments take place within rather than against our natural resource base.

Effective biodiversity conservation has much potential to drive efforts to combat the challenges faced by our people, such as climate change, diversification and alien invasion species.

At the international level and within the framework of the Convention on Biodiversities, negotiations for international regime on access and benefit-sharing is going on and Namibia, like other developing countries in particularly Africa, are demanding for a legally binding regime and we would want our parliamentarians throughout the continent to support this demand. There is a big tendency of people coming from Europe, take our plants, steal the knowledge of our people and that is the end of it. We would want that to come to an end and that is why we want everybody to be a participant. It is our hope that at the next conference of parties that will take place October this year in Japan, such an agreement will be adopted.

Namibia is currently serving as the chief negotiator for the African Governments in this ongoing negotiation for this international regime on access and benefit-sharing and the African Governments have also further mandated Namibia to serve as Africa's Intercessional Coordinator on Access and Benefit-Sharing and this demonstrates the recognition of Namibia's leadership in the field of biodiversity.

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In this International Year of Biodiversity the Ministry is embarking on a concerted awareness campaign to highlight the importance of biodiversity in Namibia and some of our achievements in this field. We have a full-year programme for that and it has kicked off with Biodiversity Action Day in Brandberg, which took place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of May and it was officiated by the Deputy Minister, Comrade Herunga.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May we had a Parliamentary information-sharing on biodiversity. I thank those Parliamentarians who have attended this workshop, especially Members of the National Council and National Assembly backbenchers, including our Deputy Minister of Safety and Security.

To mark the International Year of Biodiversity, there are many activities which are going on. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May we will have activities at the Habitat Centre in Katutura and on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May there will be discussions at UNAM and events for the International Environmental Day will take place in Karas Region from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of June and for those who are interested in this programme and any information related to biodiversity and environment, please do not hesitate to contact our Ministry, in particular the Directorate of Environmental Affairs. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Lempy Lucas.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, the Minister of Defence, Honourable Major-General Charles Dickson Namoloh, has recently invited all Honourable Members of this august House to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Namibian Defence Force. The anniversary is to be celebrated on the same day with Exercise Desert Rumble 2 at *Uulunga wa Kolonde* in Oshikoto Region.

I rise to inform Honourable Members that due to the late rainfall experienced in the area of *Uulunga wa Kolonde* training area, which left it water-logged, a

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decision was taken to postpone the activities to September 2010 when the area will be completely dry. The Ministry of Defence regrets the inconvenience this postponement has caused and appeal for understanding.

It is my honour, once again, to invite the Honourable Members to witness the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Namibian Defence Force and Exercise Desert Rumble 2 at *Uulunga wa Kolonde* on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2010. The date may sound a bit far, but I request Honourable Members to enter this date in your diaries in order to attend this very important activity. I thank you for your support.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for that information. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage – Appropriation Bill.

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

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

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Before I call on the Assistant Chairperson to take the Chair, I want us to break for tea so that we can meet The Hitman, as announced yesterday. They are waiting for us in the Restaurant.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON KAAPANDA**

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:50  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:35 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**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 on Tuesday, 18 May 2010, Votes 01 to 13, 15, 19, 22 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 21, 20 and 14 had been introduced.

Vote 21 – “**PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**” put for Discussion and agreed to.

I put Vote 20 – “**AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**” for discussion.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you for the Floor. I rise to support Vote 20.

Honourable Members, I cannot resist the temptation to say something on this particular Vote, due to the fact that this Vote contains so many good things and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has also provided extra valuable information apart from the Budget speech.

On page 3, I wish to thank the Ministry for revising the Green Scheme with a view to increase the production which is aimed at increasing food for consumption as well as food for export. In other words, the Ministry intends to make Namibia graduate from being a net importer to an exporting country and this is indeed a commendable effort.

On the same page it is also pleasing to note that the Ministry has finalised the construction work at Ndonga Linena and has handed that project to a service provider. Comrade Minister, I want to get your assurance in this regard, because in the past we had such service providers to produce, employ people

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 20**  
**HON DR KAWANA**

and the like, but they have disappointed us. I hope this time around this will not happen.

It is also pleasing to see in your Budget speech that the production of white maize has increased. This is another commendable achievement, Comrade Minister. These increases in food production is a good sign that our country is moving towards self-reliance in food production.

Finally, I wish to thank the Ministry for capacitating the small farmers in this very important sub-sector. With this provision to capacitate small farmers the Ministry intends to empower the formally disadvantaged people of this country, the majority of our people, to take part in the production of food and through participation the small farmers will not only produce food for their own consumption, but will also employ others. There is a good prospect with all these programmes that agriculture will hold sway in our quest for employment creation. With these few words, I support Vote 20. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Honourable Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:**

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 and to commend my Colleague, the Honourable Minister and his team, for a job well done. We see progress in the agricultural sector.

I also commend them for the construction of earth dams, especially up north. I was one of those who witnessed the construction of some of those dams and I hope that these dams will go a long way to provide water for livestock.

I also commend the Honourable Minister on the progress regarding the Green Scheme Project. I also commend him and his team for declaring mahangu as a controlled product and at the moment the price of mahangu is really very good.

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HON NAMBAHU**

Comrade Minister, I would like to ask two questions: When will we see a project to do away with this cordon fence, because this cordon fence is depriving our communities north of the cordon fence of a decent income. As was stated by the Vice-President of the SWAPO Party, the majority of the livestock are north of this cordon fence and they would like to start with a project to remove this cordon fence and I would like to join you and urge your Ministry to attend to this programme as soon as possible.

With regard to Etunda, I would like to know when we are going to see progress in that regard, because you are aware, Honourable Minister, that I have briefed you on several occasions regarding that project and also the concerns of the community there. I hope that what is stated on pages 5 to 8 will be realised during the current Financial Year. Otherwise, once again, I support the Vote.

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I also rise to wholeheartedly support this Vote and commend the Ministry for the work done especially with regard to agriculture. I want to urge the Ministry to make good on the undertaking to bring a new Water Bill to this Parliament before going into recess. A lot of efforts went into these areas and sometimes some people are confused and call us water men when they meet us. Maybe once the Bill is brought here, these issues will get the necessary impetus and the investments that are supposed to be done in these areas will flourish. You spoke about the rivers that are no more running and maybe some research will be done, but this will be motivated and brought to the front banner once the Bill is brought to this august House. I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

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**HON MWANINGANGE / HON TJIHUIKO**

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Mwaningange.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 and want to address Programme 15 on pages 10 and 11.

I would like to express my full support and gratefulness for this programme of construction of earth dams under rural water supply and sanitation. It is very important to note that while these earth dams are important for livestock and rural communities, it is necessary that there should be a shift from the communities using this water only for livestock. The large quantities of water in earth dams can remain unpolluted the whole year and we know they are replenished by seasonal rain. There is a need to protect this water from pollution and the Ministry should fence off these dams and build a separate place where the animals can drink from this water. This line function is decentralised to the Regional Councils, so the Regional Councils can take over and protect water from pollution. In this way, the water could be used for domestic purposes and I give my full support to this programme. I encourage the Ministry and the Regional Councils to work together in this regard. The agricultural extension officers and Rural Water Supply Committees can work on this. I fully support the Vote and I thank you.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have only three points.

First of all, I just want to congratulate the Minister. Having gone through the document and not only what I have seen in the document, but what I have seen practically, one would say that there is indeed movement. There is an effort by your Ministry to address some of the issues that have been raised in previous Budgets. I have one or two things that I want to add to that.

Honourable Minister, you have been tasked with the most difficult responsibility and that is the responsibility to see to it that the Green Scheme is up and running, which is a huge responsibility. You also have the

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responsibility to see to it that we have water to drink as water is life. If one goes by what I have seen here, I am very positive by what I have seen.

Another issue I want to mention for your consideration is de-bushing. A sizeable part of the commercial and communal areas have been taken over by bushes and we need to have a clear strategy how we could go about to encourage the communities to make use of these bushes and turn it into profitable businesses.

I wish to concur with what Honourable Kawana has said about the red line, but I want to add something to the movement of the red line. The red line is not a political issue, it is an economic issue. It is an issue which, if not properly handled, could easily cause problems such as the one we are experiencing now and I hope that with your expertise and the support you have in your Ministry you would be able to move systematically, cleaning the red line from where it is now to a point where one would say we have now brought the bulk of the cattle into the mainstream of the economy. You must at least have a plan that in three or five years' time I would be where. That is what the Nation wants to see, not what we intend to do but the actual programme that will be implemented to bring us there in three or five years' time.

Let me conclude by touching on the issue of water. I remember that last year the Parliamentary Committee on Economics, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented a specific recommendation to this august House for your consideration. It is not that the communities in the areas visited do not want to pay water debts, they just cannot afford it. Let us take a political decision on this issue and see how best can we help these communities to be in a position where they would be positive and self-sustaining. I do not want to give you any specific advice, because the advices are there in the recommendations, but I just want to appeal to the Honourable Minister to make it his business to see that this issue is addressed in one way or another, because the communities are waiting. The Parliamentary Committee has visited them, they have submitted their problems and, obviously, it is human that they need to see a response from our side and I think the eyes are now on you, Honourable Minister. With that comment, I support the Vote.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

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

Thank you. Honourable Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to thank the Minister of Agriculture more particularly for reviewing the Green Scheme Policy and for the information which is made available, which is telling us that a lot is going on in that Ministry.

On page 1 the Minister, rightly so, has acknowledged the negative impact of climate change and global warming in the farming industry. This is obvious to all of us when we see communities fighting over grazing and that is the impact of climate change. Places which used to have plenty of grazing no longer have it, therefore we can say in Namibia climate change has also become a security risk. I am just wondering what we are doing to motivate people to have fewer livestock but of higher value, because if you have many and you do not have grazing, then you have a serious socio-economic problem and that can happen. The human population is growing, the animal population is growing, the size of land remains the same and we experience the impact of climate change. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I did not follow the senior Minister on the reduction of cattle. I want to understand properly as I come from a Region with many cattle.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I think the question is understood and I am now giving the opportunity to Honourable Ndaitwah to include an explanation in the presentation that she is making now.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Muharukua, the good thing is that both of us are from cattle keeping areas. You and I know that we derive our livelihood from cattle, but unfortunately,

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because of climate change, we no longer have enough grazing areas and if we keep large numbers, those cattle are just going to die to our disadvantage. However, if we are assisted to keep the right numbers which we can market profitably annually, it would be to our benefit. I know it is a very sensitive issue but the situation will catch up with us when our cattle start dying one by one because there is no food for them. That is all what I am saying.

Comrade Minister, on page 3 you are talking about small-scale irrigation farms. One wants to understand how small are these irrigation farms. If, for example, I have my traditional field and I invested in a borehole and this farmer wants to go into irrigation, will that be considered as a small irrigation farm that can be assisted or are there specific areas identified for these small irrigation farms?

I also want to congratulate the Ministry for the construction of silos. I only want to know whether there is backup support to ensure increased crop production, so that these silos could be utilised and not remain unutilised.

Can the Minister explain to me the meaning of “*controlled product*” mentioned on page 4? What benefits do I as a small producer get when you say mahangu is now a controlled product, so that at least I know there is something for me?

On page 6 it is very encouraging that the Ministry is now increasing these research laboratories, because the small farmers, especially in the areas we call the cattle posts, are experiencing serious problems. It is so difficult to get someone to attend to sick animals and by the time you reach the area, they will not be able to diagnose and these people on the cattle posts are really losing a lot of cattle.

On page 11 there is mention of forestry resource management, which is another commendable project and I am happy that my name is associated with one of those important projects and I thank the community for that.

With regard to forest management, when the communities are given these rights to take care of the forests and to benefit from them, do we have a joint programme between the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture so that we can make

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**HON SHIXWAMENI**

this project viable, instead of them just remaining stagnant. I can give an example: You have that forest in Okongo and a community wood making factory with heaps of wood, but those people are struggling to get equipment. I can tell you that if they have the necessary equipment, they could furnish all the schools and all Government institutions in that area and beyond, but because it is just the *kapana* type of manufacturing, they have for years just remained the same. What could the three institutions do to assist in that situation? I support Vote 20 and congratulations. Thank you.

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

Honourable Members, obviously the Minister will deal with the questions, but I am a bit struck by the kind of questions that are being put from Ministry to Ministry. It is just an observation. I just feel we need to limit the type of questions that could be raised. Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I just have a few questions and comments. I must also indicate that this is a very important Ministry because it also addresses the needs of 70% of our population who live in rural areas and since 70% of our population depend on agriculture, I think it need the support of all of us. For that I can say that you have my support on this. You have presented a detailed explanation both in the Budget speech and in the statement that you made yesterday, but I have a number of issues that I want to be cleared up.

I will start on page 6, the issue of the cordon fence. In the speech you are talking about upgrading and strengthening the cordon fence. When the Ministry of Trade and Industry spoke here, I was so excited because what we should basically be doing is what Tjihuiko is saying. We should start to roll back the cordon fences instead of strengthening it. We would really like to see a plan of action, because I remember when Honourable Helmut Angula was Minister of Agriculture he talked about a programme to roll back the cordon fence, but it seems that we are not rolling it back. I hope, Honourable Minister, that you will be looking at a programme to roll back that cordon fence as soon as possible, so that we ensure that at least in five years' time, the 70% of our people who live on the other side of the red line draw the same

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benefits as the commercial farmers from selling their cattle at market-related prices.

Something closely aligned to that is still on page 6, the Shamangorwa and Bwabwata cordon fences. I remember that there was controversy particularly about the cordon fence at Shamangorwa and at the end of the day, the fence built for over N\$1 million was suddenly removed. I have not really heard the explanation was it was in the first place erected and then suddenly removed when the communities were protesting. Maybe the Honourable Minister could shed some light on what was the exact problem surrounding the Shamangorwa cordon fence.

Still on page 6 you are talking about the training of veterinary students and that some are graduating this year and six are graduating next year. I have a problem with the fact that I meet many of the veterinary students who studied in Cuba in the streets and they complain that since 1996 when we started the programme, they have not been graded properly, but these are the people who end up doing the actual job in the field, however they are not graded at the same level as their counterparts that studied in South Africa. I hope the Honourable Minister would be able to investigate this matter, get to the core of the matter and provide a credible explanation as to what is happening in this regard.

There is mention of promotion of cooperatives. Our folks in the rural areas lack knowledge of how to put up cooperatives and I would like to see that the Ministry, through its cooperative department, engage the rural folks and educate them on how to get together and encourage them to form cooperatives, because I believe that if we were to encourage our people to work in cooperatives, it would be better than each individual cultivating a field, producing a little bit of tomatoes and vegetables and selling it to the market. I would like to see cooperative education forming part and parcel of this programme on the promotion of cooperatives.

I have been to Tanzania about three times and those of you who were students of History would have followed the *Ujamaa* villages and up to now the cooperatives that were formed are very productive. This is indeed an example and probably that we need to go and study and adjust to our own circumstances in Namibia. It is something that is credible, they have organised themselves

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properly because the cooperatives are provided with all the services, such as clinics and schools. We live in a small country but we are scattered all over. The provision of services becomes too difficult and it is in fact a big challenge to the State.

On page 8 I just have a question on the Orange River. There are commissions that are dealing with the Kavango River, the Zambezi River, the Kunene River and the Orange River. At independence and years after independence up to 1999 there have been negotiations because the South Africans were claiming that the border of the Orange River is on the northern side of the river. I want to find out whether that issue has been sorted out or whether it is still outstanding. Is the middle point of the river now accepted as the border between Namibia and South Africa?

On the same page it talks about the Grootfontein-Tsumeb-Otavi Karst area and the emergency management by the Ministry. I am asking this question against the background of what happened at Groot Aub, the old mine that suddenly caved in. I think we were just lucky that when it caved in there were no people living there. When I look at the Grootfontein-Otavi-Tsumeb area, there are so many underground tunnels that were dug by TCL and other mines around there and I am asking myself, with the high rainfall in that area, have we assessed whether there might not be a risk that at some stage the ground might cave in due to the wetness experienced in that area?

On page 10 I want to touch on the issue of rural water supply at Mururani down to the military base in Rundu. There are boreholes drilled at various points, but I find it strange that when the boreholes break, people have to walk long distances to go and fetch water. We have the canal, which was built by the colonialists, that brings water from the Kunene to Oshakati and when the Roads Contractor Company was re-grading the road between Rundu and Mururani, they connected water pipes alongside this whole area to provide water for the construction work. I am asking myself, if the Ministry is working on a plan, apart from the boreholes that are dug alongside the road, of pumping water so that people could have potable water alongside that road?

The last issue I want to talk about is the flood situation that affects the north-central, Kavango and Caprivi Regions. Of course, you must be congratulated that you are building earth dams around the Cuvelai Basin. We know that when the mighty Zambezi River comes down, it floods; we know that the

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Kavango River floods as soon as it rains very hard in Angola. What plans are on the table to deal with these perennial floods which are now a natural phenomenon to those particular Regions? As the Deputy Prime Minister said, we live alongside the river and we should find a permanent solution. We should not run away from the river when the floods come and when the floods reside, we are again back there.

Otherwise, Honourable Minister, you have a very heavy responsibility and we can only wish you well to provide food for the Nation and that you would be able to succeed. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Honourable Nghimtina.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I support Vote 20 but I have two questions.

Now that we know global warming is affecting us and there is no longer grass for the cattle, does the Ministry have plans to produce seeds for grass to feed the cattle, which we can plant in the fields? Otherwise we have cattle but there is no grass. Is it possible that there are certain seeds which can be planted in different areas of this country for livestock purposes?

Honourable Minister, would it be very difficult for the Ministry of Agriculture, working together with the Ministry of Lands, to train people before they are resettled? We are complaining that our people are not producing, but honestly speaking, they do not have the knowledge whatsoever and I think the traditional knowledge of agriculture cannot be of much assistance. If people could be trained before they are resettled, it could also be a criteria that they have to pass through training and automatically the productivity will be higher. I thank you.

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HON MUTORWA**

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

Thank you. I ask Honourable Mutorwa to respond to the questions.

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

Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for giving me the Floor to respond to the issues and questions raised.

First, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members, those who spoke and those who did not participate, for their support to this Vote on Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

*Honourable Kaapanda*, thank you very much for the good things that you said about the activities we are involved in. You had a specific question on the service providers who fail and I must probably explain that in terms of the Green Scheme Policy there is the principle of public-private partnership for the big irrigation projects. In other words, the Government develops the infrastructure for the projects, such as those at Etunda, Shadikongoro, Ndonga Linena, and afterwards invites tenders from people and organisations and those who are successful are then given the responsibility to produce on part of the project. However, you are right that in the past the agreements between the Government and the service providers had loopholes, but with the revision of the Green Scheme and also in consultation and on specific advice of our Attorney-General, we have tightened the agreements entered into between the service providers and the Government. Therefore, we have clear monitoring and if the service provider does not execute all the obligations and responsibilities entrusted to them, surely Government would not hesitate to intervene and even terminate the agreement so that other people come in. We now have very clear mechanisms to deal with this issue, but the most important is that Government does involve the private sector in its activities.

You also mentioned the capacitating of the small farmers and I want to explain for the sake of the general public. When you talk about the Green Scheme, it is mainly about the big irrigation projects, but all of us seated in this Honourable House know that before irrigation came, we were being sustained through subsistence farming in our villages and communities, particularly those crop producing areas. When you talk about capacitating and assisting small farmers, we also have in mind those who are involved in agriculture on a

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subsistence basis but depending on rain, because unless you pay attention to them, you are not going to be successful with the big irrigation schemes. Hence we have ploughing services, subsidised seeds, weeding and even marketing. Therefore, we have two big programmes running parallel, dry-land crop producing programme and also the irrigation programme.

*Dr Kawana*, thank you for your support. A number of other Members also raised the issue of the red line. Just by way of explaining, when I looked at the resolutions of the Land Conference of 1991 on the red line, obviously already at that stage the red line was condemned and it was also clearly stated that with time the red line should be removed progressively without jeopardising the trade in meat products.

However, there was also a second resolution, that until the red line is removed, the Ministry of Agriculture was entrusted to assist the farmers in the communal areas in terms of marketing and the specific resolution was that quarantine camps must be established in the northern communal areas so that the farmers could take their animals to these quarantine camps for 21 days so that they could get access to the Meatco market. I must inform the Namibian public through the Honourable House, that quite substantial progress was made. If you count the number of quarantine camps from Opuwo to Caprivi, there are so many which are already functional and assisting the farmers, but of course, that is not a replacement for eventually dealing with the red line.

Two months ago we took a clear worked out strategy to Cabinet, it was prepared by the experts in the field of veterinary sciences on how to deal with the issue of improving the health conditions of the animals in the northern communal areas, so that eventually we could convince the International Organisation for Animal Health that there are no diseases there anymore. If one looks at the foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks, this diseases has for the past thirty to forty years never occurred in Opuwo, Omusati Region, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Western Kavango. It is not the whole northern Region that periodically experiences the problem of foot-and-mouth, but obviously, because there are certain parts, such as Caprivi and Eastern Kavango, where you have buffalos and there it does occur, the whole area is affected.

We now have a strategy in place, which was approved by the Cabinet, and

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hopefully when this strategy has been successfully implemented, we will reach the same objectives that would have been reached by physically removing the red line, so that you do not need to limit the livestock from that side to be marketed south of the red line.

I must state here that much is being done through the Government's own resources. These books reflect that in almost all the Regions we have a Livestock Improvement Programme and there is also a programme through the Millennium Challenge Account which complements what we are doing as the Government. Therefore, we are very hopeful that if everything goes according to plan, that with time we will not be talking about the red line. Even if it is physically there, it will not have any effect on the marketing of livestock in the northern communal areas.

While on this issue, *Honourable Shixwameni*, when we had the devastating foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Caprivi last year, which then spread to Eastern Kavango, the fence at Shamangorwa which caused controversy was not a cordon fence, it was a moveable fence to assist in controlling the movement of cattle from the infected areas to this area, so that when the doctors vaccinate the infected cattle, you are at least sure you have this fence. Of course, there was a lot of hullabaloo, rightly or wrongly, but it was eventually removed because the objective of fighting that foot-and-mouth disease was achieved. Even if there were no complaints, that movable fence would have been removed.

At Bwabwata we have the Mahango Game Park and the game park fence was damaged at certain places and together with the Ministry of Environment we had to upgrade that fence to ensure that the buffalos do not cross over, but it was not a cordon fence as the cordon fence that we know here. I hope I have explained that part.

*Honourable Kawana*, you are a 100% correct that in this Budget we are already dealing with Etunda Phases 5 and 6 and it is already in progress as we are speaking and Phases 7 and 8 are being designed. We are very sure that certainly it will materialise within the next 12 months.

*Honourable Nambahu*, you played a very important role during the time when Honourable Helmut Angula was there in drafting this Bill. I am assured by the

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technicians that substantial progress has been made for this Bill to come to this House. I agree with you that if a lot of work was done and then nothing happens, it seems to be a waste.

*Honourable Mwaningange*, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April I inaugurated the earth dams that were so far constructed. We used Ondjandjavi in Ohangwena Region to launch this programme, but the media were not there. All the earth dams that we are constructing must have a fence to protect animals and even small children and the pollution that you talked about. The water from the earth dam is pumped into the troughs where the animals can drink. The fences are being constructed and where they are not already there, they have to be constructed to make it safe.

The Regional Councillors, the local Traditional Leadership structures and the Water Committees are the custodians to ensure that these infrastructures are properly managed and protected. Obviously, our experts from Rural Water Supply will assist when something goes wrong, but we cannot expect the officials of the Ministry to be there on a daily basis.

*Honourable Tjihuiko*, we already have funds in the Ministry's Budget for debushing. In the majority of cases the farms that are threatened by these bushes are private farms, but obviously, bush encroachment has a negative effect on the economy of the country and, therefore, it is important that the various stakeholders involved need to come together and work out a clear strategy, meaning the farmers themselves, through their unions. I am sure this issue has already been discussed and the farmers have already put their proposals to Government, so that Government, through the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance and others, work out a clear strategy that will eventually be approved by the Cabinet as a National Strategy to tackle this problem and how to utilise public funds in assisting the farmers who are threatened by bush encroachment. I think as we speak something is already being done, but we probably need to increase the coordination so that, as President Pohamba always says, the left hand knows what the right hand is doing, because this is not a Line Ministry issue, it covers various players.

The Parliamentary Committee tabled a report on the problems of certain communities with regard to water debts. That report has also reached the Ministry and the Ministry is studying that report, but obviously, because of the

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magnitude of the issue involved, the writing off of the debt is not the function of one Ministry only. After we have studied the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee report, we as a line Ministry will have to take these particular recommendations to the Cabinet and the Cabinet will have to deliberate on the recommendations and then pronounce itself. It is not as easy as it seems.

*Honourable Ndaitwah*, climate change is a big problem, but you had a specific question on what is being done to reduce the number of livestock. I have already talked about the red line and these farmers are already negatively affected by the fact that they do not have sufficient market access for their livestock and, therefore, we must determine what we can do to assist the farmers not manage the grazing properly and we have people in the Ministry dealing with the issue of rangeland management to assist the farmers, educating and training them on the utilisation of grazing. It is easy with the farms but very complicated with communal grazing. Where do you start, how do you control it, because everybody's cattle move freely and it links up with the whole issue of land that Comrade !Naruseb talked about yesterday.

I explained that one leg of small-scale farmers is the subsistence farmers which Government support with ploughing services and other things, but on the big irrigation schemes we have the service provider and a portion for small-scale farmers, mainly young unemployed people who are trained at Mashare and once they have graduated, we place them on these farms at Etunda, Vungu-Vungu, Ndonga Linena and Shadikongoro and Government has provided housing there and they are allocated six hectares each where they must now work and produce.

I must however also use this platform to give information as I am receiving a lot of enquiries. These young people who have completed their training are waiting to be placed on these farms to start producing. My officials have been working on ensuring that they get loans. That we have now accomplished, we have taken the submission to Cabinet which approved it. Now the officials are in the final stages of completing that particular aspect and I want to see these young people on their land and in their houses there. I am telling my officials that we must get these young people physically on the land and in their houses. They are ready, they are eager, they are telling me they are ready to produce.

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There was a specific question on what is a controlled product and I had to get the answer from the experts. Controlled products are staple food products, such as maize and mahangu, which are very critical to food security in our context. The prices of controlled products are set jointly by Government and the producers. The import of such products are also controlled to protect domestic production and the market, such that borders are only opened after local products are all bought up.

*Honourable Ndaitwah* expressed a concern about the silos constructed for food reserves and how do we prevent these facilities becoming white elephants. The answer is what I have already explained – production. We must increase our production and we are encouraging our people and actually supporting them to do so. If I look at the amount of money Government is spending on these irrigation projects and support to dry-land production, it is a substantial amount of money. The message that the Government is sending is that it is serious and, therefore, once you have been assisted, whether on the big irrigation project or as a small-scale farmer, it means that this support is to motivate you do produce more and once we produce more, the silos will not be white elephants. I hope we will reach that goal.

What can the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment do about orchards? I think this is a good question and after this I will arrange some kind of meeting so that we can work out strategies, because this is one area where inter-ministerial collaboration is possible to assist these communities.

With regard to the veterinary students, when I arrived at the Ministry, the colleagues who were there were already working very hard to devise a programme of “*upgrading*” the students who were said not to qualify and some of them last month or two months ago have completed their upgrading and were publicly introduced at a press conference. However, you are right in saying that there are certain students who have completed their training elsewhere and all they need is upgrading as they are actually doing the work. I hope the Public Service Commission is listening, even when I arrived there, I followed what my predecessors were doing, Honourable Nickey Iyambo and before him Honourable Helmut Angula. Submissions and motivations are currently with the Public Service Commission to consider these genuine issues of upgrading these people, because they are practically doing the work and

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they must get some recognition in terms of their remuneration and grading. The submissions are with the Public Service Commission and we are awaiting a positive response from them.

You are right that cooperatives are very important and this Parliament passed the Cooperatives Act in the early nineties already and we need to use the Cooperatives Act to educate the people about the importance of cooperatives through our extension services.

The Orange River border is an issue between Sovereign States and the Ministry of Agriculture is not the competent authority to express any opinion on how far the negotiations are. All that I can say is that it is being dealt with at specific levels of authority by the Government of Namibia and the Government of South Africa.

You mentioned the Tsumeb-Otavi channels and maybe this is an issue which at an appropriate time the Ministries of Agriculture and Mines can deal with. You said maybe there is a potential for problems and I do not know, but I think it is something that we can ascertain from the mining sector to prevent being caught offside.

*Honourable Nghimtina*, feasibility studies are being done, because there are so many people there and the need for water is increasing, but not only specifically for Rundu-Mururani, also for the tarred road from Rundu up to the Mukwe Constituency, because many people have moved from the riverside and this was aggravated by UNITA activities those years when people had to flee from the river and settled along the tarred roads. We, the Ministry responsible for water, have already commissioned studies and yesterday in my speech I talked about displaced communities and that is what I meant. How do we deal with the communities who are now along the road there in terms of providing them with water? At certain places we use water tankers, at certain places there are boreholes, but the problem is so big and, therefore, the feasibility study is needed to see how to address that.

*Honourable Nghimtina*, I think you are right about the seeds for grass. If you go to AGRA now, you can buy seed. Currently we do not have a scheme where Government buys grass seed or subside the farmers. We are more concentrating on our own food, however the cattle are also our food.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

You also asked why the farmers are not trained before being resettled and I hope that my Colleague, Honourable !Naruseb will agree with me that we should not forget that at Independence and even 20 years after Independence it was realised that many people in Namibia, because of the war, were left landless and displaced and that was the main motivation, in my view, for Government to put up a programme within the Ministry of Lands, called Resettlement. One aspect of that resettlement is for Government to buy farms and then resettle people there. Therefore, inasmuch as I agree that training is very important, we must also understand who these beneficiaries of resettlement are. Many of them are those vulnerable people who were fighting in the war and who now need land. We now have a programme in place that once people are resettled, we from Agriculture come in to work with them in terms of providing training to the people on the farms where they are resettled.

Otherwise, Honourable Chairperson, these were my responses to the questions and issues and I thank you for your support.

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

Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 20? Agreed to.

**Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”**, is put for Discussion.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 14 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and I only have two short comments.

The first one is with regard to the Development Fund at the Social Security Commission. I am aware that the Government has been providing some resources to capitalise the Development Fund, whose objective is to promote job creation in the country. I am also aware that the Ministry has informed us that the Commission was busy formulating regulations in order to ensure the utilisation of the funds of the Development Fund. I want the Minister to give a bit of information on the progress in this regard.

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**RT HON ANGULA**

Secondly, I also seek information on progress with the implementation of the full range of salary scale for maternity benefits for Public Servants. With these two questions I support the Vote.

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

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you. Being a senior citizen of about sixty years, I want to talk a bit about social welfare. Social welfare is a very important issue for me as a senior citizen. We are told that 133 456 senior citizens are benefiting from this Vote and this also includes people living with disabilities and I suppose it also includes the Workmen's Compensation and here an amount of more than N\$1 billion is allocated to this activity. This is a very important social safety net, which demonstrates that the Namibian Government cares.

There are those who are talking about giving N\$100, trying to portray the Namibian Government as being uncaring. Compare N\$100 to N\$500. If N\$500 cannot make a dent in poverty, how do you make a dent with N\$100? The Namibian Government is a caring Government, that is why it sets aside N\$1 billion for those of us beyond the age of sixty and those living with disabilities.

If you combine that with what you have approved yesterday, social grants to orphans and vulnerable children, which are benefiting 111 628 children, you realise that in fact you have something like more than a quarter of a million people being supported through these grants. Then, of course, if you take the veterans and people on Anti-Retroviral-Treatment, you are talking about close to half a million people who are receiving social support. There is no comparison to the **N\$100** the people are trying to talk about and trying to portray the Government in a bad light, that this Government is uncaring – no comparison at all! I think the Namibian public should accept that the Namibian Government is a caring Government if you look at all the money the Namibian Government spends on social issues, including the children in hostels, hospitals run by churches and school-feeding programmes. If you put

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all that money together, it will come close to N\$2 billion. Therefore, these misleading statements about BIG are not fair to the Government of Namibia and I want the public to understand that the Namibian Government is a caring Government. It has its own social safety nets and these social safety nets should just be strengthened so that those who really need support should get support.

Many of us must fight for a job. When we create a job, we create wealth and we grow the economy. That is the way to go. Thank you.

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

Thank you very much. I call on the Minister to respond to some of the specific questions.

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I just want to thank the Members of this august House for their support of the people's Vote and before I sit down, let me just comment on the questions raised by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Currently the Development Fund of the Social Security is N\$52 million strong and it is currently supporting some of the projects which do not need regulations, such as providing bursaries to students in selected areas, such as Medicine, etcetera. The regulations are currently being gazetted by the appropriate offices and we must also note that as soon as those regulations are gazetted, there are quite a number of major projects lined up for consideration by the Social Security Commission and I expect this to happen soonest.

With regard to the progress on the maternity benefits, this is an issue which my Colleague has always been raising at different platforms. I think that the Maternity Fund is said to be over-supplied with money, but we are currently looking at how to increase this benefit to the intended beneficiaries. In our discussions we had the Ministry of Finance we have been considering how these funds could be utilised to create medical facilities that are going to help the beneficiaries, especially in the light that currently the medical aid schemes

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are benefiting the private sector doctors in a big way, but they are not using the medical facilities of the State. It means that the medical benefits are there, but the patients are referred to private hospitals. That is something that is under consideration and will be looked into.

*Comrade Prime Minister*, I thank you very much for your support. What you have said is the real truth that needs to be told to the whole community. I think some of us do not understand that to give N\$100 to everybody, irrespective of your economic status, cannot benefit the community more than continuously increasing the amount of social grants in the different categories I have mentioned. I think those benefits are incomparable and economically-wise I do not see how you can encourage people to be economically active if you give handouts. How can you hand out N\$100 uncontrolled, unless we say the N\$100 is being given to secure certain products or commodities. This could be used for anything, from the shebeen to food, anything.

What the Government is currently doing is really appreciated and I think we should continue with that, unless somebody else can come and show that this is not delivering. Of course, the grants to the old-aged people, the disabled and all the categories are part of the poverty reduction strategy of our country and its proper and correct utilisation is an absolute necessity, because sometimes when this truck goes around to start paying out, you find convoys or cars, shebeen owners and business people following this truck and taking the money from the old people, which is unacceptable and immoral and I think our people should desist from doing so.

We as politicians, the Regional Councillors as well as the traditional leaders have a big role play in terms of advising our people how to utilise this benefit to their own benefit. I thank you very much.

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

Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 14? Agreed to. The Committee further has to consider the Bill.

Clauses, Schedule and the Title put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendments.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: THIRD READING**

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

Bill reported without amendment.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Bill be read a Third Time?

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**THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Any discussion? Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I wish to thank the Members of the House and the public out there for the extensive comments on the Budget and support extended.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *Appropriation Bill.*

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before we adjourn, there are a few announcements to be made. I now have the honour to announce that in terms of Rule 31 and Rule 40(1) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the first meeting of the Standing Committees of the National Assembly will take place tomorrow, Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in the Blue Room. The committees will elect their Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons as per the following times allocated to the different committees:

Public Accounts - 10:00;

Constitutional and Legal Affairs – 10:30;

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security – 11:00;

Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration – 11:30;

Human Resources, Social and Economic Development – 12:00;

Women and Gender – 12:30;

Information and Communication Technology – 14:00.

Please ensure that you attend. Due to the renovations we are only using the Blue Room.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has invited the Honourable Members and the letters have been distributed. I now ask the Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I would like to thank all the distinguished and gallant Members of this House for working so hard so that by now we are about to get the Budget and get into action to deliver services to the people of Namibia. Thank you very much for your patience, there was no time when we did not have a quorum and everything went according to the culture of the Land of the Brave.

I Move that we adjourn until the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2010.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:26 UNTIL 2010.06.15 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
15 JUNE 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON SPEAKER**: Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members, I returned over a couple of weekends ago from the SADC-Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly Conference held at Livingstone, Zambia. The theme of our deliberations was: *“The Facilitation of Movement of Persons in the SADC Region”*. Naturally, we also dealt there with other important matters of democracy, leadership, governance, law enforcement, corruption, women’s rights and representation and HIV/AIDS.

Upon return, I read in the local print media and heard as well and met encounters about concerns from the public preoccupations, among others, with *“illegal immigrants”* mainly from the SADC Region; about active recruitment of young Namibian girls under false pretences, but actually as sex slaves for 2010 FIFA World Cup which has commenced in South Africa; and also about issues having to do with the EPA and related matters on conflict of interest among SADC states, as well as competing corporate interests in the Region.

I mentally but not surprisingly found myself back at Livingstone where Speakers and other parliamentarians spent more than a week debating those and other issues, having the citizenry of the Region in our minds. It is rather the negatives and not so much the concurrence of such topical policy issues we seem to share as SADC States. Regional integration and community building to succeed must of necessity be driven by the people themselves. This, we are to remember, was the same emphasis for liberation. Some of us still do.

Not infrequently, Namibia is invariably blamed, along with South Africa, we may protest against this as being unfounded, for being insensitive to the plight of, if not hostile, towards African migrants than for others.

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HON SPEAKER**

In fact, Namibia's Independence in 1990 offered an open window of opportunities, in more ways than one, for collective Regional leadership to plan and act together in the best interests of us all. Ministers were kept busy and unity of purpose was strong and effective and Parliaments debated and ratified protocols signed by Governments, including trade and security protocols.

For example, EU, ASEAN, MERCOSUR and ECOWAS are known for such success stories about integration and free movement of goods, services and labour, at different levels of productivity, coordination and prosperity. You can see signs that China, India and, believe it or not, Japan are closely working together towards a common Asian economic, trade and security neighbourhood. Frontline States and the SADC Community were the pioneers, except that today, the EPA has become the stumbling block.

Leadership and legacy that Nkrumah had sparked energised Nyerere, Kaunda, Neto, to name but a few, to continue the campaign towards freedom, unity and reconstruction of Africa. Much of that expressed in terms of "*One Africa, One People and One Destiny*" could not have dissipated so soon in our minds.

We were yesteryear's migrants ourselves, welcomed and treated as fellow Africans needing help and solidarity regardless of circumstances. So it seems and is really sad.

I will punctuate these thoughts with Ayi Kwei Armah. He is as sharp and as eloquent with mind and pen as his mentor Nkrumah was with his fighting talk on "*African Personality*" and "*Positive Action*" that freedom and unity would usher in.

But, said Armah, "*I will accept the stultifying need to carry travel documents and identity cards when moving from one colonial State in Africa to another, but I would be overjoyed if tomorrow, in an access of common sense, politicians and bureaucrats all over the continent abolished the stupid borders left here by ghosts from Berlin.*" Diaspora was invited home by the African Union. I wonder how they will be able to fit into being treated as foreigners.

We must debate these and other pertinent challenges that combine economic, trade and community-building issues of policy and strategic planning. In this context, I expect that one of the Members of Parliament who accompanied me

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**ANNOUNCEMENT  
HON SPEAKER**

to Livingstone will introduce a Motion in the House. It must be a well-crafted and balanced Motion to facilitate informed and objective Debate providing for policy and legislative initiatives, for Cabinet and Parliament to act upon. In the meantime, the final communicae of the conference is being circulated to the Honourable Members.

Let me conclude by referring to the SADC Summit which Namibia will host in August this year here in Windhoek. I will have no hand in that, the State House will. My interest is about the transformation of the present SADC-Parliamentary Forum into a SADC Parliament, with deliberative and legislative competence. As by then the newly installed Chairperson of SADC, President Pohamba, will have a full plate in front of him, SADC Parliament will be one of those issues occupying his mind. That is what I wanted to share with you, Honourable Members.

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**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have a few announcements to make. In terms of Rule 38(5) of the Standing Rules and Orders the following Members were nominated by their respective Political Parties to serve on the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders:

1. Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab – Speaker
2. Honourable Loide Kasingo – Deputy Speaker.
3. Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi – Chief Whip of SWAPO Party.
4. Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele – Chairperson Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs.
5. Honourable Paulus Ilonga Kapia – Chairperson Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security.

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HON SPEAKER**

6. Honourable Ben Amathila – Chairperson Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration.
7. Honourable Juliet Kavetuna – Chairperson Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development.
8. Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua – Chairperson Standing Committee on Public Accounts.
9. Honourable Ben Ulenga – Party Leader, CoD.
10. Honourable Simson Tjongarero – Deputy Chief Whip, UDF.
11. Honourable Kuaima Riruako - Party Leader, NUDO.
12. Honourable Moses Amweelo - Deputy Chief Whip, SWAPO Party.
13. Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube – Assistant Chief Whip, SWAPO Party.
14. Honourable Agnes Tjongarero – SWAPO Party.
15. Honourable Elifas Dingara – SWAPO Party.

I now, in terms of Rule 38(6), announce these Members as duly appointed Members of the said Committee. I invite the Honourable Members mentioned above to the first meeting of the Standing Committee tomorrow, Wednesday, 16 June 2010 at 11:00 in the Constitution Room.

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**BILLS CONFIRMED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** The second announcement is as follows: I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 72(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills without amendments:

15 June 2010

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

- (a) Tobacco Products Control Bill [B.7-2009];
- (b) Prisons Amendment Bill [B.11-2010];
- (c) Income Tax Amendment Bill [B.9-2010];
- (d) Value Added Tax Appropriation Bill [B.8-2010];
- (e) Transfer Duty Amendment Bill [B.12-2010];
- (f) Payment Systems Management Appropriation Bill [B.4-2010];
- (g) Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill [B.10-2010];
- (h) Transfer Duty Second Appropriation Bill [B.14-2010]; and
- (i) Namibian Institution of Public Administrations and Management Bill [B.5-2010].

I shall now, in terms of Article 72(3), refer these Bills to the President to deal with them under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution.

I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council, that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bill with amendments:

Banking Institutions Appropriation Bill [B.3-2010].

This Bill will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by this Assembly as soon as possible.

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

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS: NAMIBRE  
AND BANK OF NAMIBIA**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of Namibre for the Financial Year 2009 and Annual Report of the Bank of Namibia for the Financial Year 2009.

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15 June 2010

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON ULENGA**

**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the following Offices:

1. Office of the President;
2. Department of Police of the Ministry of Safety and Security;
3. Department of Prisons and Correctional Services of the Ministry of Safety and Security;
4. Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare; and
5. Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2009.

I so Move Honourable Speaker

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Ulenga.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON ULENGA:** I give Notice that on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2010, I shall Move-

That this House, in the light of current several unresolved cases of alleged corruption, involving public officials and members of Government,

1. Debate the alarming spread of the cancer of corruption which threatens to become endemic in Namibian society;

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON !NARUSEB**

2. Condemn in no uncertain terms the culture of corruption in the Public Sector and, indeed, in other sectors of our economy and society and
3. Explore ways of curbing corruption, including calling on the President to officially enquire into current cases of alleged corruption.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Minister !Naruseb.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, Sir, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, I shall move –

That this Assembly, in terms of Section 63 of the Agricultural (Commercial) Reform Act (Act 6 of 1995), appoint the following persons as members of the Land Tribunal by resolution upon recommendation of the Minister:

1. Advocate Dirk Hendrik Conradie;
2. Ms Elise Mutaleni Angula;
3. Mr Daniel Motinga;
4. Ms Clara Bohitile;
5. Ms Elba Caroline Bührmann

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NGHIDINWA**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. I rise to inform Honourable Members of Parliament that the 20<sup>th</sup> June is International Refugee Day, which is always commemorated in remembering the plight of refugees.

As Namibia, through the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, hosts a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers, mostly from Angola and the Great Lake Regions of DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, the Ministry, together with the UNHCR, made necessary arrangements towards the realisation of this day.

Since the 20<sup>th</sup> of June falls on a Sunday, this commemoration will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 at the Osire Refugee Settlement, near Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region. The remembrance of this day has a significant memory to many Namibians, especially those that lived in camps in foreign countries as refugees and freedom fighters during the struggle for Independence.

I believe that the commemoration of this event in Namibia will add more value to this day and it will be a source of inspiration and increased hope to those who fled their homes because of fear for persecution. Therefore, the theme of this year's Refugee Day, "*They took my Home, but they cannot take my Future is working towards a world without Refugees.*"

It is in line with our desires and aspirations to inspire those who fled their countries because of fear of persecution and whose situation to return home and contribute to the economic reconstruction of their own countries. We all know how sweet our homes are and it is painful to see especially women and children, some of whom were born in a situation which is not of their own making.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration will do its utmost best to implement its constitutional mandate, as provided for in Article 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, to provide them with protection and care. It is a pity that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 we witnessed refugees and asylum

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NGHIDINWA**

seekers originally from DRC, left the Osire Refugee Settlement, allegedly for fear for persecution by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. These refugees and asylum seekers had their own intention to leave the settlement in the hope to be resettled either with the US or Canada. Those refugees and asylum seekers have contravened the provisions of Section 21 of the Refugees Recognition and Control Act (Act 2 of 1999) which requires them to apply for permits to leave the settlement as well as the Departure from Namibia Regulation Amendment Act (Act 4 of 1993) which requires their passports to be endorsed with departure stamps by the Immigration Officers.

The Ministry will remain focused and committed to ensure that all refugees and asylum seekers who are hosted in this country are treated with the respect and the dignity they deserve and their rights are guaranteed as provided for in Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and shall be adhered to without compromising the security of this country.

The Ministry also expects that all refugees and asylum seekers will abide to the general obligations of refugees, as provided for in the 1951 UN and the 1969 OAU Conventions, obligating them to adhere to the rules and regulations of the host country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, therefore, the issue of refugees and asylum seekers should not be regarded as an issue of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration alone, but should be considered as a national issue that requires our collective effort. Let me use this opportunity to send a message to all refugees and asylum seekers in Namibia that the whole world is behind them in search to find a durable solution to their plight. We believe the time has come to encourage refugees, particularly Angolans and Rwandans, whose countries have consolidated democracy, to make use of the voluntary repatriation exercises which are organised by both Governments and the UNHCR so that they can be reintegrated together with their family members and be able to contribute in the development of their countries of origin. I am happy that some of the refugees that were repatriated to Angola are now contributing to both infrastructure and the economic reconstruction of their motherland.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, in cooperation with UNHCR,

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**MOTION ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORT  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

will always try its level best to find shelter, food, clean drinking water, family reunification and the provision of education and health care to refugees and asylum seekers in the Republic of Namibia. It is against this background that I am extending an invitation to the Honourable Members of Parliament to come to the Osire Refugee Settlement on Friday, 18 June 2010, to join refugees in commemorating their day, which will start at 10:00 in the morning and I thank you for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? None. The Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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**MOTION ON PROVISION OF HOUSING AND  
TRANSPORT TO EMPLOYEES**

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Just to indicate that this is basically the continuation of a Motion that was tabled on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 and was only debated by three Members. Therefore, I move that we debate this Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Shixwameni has the Floor.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I do not intend to hold this House hostage, my motivation is going to be very short. I would basically be doing a disservice because I think that 90% of the people who are seated here were there when a similar Motion by the Honourable Tjihuike was also introduced in this House, but differently. Therefore, what I am doing today is to approach the same problem, that refuses to die, from a completely different angle.

In order not to bore you with details and statistics, I would basically try to be as brief as possible.

15 June 2010

**MOTION ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORT  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise today in humility to motivate the Motion on the need for all employers and companies in our beautiful country to provide housing or housing subsidy and transport to and from work or transport subsidy for Namibian workers earning below N\$60,000 per annum. I do this in honour of all Namibian workers who are the creators of our country's wealth that is being enjoyed only by a small minority. I do it out of a strong belief and duty for socio-economic justice for all our people in the firm belief that in a rich country such as ours, blessed with ample natural resources and with a small population of just over two million citizens, we can realise the goal of prosperity for all our citizens in our lifetime and I must urge that we can basically realise the goal of affordable, decent housing for all in our lifetime in our beautiful Republic.

I must mention right from the onset that the intention of Government to build houses in collaboration with the National Housing Enterprise is acknowledged and commended, but I must also hasten to state that the efforts fall short in addressing our country's housing crisis. I have taken note that the Government has over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period of 2010/2011 to 2012/2013 budgeted for building approximately about 6,000 housing units, which is a drop in the housing backlog ocean, estimated by experts to be close to 100,000 housing units.

That is why we are proposing that Government takes a policy decision, a political decision that would keep the private sector in action to help solve the housing crisis which our country is faced with. Government should act to stop the housing crisis from spiralling out of control before it is too late. I hope we shall and I have respect to all Members here, that we shall all discuss the Motion in an open-minded and patriotic manner. This Motion is not about point-scoring, as the Minister of Local Government and Housing tried to make out in his Ministerial statement, but indeed, truly about national public interest which is central to the prosperity of our Nation as a whole. As a Nation we should not allow the majority of our people to stay in shacks, but for all to have dignity we should resolve and dedicate ourselves to building decent homes for our people. Every Namibian must have a place that they can call their home. Every Namibian must have a roof over him or her and not sleep under the bridge or tree or in a shack that does not protect him or her against the elements of nature.

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**MOTION ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORT  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

Honourable Members, the living conditions of the majority of the working class in Namibia are well known to all of us and do not need extensive explanation at all. It is indeed very deplorable and shameful to say the least, from Chotto in Katima Mulilo to Kehemu, Sauyemwa, Ondama around Rundu, Sky Location in Oshakati, the DRC in Swakopmund, Havana, Okahandja Park, Babylon, One Nation and Kilimanjaro and Sewende Laan around our capital, Windhoek, to the Tutungeni shacks in Rosh Pinah and the Blikkiesdorp in Tsumeb and Grootfontein, just to mention a few, of the working class suburbs. It is a shame for Namibia, it is a mixture of corrugated irons and all kinds of material everywhere and we cannot be proud of it as a Nation. Therefore, we need to develop a plan of action that would ensure that in the shortest time possible the Government, elected by the Namibian people, should be able to eradicate squatter camps around our towns and build decent houses. People live in darkness without proper ablution facilities, no privacy between adults and their children, as they live packed like sardines in those shacks.

According to the 2001 Population and Housing Census, one out of ten households live in shacks, yet these are the people who are the wealth creators of this country, the people who build the multi-million dollar houses in Ludwigsdorf, Eros, Klein Windhoek, Auasblick, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, etcetera. These are the people who commute every day to continue working and building our Nation. These are the people who, due to the lack of money because they are not paid enough in the form of a National minimum living wage, have to walk up to fifteen kilometres a day to and from work on empty stomachs to come and build a wealthy Namibia. They have to brave and endure the cold winter and the unbearable Namibian heat during summer and spring. Indeed, the cost of transportation for the ordinary workers is very, very high. Just to get to town, that is the CBD, a worker needs about N\$500 per month in order to make the trip up and down from Katutura. That is calculating N\$8 coming to town, N\$8 going back times 30 days per month.

Those working outside the CBD in areas such as Eros, Ludwigsdorf, Klein Windhoek, Olympia, Prosperita Industrial Area, need about N\$960, because to get to Olympia from Katutura is N\$18 and the worst of it, those who are commuting from Okahandja need about N\$1,800 per month to make the trip from Okahandja to Windhoek and back. One wonders how the Rehoboth commuters who mostly work in our offices around here manage throughout the month, because a Rehoboth commuter basically needs N\$3,000 per month to

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**MOTION ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORT  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

be able to commute 30 days per month. A person who works for N\$4,000 in Windhoek is working for the transport operators the whole month, because you get the N\$4,500 and give N\$3,000 to the transport operator.

We believe that at the end of the day the workers are left with nothing to support their families. That is why we are saying that employers and companies need to look into the issue of providing transport or transport subsidy to their workers so that they are able to manage.

We are appealing to Government to take into consideration that if the State's responsibility is to protect the workers in society, to intervene and be proactive enough to extend a helping hand to the workers in our society by working on a policy that would make sure that employers and companies provide a housing and transport subsidies to their workers.

The third reality is that this worker works for crumbs, not peanuts. If you eat peanuts you are in fact better off, because even the doctors would recommend that you must eat peanuts as apparently it is good for the social ills in society. For companies making millions of dollars this should be an urgent need that they should look into. We also believe that it would help solve the housing crisis, because if companies were to provide housing subsidy to their workers, the workers would be able to rent better houses or flats closer to town and be able to survive, though we must note that the prices of rental in this capital is quite high.

According to the 2001 Population and Housing Census National Report and the latest statistics available, only about 10% of the more than 350,000 Namibian households live in dwellings provided for by employers. That is an indication that employers and companies are not taking their social responsibility seriously, that people have to go and sleep in shack and I must say, imagine having to wake up at 05:00, walk on an empty stomach to come and work in the CBD. I think it is really time that action be taken.

The 10% of the more than 350,000 Namibian households, translate into about 55,000 households if an average Namibian family is made up of about five people and close to about 200,000 people who are living in shacks and this situation truly cannot be condoned, this situation needs to be brought to an end, this situation needs to be acted upon and it is only the State that can take the

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necessary action to remedy the situation.

The intention of the motion is very simple, to ask Government to extend its hand to flex its muscles on behalf of the workers, that companies should be able to do something and also to make sure that if you drive down the western bypass, if you drive down where the old power station used to be at 05:00 and 17:00 in the afternoon, you see these huge trucks in which our workers are being transported, packed like sardines in those trucks and that is the mode of transportation for those that can afford, but the majority of the workers have to walk to town and have to walk from Olympia, Pioniers Park, from Hochland Park the ten, seven kilometres down to Havana and I think this situation can definitely not be tolerated and the transportation of workers in open trucks, smacks of the Colonial SWANLA contract labour system.

One would ask why and what specifically about the figure N\$60,000 and less. The answer is that it is the general category of workers, who are in the majority and do not have other fringe benefits and they are at the bottom of the employment ladder and generally find it difficult to make ends meet. They are also mostly the category of people who do not qualify for home loans with financial institutions since the cut-off by those institutions for home loans is N\$5,000 and above. As representatives of our people we should all be united and support this Motion and pass it unanimously to send a clear signal to employers about the seriousness with which we as leaders want this matter addressed as a matter of urgency. I hope that we would be able to debate in the spirit of freedom, with openness and that the Motion would eventually be passed. I thank you, Honourable Speaker, I thank you very much for listening to me.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I listened attentively to the motivation of this Motion and unfortunately I was not here for some time, but when I was listening to Honourable Shixwameni, I thought that we as the Government very much

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welcome constructive proposals for the betterment of our people and for the improvement of their general living conditions. I think this is the commitment of the SWAPO Party as it is clearly articulated in its SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. We are totally committed to the improvement of the living conditions of our people when it comes to things like clean water, housing and the improvement of infrastructure in general, sanitation and all those critical components.

Comrade Speaker, you are aware that this Government also subscribed to the Millennium Goals and we have made progress with regard to the Millennium Development Goals. This is a commendable thing our Government has done. We are very aware that we are a least developed country where we have the majority of our people living in poverty and a minority living in extreme affluence. This is the major dilemma facing our country.

The efforts of the Government must be commended, because we are trying to bring a kind of balance, a kind of equilibrium so that we also help our people and so that we redistribute wealth. These are not easy things, these are challenges which the Government is seized with.

When I was listening to Honourable Shixwameni he appeared to be genuine, but it seems to me that the whole statement is very opportunistic, clearly an attempt by the so-called APP to score what we call cheap political points, cheap ones, very cheap. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Minister, the Party itself is legitimate, it sits here in the House.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** I really appreciate what he said, but this Honourable Member was in SWAPO, as was Ulenga and all the others. They were Members of the Central Committee. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Minister, you are on the right track, leave the politics out and speak to the substance of the Motion.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, these people were Members of SWAPO and in SWAPO we debate the issues which affect our people. (Intervention)

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**HON ULENGA:** On a serious Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. I would like to ask you to stop the Honourable Member from thrashing and ravishing a very important Motion on the Floor. Please let us be serious. Do not start playing men, play the soccer ball.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Ulenga, we are very much aware that we are now seized with the FIFA World Cup in South Africa, we are not talking about football here. We are talking about the issues.

Honourable Shixwameni was in SWAPO, he was a Member of the Central Committee, he was a leader of the youth. The issue he is articulating today is opportunistic. When he was in SWAPO he never raised the issue. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Minister, with respect, the Motion is on the Floor, tear it to pieces and demonstrate that it is nothing. I think about the people being addressed in this Motion. We should not appear to be saying that those things do not matter. Take the Floor and demonstrate things that the Government has done, is doing and plans to do. Forget about the past.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, I like your statement of forgetting about the past, but some of us cannot forget the past because we must build the new future on the past and it is very important that we also reflect on the past. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** He is no longer a Member of SWAPO.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask a question? Honourable Nujoma, are you aware that in 1989 when the Father of this Nation came back to Namibia, he came with the policy of reconciliation and said, “*forgive but do not forget.*” Are you aware of those words?

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Minister, I was just coming to those words, that we can forgive but we cannot forget and that is why it is important when we are discussing issues of housing, sanitation and health that we reflect on the past. We inherited a serious deficit in terms of social programmes for our people.

When you look at other developed countries, such as the United States of America, it took them almost three hundred years and France two hundred years. Where are we? If you look back twenty years, this is where we are now and we are seized with the commitment to provide better services to our people. President Hifikepunye Pohamba always says in his statements that the Ministers must deliver. Today he was addressing Permanent Secretaries. Why was he addressing them? Because he wants the current Government to deliver the services to the people. The President is hammering on the Ministers and the Permanent Secretaries and the Civil Servants to deliver and we are on the ground, we are committed, but we must also look at the other side of the coin.

We are a least developed country and we have Budget constraints. Those are the realities we are facing and it is very important that we must always talk openly and friendly to our people, that had we had the money and resources, we would have built enough houses for our people in Katutura.

It is not necessary to come here and make statements that you want people to have houses in Katutura. Where are you going to get the money? We must live within the means we have at our disposal.

Honourable Shixwameni, go to the United States of America, a very rich country with a Budget of more than three hundred trillion dollars, the people are still sleeping under bridges. Why can they not solve that problem? How will the APP come with the magic solution? We must tell our people the truth. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Are you aware that the people want to pretend that they are socialist, but in reality they are capitalist and they do not want to accept that it is capitalism which caused these problems?

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** I was just coming to that. True to the philosophy of the SWAPO Party, we wanted to create a kind of a socialist system, but because of the pressure... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Minister, when a Motion is moved on the Floor, it is indeed an opportunity for the Ministers to provide information to the public out there. It is an opportunity for you to provide information instead of getting into a defensive mode. For your information, there are two Ministers, the Honourable Minister of Health and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, who are always getting into a mode of providing factual information that helps not only the Honourable Members but the public out there. Please do not go on the defensive on an issue such as this. Provide information so that the public can know what the Government is doing.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Tjihuiko, if you have listened carefully to what I said, we welcome constructive proposals, because we recognise the position here. We want to work with you, but we welcome constructive criticism which will help us to build a better Namibia for every Namibian. That we welcome, but what we do not like is orchestrated, opportunistic Motions hiding behind a socialist agenda. We know these people, we have lived with them and maybe some of us are more socialist than them. That is why I say it is very important that we tell our people the truth, we should not create air castles, it will never work. Let us tell our people that this is the Budget we have, this is the money we get from taxes and this is what we are going to provide to the people through the normal Budget system and all the Ministers here were seized with that matter. They provided the Budget, that was the opportunity to ask questions and the answers were provided.

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What I would like to condemn here in the strongest terms are these opportunistic kinds of Motions and we should be careful not to make the people believe that when the APP comes to power they will have houses. It has never happened, it will never happen. The truth is that we must work together with you and our people to try and solve the problems of our people. SWAPO is honest and transparent and we are going to divide the little we have and make sure that our people benefit. I thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, and welcome back home. I thank you for reminding us in your statement that as Africans we must embrace Pan-Africanism and regard Africa as the home of all Africans, including those in Diaspora.

I am surprised to hear that our neighbours think that we are unfriendly. Perhaps so, I do not know, but some of us who grew up in those countries have divided loyalties to those countries and Namibia. Thank you for that statement.

Honourable Shixwameni, thank you for the sentiments expressed, I hope that they are well-meant, but I also know that you are a politician, you want to get some Constituency somewhere. I just want to make a small contribution by informing you, and through you the public out there, that the SWAPO Government is a people-centred Government. If we have not done certain things, it is not because of lack of political will, it is basically because of lack of resources.

We want each and every Namibian to have shelter, because a shelter provides protection, a shelter provides dignity to people. It establishes some kind of identity to people. However, we should also recognise the social deficit Comrade Nujoma has been talking about which we inherited. Part of this social deficit comes from the notorious migrant act which was in operation here, which prevented the people from rural areas to come to urban areas and

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when the gates were opened and we had free movement of people, they wanted to know why they were prevented from coming to towns and they came in their thousands. Now you have Havana and all those locations you talked about, Okahandja Park and DRC in Swakopmund. It is the pull of the towns which has created these conditions and because of that, the situation is not what we would like it to be.

However, that does not mean that Government is not making efforts. In recognition of the poor, especially the low-income workers, Government raised the threshold for taxation to N\$40,000. If you are earning N\$40,000 per year, you are not taxed, you take all home. This is really to help especially the labourers to take something home rather than giving to Government. This is in consideration of the needs of the poor.

You will also recall that two, three years ago Government removed Value Added Tax from some basic food items, again to support the poor. That is why we are saying this is a people-centred Government.

We have just debated the Budget here and if you look at the Budget, you will find a line item in the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development called, "*Support to Build-Together Programme, Support to Shack Dwellers Programme.*" This is really to help people who want to help themselves to get a shelter.

The other day here I called upon the Honourable Members that even we as individuals can make a contribution. I, for one, contribute N\$100 per month to the Shack Dwellers. It is not big money, but that is solidarity with the Shack Dwellers. We can also express our solidarity ourselves in our individual capacities to help our sisters and brothers who are in those unfortunate conditions.

Honourable Jerry Ekandjo made a statement here on the plight of the homeless people and I hope that Honourable Shixwameni got that statement and saw the efforts by Government to address the plight of the lower-income people especially with regard to housing.

With regard to transport, all of us are not happy to see people being transported by trucks, because they are not meant to transport people. Some of us have

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been thinking that perhaps the builders and other people who transport people en masse should talk to the Municipality and buy these tokens and give to the workers so that the Municipal buses should be able to ferry the workers to workplaces. We have been thinking about that. However, the problem here is our population. Unless we subsidise the Windhoek Municipal bus services, because of the nature of our small population, the Municipality is forced to park the buses at a certain time of the day so that they do not incur losses. It is a real problem we all recognise.

Yes, we must encourage the private sector to provide decent transport, but we cannot really force them through legislation, as you are suggesting. Perhaps that is too heavy-handed to deal with the matter. We must encourage the private sector to be good corporate citizens and to treat their workers decently by providing reasonable transport.

We have also encouraged the trade unions to speak on behalf of the workers, so that they can negotiate with the employers to see how best the employers can meet the transport needs of their workers, but to demand that the Government should pass a law is perhaps too heavy-handed for now. Yes, we must talk about it so that we can sensitise the employers that they should treat their workers as human beings, not sardines as you call it. Let us prick their conscience to see whether they can improve on the services they render to their employees.

Let me just once again say that your Government is a caring Government. If it has not dealt with some of these issues yesterday, it does not mean that tomorrow these issues are not going to be tackled, they are and that is the promise we got from the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo. Let us take his word for now, but please do not force us to legislate on an issue like this one. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Uutoni.

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HON UTONI**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I just want to emphasise what Honourable Nujoma and the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said. They have said much about the housing needs of our people, but in the motivation of Honourable Shixwameni it is like he does not want to appreciate what Government has achieved so far. It is a one-sided motivation.

I am a person who comes from a background where a lot has been achieved. I come from a Local Authority. In 1992 when I became a Councillor in the town of Ongwediva in the Oshana Region, in that town you hardly found houses to accommodate the majority of the members of our society, what you can find there that time was you only found a small area confined only with houses for the former Ministers of the Ovambo Administration. However, today you will be impressed by what this Government has done for its own people in that town and that is a fact. Go to Oshakati. Oshakati had a confined area for the whites' houses, but in Oshakati South you will find that National Housing Enterprise is expanding on housing for our people. They are now servicing a big area for people to be given houses. It is only that some of you are instigating people not to accept what Government is trying to do.

The Government is giving money for Build-Together, for people who earn little and there Build-Together houses in Rundu and Nkurenkuru. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Utoni, I am a bit surprised that in your reference to what has actually taken place, you have only made reference to two towns in the North. Can I take it for granted that development is only going to those towns? Is that what you are trying to confirm now?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Tjihuiiko cut me short, I was just trying to explain what Government has done and not only in those towns. Honourable Tjihuiiko, visit Rundu, visit Katima Mulilo, go to Opuwo and Okakarara. In 1998 I visited the area in Windhoek where the Shack Dwellers were given a piece of land to develop their houses and it was the SWAPO Government who achieved

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that. I was just giving an example of a few towns and that is why I am saying the statement of Honourable Shixwameni is not balanced and it does not appreciate what has been done. It is very important to appreciate what others have done. I thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned on Monday, 26 April 2010, under Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Honourable Speaker, upon consultation and with the concurrence of the Minister of Trade and Industry, I would like to adjourn the Debate on this Bill to tomorrow afternoon.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow. That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. I request the Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:05 UNTIL 2010.06.16 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
16 JUNE 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO  
STANDING COMMITTEES AND GROUPS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have a brief announcement before we commence with the business of the House. I would want to inform the House of the following Members who have been nominated to serve on the following Committees and groups:

Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni – Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements.

Honourable Ben Ulenga – Standing Committee on Women and Gender.

Honourable Arnold Tjihuiko – Committee on the Pan-African Parliament.

In terms of Rule 39(6) of the Standing Rules and Orders, I now declare these Honourable Members as duly elected to the said Committees and groupings with immediate effect. In due course, when we are ready, I will also be announcing the composition of the Friendship Groups. There are never-ending indications from friendly countries to establish Friendship Groups with us, but that will come later.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion?

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** I move the Motion, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Objections? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

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**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE  
LANDS TRIBUNAL**

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand before this august House to present a Motion that is aimed at motivating for the approval by this House of five persons who are to be appointed as Members of the Lands Tribunal for a period of three years, as provided by the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, No. 6 of 1995. The term of the current Lands Tribunal expired in April 2010.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to brief this House on the functions of the Lands Tribunal, as outlined in the principal Act.

Section 63(1) of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act (Act 6 of 1995) provides for the establishment of the Lands Tribunal. The Lands Tribunal has jurisdiction to:

1. Determine the purchase price in instances where there is a dispute between the owner of commercial agricultural land and the Minister of Lands and Resettlement once the land has been offered for sale to the Government.
2. To determine any appeal lodged with it in terms of any provision of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act.
3. To consider and give a decision on any application made to it in terms of the provisions of the said Act.

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4. To enquire and adjudicate upon any matter which is required or permitted to be referred to it under provisions of the said Act or any other law.
5. To preside over land-related disputes between the Ministry and beneficiaries of resettlement or members of the public who may be aggrieved by the manner in which agricultural land is allocated.

As indicated in the Notice of Motion, I have chosen the following persons to serve on the Lands Tribunal:

1. Dirk Hendrik Conradie: Section 63(2)(a) of the said Act provides for a member, of whom one shall be a person with legal qualifications and who has been practising law for a period of not less than five years and who shall be the Chairperson. It is against this background that Mr Conradie is nominated to be appointed as the chairperson of the Lands Tribunal. He is a legal practitioner of both the High and Supreme Courts of the Land of the Brave. Advocate Conradie has been practising law for sixteen years and has established himself as an authority in his chosen field of professionalism. He served Namibia in various capacities, such as the Chairperson of the Lands Tribunal, Chairman of the Namibia Ports Authority, President of the Namibia Law Association, Chairman of Mineral and Ancillary Rights Commission and member of several other commissions and committees. Advocate Conradie is well known in the legal fraternity as a competent and honest man. He is also a member of the Presidential Judicial Service Commission. Mr Conradie has been the Chairperson of the Lands Tribunal and I wish to request this august House to endorse the proposal for him to serve yet another term. The Ministry is confident that Advocate Conradie, with his wealth of experience, will serve and lead this important statutory body.
2. Elize Mutaleni Angula: Ms Angula was nominated in accordance with Section 63(3) of the said legal framework which provides for the appointment of a person to be the alternate of the Chairperson of the Lands Tribunal. When Advocate Conradie is not available, Ms Angula will be acting in his stead. She is a legal practitioner of the High Court of Namibia and is experienced in civil and commercial litigation. Ms Angula serves Namibia in various capacities, such as a Director of the

Development Bank, Foschini Group of Companies and the Frans Indongo Group (Pty) Ltd. Ms Angela's vast experience in property transactions will bring a wealth of experience to the Lands Tribunal.

3. Ms Elba Caroline Bührmann: Section 63(2)(c) of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 of 1995, provides for a member who shall be a person who has experience in agricultural matters. In compliance with this section, Ms Bührmann was found suitable to be appointed to serve as a member of the Lands Tribunal. She has been a commercial farmer for seventeen years and possesses a wealth of experience in agricultural matters relevant to this assignment. Ms Bührmann has extensive involvement in the agricultural sector and she has served as a member of the Land Reform Advisory Commission for the period 1996 to 2002 and also as the Treasurer of the Gamsberg Farmers Association from 2001 up to date. She holds a degree in Botany and Entomology.
4. In accordance with Section 63(2)(b) of the said legal framework, which provides for a member with experience of economical or financial matters, the Ministry identified Mr Daniel Motinga. Mr Motinga is an experienced economist, researcher and manager at the First Namibia Bank Namibia Holdings. He has the academic knowledge and a broad practical experience in economics in finance, pricing and economic capacity, which is relevant to this important task of purchase price determination. In addition, he has published plenty of works of diverse fields, such as housing markets, poverty, economic empowerment, land reform, sectoral development and environmental economics and growth. Mr Motinga serves as an advisor on economic issues on the Bank's Management Committee as well as on the Asset and Liability Committee. Being an economist and researcher, I am confident that Mr Motinga brings forth a wealth of experience that will contribute to the Lands Tribunal and I humbly request you to also endorse him.
5. Honourable Clara Bohitile: The Minister of Lands and Resettlement also intends to appoint to the Lands Tribunal Ms Clara Bohitile, the former Deputy Minister of Education and former Deputy Minister of Finance and also former Member of Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. She is an expert in policy and philosophic development, farming and financial

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matters. She is a trustee of the First National Bank Trust and is a member of various organisations. Her experience as an emerging farmer will serve as valuable input, especially when dealing with issues pertaining to dispute resolution.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, having regard to the functions of the Lands Tribunal, I have no doubt that the persons I am recommending to serve on the Lands Tribunal possess, both individually and collectively, the skills required to carry out the aforementioned duties. The nominated persons have amongst them the legal, agricultural, economic and financial matters and general social skills that will render the Lands Tribunal effective in carrying out its mandate. The *curriculum vitae* of the proposed members of the Lands Tribunal were made available to the Honourable Members for your kind perusal. I know that Honourable Tjihuiko, as usual, will have something to say about it, but I know personally that indeed it was distributed.

At this juncture, I humbly request the indulgence of the House in disposing of this crucial function and plead that this august House approves and endorses the appointment of the five candidates recommended to serve on the Lands Tribunal for the next three years. I thank you for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. Any further discussion?  
Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Unfortunately I have not seen the *curriculum vitae*'s of the Colleagues. Yes, indeed, listening to the Honourable Minister and knowing most of the Colleagues that have been nominated, I do not have doubts in the recommendation made by the Honourable Minister. I know a number of the Colleagues recommended and I believe that they are capable cadres that would serve this country to the best of their ability. I have no doubt about that.

Yes, indeed, Honourable Speaker, the task that has been given to the Colleagues is a big one in the sense that we are now at the crossroads of looking at the practical implementation of the two Agricultural Acts. We all know that there is an outcry out there that something needs to be done in order

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for us to have one Agricultural Act and I hope that the Honourable Minister will move towards looking at that issue.

The second point that I want to make, Honourable Minister, is that there is an outcry concerning access to land and, among others, the question of the twenty hectares. The traditional communities in this country are very concerned about the issue of twenty hectares and I believe that a number of Traditional Authorities have requested the Honourable Minister to reconsider the issue of twenty hectares and I appeal the Honourable Minister to do so urgently. With those few words, I support the nominations.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. I want to thank the Members of this House for endorsing the appointees, because at the end of the day these individuals would be at the service of the Nation that all of us are purported to be serving.

On the issues raised by Honourable Tjihuike, the Traditional Authorities keep custody of communal land instead of the State and I think we must take it from that premise and we must really at all our levels of interaction with the communities out there lead them to be in concert with what the Constitution of the country states and what the enabling legal framework dictates. We have to tell our people that yes, they have custody of communal land, but communal land is State land and the State enact Acts that would make it easier to administer land affairs, in a way prudent with sound administrative governance procedures.

The problem of land not being readily available in communal areas is known to Mr Tjihuike and all the Honourable Members of this House and that is linked to the fact that some members of the community have taken it upon themselves to fence off communal land and illegally so.

Therefore, when we have converging issues which make it complicated for us to deal with, then we should not mix them. I think you get what I am saying.

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**INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL**  
**HON SHIXWAMENI**

The stipulations are very clear, twenty hectares, and if it is properly motivated through the structures, be it Land Boards, it can be brought to the attention of the Minister and issues can be dealt with accordingly. The secret is that we must be able to inform our communities with regard to the true realities on the ground and the true reality is that communal land is State land. The Traditional Authorities are custodians of communal land instead of the State. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. Any objections? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:**  
**INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 15 June 2010, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Today being the Day of the African Child and the day that we are discussing the Industrial Properties Bill, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all African children and Namibian children, in particular, and wish them well as future inventors and leaders of our great continent.

The Bill before the House is a very straightforward technical Bill, I have gone through it several times and I do not have many problems with it apart from the fact that not being a person that has worked in this area, I have certain things that need to be cleared. I will go page by page and start with page 13 of the Bill, the functions of the Industrial Property Office.

Given the importance of the Bill in terms of patenting and registration of trademarks, I thought that we would probably have to make public education

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central to the functions of the Industrial Property Office, because very few people, particularly in the formerly disadvantaged communities, understand the importance of patents, trademarks and other issues regulated within the Bill. I was just wondering how this is covered in terms of historic, traditional songs. We as Africans have always sung songs and what is happening nowadays is that the modern artists obtain copyright on these particular songs. I do not know how it will be dealt with when it is known that this is a song which originated from a certain community and an artist modernises, perfects it and registers copyright. Who has the copyright over that? Is it the community or is it the artist that has now registered it and receives royalties. That is one aspect that I want to be cleared and that is why I am talking about public education to inform members of communities, both traditional and others, that it is important to register knowledge which is theirs, so that they will be able to make use of it.

On page 14 it deals with the appointment of the Registrar and I do not have many problems with that, with the exception that it is the discretionary power of the Minister of Trade and Industry to decide whether to appoint the current Registrar of Close Corporations and Companies in this particular position. My only concern is that with the 51% unemployment in this country, we should be careful not to centralise tasks in one person that could otherwise be done by others. I would prefer the position where the person independent from the current Registrar be employed in that particular position. We should work on the principle of “*one woman, one job*”, so that we can also create opportunities for other people to also earn bread for their people.

Page 16, restriction of officials in terms of what they can do and what they cannot do. I think that is one of the best practices in our recent legislative process. I hope that this will be extended to other Offices, Ministries and Agencies, because individuals are complaining that if you take your proposal to a certain office or even to bank officials, the ideas are being stolen in these offices. Therefore, to avoid the ongoing theft of business ideas and abuse of office by certain Public Servants, that these restrictions regarding officials are put in place.

Chapter 2, page 17, invention. I would like to find out exactly why computer programmes in particular are excluded, since programmers are at the centre and are the drivers of information and communication technology development

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worldwide. Once again, I would like to see a situation where employees are protected so that they can benefit from their inventions. You are employed to do the job, you earn a salary of N\$6,000 and at the end of the day you invent an invention that benefits that company in perpetuity, but the workers only receives recognition and a bonus. I hope that we can with time address that particular issue. That also applies to the whole question of the right to patent and who really benefits. It is a bit controversial. Of course, in a capitalist society the company has the right over the patent, but what benefits does the person who invented it get out of it and I can give you an example.

There is this whole ongoing saga around the Maguni Liqueur. This liqueur was launched three or four years ago, but I know that the person who started this Maguni Liqueur is a local around the Kavango Region. He worked with these professors from Stellenbosch and at the end of the day they ended up sidelining him completely and the next thing that he sees is that they are going to launch the Maguni Liqueur. In this whole process this man has been completely excluded although he was the one who provided the seeds and all the materials for them to do the first thing in Cape Town.

Related to that is the African Vodka. If we were to patent *kashipembe* or *ombike* as it is called in the Oshiwambo language, how do we deal with that issue of the patent? Who gets the right over *kashipembe* or *ombike*? The Minister of Trade would probably be able to shed more light on these particular issues. We must do research and make it the African Vodka. The Russians have theirs, everybody has theirs, why can we not refine and perfect it and put it on the shelves for sale?

On page 23, Section 25, the application fee for patents. This is going to be provided for in the regulations, but I want to caution that we should ensure that the application fee is not exorbitant, because if the fee is exorbitant, we might end up excluding our people who may have things that they want to register. I know that Government will look into that in terms of the provision of the rule.

On page 32, the duration of patents. I have not read the conventions referred to in this particular Bill, but I was wondering why is the duration of a patent restricted. A patent is restricted to twenty years, a trade mark is restricted to fifteen years and I was wondering why that is the case. Maybe there is an explanation in the international convention, but it is not explained in this

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particular Bill. However, as an inventor I would feel that that invention belongs to me for the rest of my life. Why should I reapply after twenty years to register the same invention? However, if there is an explanation internationally, the Minister would explain it.

I come back to page 11, Chapter 1 and page 109 with reference to industrial property agents and the role of lawyers. My concern here is that the more intermediaries you have, the more the cost of registration. That applies to the registration of houses where the estate agents add their commission and at the end of the day the price is inflated. I hope these types of agents and lawyers would be dealt with properly because the lawyers' fees are exorbitant and if we could exclude intermediaries, it would make the administration costs cheaper.

If you look at the cost of electricity in Namibia, instead of NamPower providing directly to the municipality, there is this animal called the REDS in-between. NamPower charges their rate, then the animals called the REDS tops it up in order to pay huge salaries. It is high time that we limit the involvement of lawyers and other agencies in the registration process.

The second-last point I want to raise is on page 170, Section 207 and page 108. That relates to the power of the Registrar and the power of the Tribunal. Honourable Minister, when you look at this very carefully, you find that the powers of the Registrar and the power of the Tribunal are basically the same and one wonders who oversees whom and, indeed, in the Bill itself it is provided for that the Registrar can sometimes substitute for the Tribunal. The question I am asking is, if the Registrar can substitute the Tribunal in certain cases, why have a Tribunal at the end of the day? I would want us to look at the powers of the Registrar and the powers of the Tribunal and try to establish checks and balances, that the registrar has functions in terms of appeals and the Tribunal should do certain functions in terms of appeal.

My last point is with regard to the penalties provided for in the Bill. I think we have been reading and hearing too much about Public Servants' abuse of positions and corruption. For me the penalties are too lenient, to say the least, because the penalties range from N\$5,000 or twelve months imprisonment to N\$10,000 or twenty-four months imprisonment. Compare that to the poor guy in Ovitoto who steals a goat, where the minimum sentence prescribed in the Act is basically almost thirty years imprisonment, while white or blue collar

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crime is given this pittance as penalty. I would want the Minister to revisit this if we are to deter officials from committing white collar crime by tampering with patents. Otherwise I support the Bill and I thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** I move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week. I kindly ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:30 UNTIL 2010.06.17 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
17 JUNE 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, two announcements: One to inform those Honourable Members concerned of an invitation to attend the SWAPO Party 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition. The exhibition will take place from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June to 9 July 2010 and the opening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June at 18:30 at the National Arts Gallery in Windhoek will be done by Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana.

The second brief announcement is to extend warm and proud congratulations to Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism, as the winner of the FNB Inaugural Tourism Award. I believe this is not belated since the award was announced on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Honourable Minister, I was right in what I said to you the other day, well done and keep up the good work.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:  
ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission for the year ending 2009, for your reading and study. I so Move Honourable Speaker.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Prime Minister please table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the following Offices and Ministries:

Ministry of Lands and Resettlement;  
Ministry of Health and Social Services;  
Ministry of Education;  
National Planning Commission;  
Department of Works of the Ministry of Works and Transport; and  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

for the Financial Year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 7:**

**HON //GAROËB:** I give Notice that on Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, I shall ask the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the following question:

Are the Namibian citizens legally free to participate in:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTION  
HON //GAROËB**

1. The lotteries in relation to the current World Cup competitions in South Africa;
2. The July Handicap in South Africa;
3. The North-West German State Lottery?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? The first Question is by Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 1:**

**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I stand to be advised by the Speaker, because according to our Rules on page 55, a question shall not be asked which raises an issue already decided in the Assembly or which has been answered fully during the current session and I think Honourable Ulenga put this same question to His Excellency the Head of State during the State of the Nation Address. Therefore I do not intend putting it.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 1 is by the same Honourable Member. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Question 2 was anticipated by the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture in his response when he presented a Ministerial Statement. Most of the questions were basically answered in that Statement.

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## **RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

**HON SPEAKER:** Question 3 is by Honourable Ulenga. Yesterday in the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders Honourable Ulenga raised the issue as to whether the Questions on the Question Paper would be addressed and I assured him, yes, that during the time we considered the Appropriation Bill the questions were deferred, but I also made the point to him, he is an old hand in the House, that when the Questions are put by the Honourable Members of the Opposition, the Ministers go out of their way to do research and get all the details of the questions put to them and they are ready to provide answers, but then the Honourable Members who put the questions are not present. They must make sure that they are here to hear the questions they put to the Government Benches. I am asking the same Honourable Member to put the question and he is not around. Questions 4 to 6 are by the same Honourable Member. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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### **RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE ON THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH NAMIBIAN WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE LIVING IN OUR URBAN AREAS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 16 June 2010, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Shixwameni that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Tjihuike adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. We as lawmakers are being challenged to look at the burning issue of housing in the beautiful Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, it is indeed a known fact that the Namibian Government, through the National Housing Policy recognises shelter as a fundamental human right. The objective of the policy is to create a conducive environment for every Namibian to have housing according to their needs and we all know that housing provides dignity and hope to a family.

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Honourable Speaker, I am fully aware of the Government's efforts, especially in terms of policy formulation and programme development. There Government has done a beautiful job, no question about that, but what this Motion seeks is in fact a challenge to us all, be it Government, the private sector and us as lawmakers and individual employers to try and find a lasting solution to the problem of housing conditions in our country.

Looking at the present structures that we have in place, be it the National Housing Enterprise, the Build-Together Programme or the Shack Dwellers Association and the efforts that they have put in, one would appreciate that a lot has been done, but I think it is time for us to revisit the efforts of these institutions and try to put more meat on those bones so that they can reach the point where the provision of housing to our people will be accelerated.

If one looks at an institution like the National Housing Enterprise, I have been wondering and tried to find out as to what is the exact market they are targeting. I know that two, three years ago they were planning to build houses in Okakarara and of course, I do not have a house in Okakarara and I was very interested when I read this story in the newspaper. I rushed down to the office in Katutura and I registered myself that I need a house. When I looked at the price of the type of houses they would build, the house was in the range of N\$230,000 in a place like Okakarara. It left me wondering what section of our society these houses were meant for. It is indeed out of reach of the people that we are talking about.

I believe that the intention of the Build-Together Programme is good. It has been tested for the last couple of years, but maybe we need to revisit this programme. In some parts of our country you see houses which have been built halfway and when you try to find out the reason why these houses could not be completed, one gets all sorts of answers. Among the popular answers in the rural areas one is that the reason why those houses have not been completed is because the people were given the loans to build the houses up to a certain level and when they got the cheque, then the objective was not to build the house but to go and buy booze. They buy booze and just forget about the house. Maybe we need to look at how best we can ensure that the money earmarked for that purpose is being spent for the purpose. This is a challenge to all of us and, obviously, Regional Councillors, Municipal Councillors, Members of Parliament and political leaders we should make it our business to

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make sure that Government funds approved here is being spent for the purpose for which the money has been budgeted for.

I know that in this year we have budgeted something like N\$50 million for the National Housing Enterprise to build houses and the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs made a comment on the Shack Dwellers Association that have build a number of good houses for a mere N\$1 million. Maybe we need to consider whether the Shack Dwellers Association would not be the appropriate structure to decentralise activities and have an institution of this nature specifically looking at a specific area and give the money for that specific programme that they have in that area. You will cut on the management structures, you will cut on the Chief Executive Officer's salary, the secretaries' salaries, transport and all the benefits that the staff of the National Housing Enterprise are getting. We will cut costs and have more money to build houses. I believe we need to look at this and see how best we can tackle this issue.

The new ideas that we need to develop should not be done in isolation. We need to have a broader consolidation process where even the affected members of our community will also become part of the solution to their problems. Let us sit down with them and hear from them what needs to be done in order for them to have roofs over their heads. I think they will be better experts than ourselves.

Another issue that I believe we need to look at is the process over the last fifteen or twenty years and review all these programmes before we initiate a new one. Let us look at what were the problems of the National Housing Enterprise, where the bottlenecks were and try to see what it is we want to do in order for us to get this process going. I do not think this is an area where one has to sit back and say the Government or the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development should do it, but all of us should address it in a manner that would benefit everybody.

Honourable Speaker, what Government may need to look at through this process of consultation and discussion is some kind of incentive that would encourage employers to provide housing and transport subsidies to their workers, but these incentives should not only be considered in monetary terms.

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It does not necessarily have to be tax reduction, but I think there are some other ways in which we can encourage the employers. I am not saying there should be tax reductions because the company, Tjihuiiko (Pty) Ltd., is now providing transport subsidies and I must get 10% tax reduction, but I am looking at some broader idea as to how best we can encourage the employers to do that.

However, there are certain things all of us need to do, from the employers, the employees, trade unions and Government. If I were the Chief Executive Officer of a specific company and somebody asked me to provide these incentives to the workers, the first question that would come to mind is the productivity of my workforce. It will depend on the work ethics of the workforce.

Some of us who believe in capitalism with a human face, unlike some of the socialists sitting around here, believe that the more the private sector make money, the more likely they would be prepared to spend more and a company can only make money if the workforce is productive, coming to work on time and stop these illegal strikes. It is only then that Government would be in a position to say, *“you are making good money, the people are putting in a lot, the productivity has increased, I think this is the time for you now to do something about transport and housing to your staff.”* In the absence of that it would not make sense for one to say, *“give them more money”* and the next morning they are on an illegal strike and the productivity goes down. It has to be a two-way traffic where we would expect the employers to put something on the table and the workforce would be prepared to go an extra mile.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, my contribution is more on a concerted efforts for all the players in this sector. I do not want to look at Government as if Government is the only institution that has to provide all the solutions to our problems, but Government being us and employers being us, we need one another in order for us to come up with a solution that would benefit our people. I thank you and I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Katjavivi.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. In motivating his Motion before the House, the Honourable Shixwameni spoke at length about the challenges faced by the Namibian workers in relation to their social and economic conditions. In particular he highlighted the conditions of those located in urban areas.

Honourable Speaker, we are all familiar with the subject matter that the Honourable Member is attempting to address through this Motion. The onset of winter reminds us how difficult it is for those who do not have the resources for adequate housing and transport.

Honourable Speaker, the issue of poverty receives the utmost attention of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Firstly, the Honourable Minister of Finance has announced specific measures that are aimed at addressing the burden of rising living costs. Secondly, a number of our Government Ministries are seized with specific programmes that are designed to provide social and economic benefits to those who do qualify for such provisions. In particular, the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare, Gender Equality, Health and Social Services, Regional, Local Government and Housing are all in the forefront of providing ongoing assistance towards our various communities up and down the country.

Honourable Speaker, this House has just approved the Budget for 2010/2011 which includes measures that are aimed at addressing the very issue the Honourable Member lists in his Motion. It is clear that the Government appreciates the plight of our urban dwellers, particularly those who find themselves living in temporary settlements around our various cities and towns. Their needs continue to receive the attention of the relevant municipalities and the Government. However, it must be noted that the Government is concerned and continues to address the needs of all Namibians in its effort to alleviate poverty and underdevelopment of not just those who live in urban areas, but throughout the whole country, including our rural Communities.

Honourable Speaker, the Government has various instruments in place to assist the alleviation of poverty. It has enacted legislation to guarantee the rights of workers through labour regulations, social security provisions, anti-discrimination and affirmative action. In addition, all the relevant ILO

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Conventions have been adopted and a Labour Advisory Council has been established.

This Government envisages the improvement of conditions of labour, whether organised or not, whether work might occur in a company, whether at home, in the community or in the voluntary sector.

Honourable Speaker, the objectives of the Government policies are, however, also to create an increasing number of jobs so as to reduce the current high level of unemployment and under-employment and to promote the protection of workers.

We welcome the Honourable Member's interest in including housing and transport facilities for the urban dwellers. We also recall that immediately after Namibia became independent, the Government identified housing as one of its priority areas of development. The central goal of the policy is to make resources available for the development of infrastructure and facilities, so that every Namibian family will be given a fair opportunity to acquire land with water, energy and a waste disposal system and to facilitate access to shelter in suitable locations at a cost and standards affordable to the family, on one hand, and to the Nation, on the other.

Honourable Speaker, the challenge confronting us, however, is always that of resources available to achieve these goals. The policy therefore states that the role of Government is to facilitate and promote partnership between public, private, local and Regional institutions and individuals, to coordinate housing executive agencies, including National Housing Enterprise, NGOs and other appropriate agencies, for public sector standard housing programmes and projects.

In this connection I am pleased to report that the National Housing Enterprise has recently offered to brief this House through its various Standing Committees on the work that the agency is providing in terms of affordable housing. Therefore, we will have the opportunity, Honourable Speaker, to discuss the matter in this House in the near future.

Honourable Speaker, the Government welcomes and supports the efforts of those private companies who provide housing and transport subsidies for their

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workers. We also need to recognise that a greater commitment from all sectors of society to address the housing and transport needs of workers would enhance not only the welfare of those workers, but also the efficiency and productivity at work, thus promoting economic growth and the possibility of further job creation. Honourable Speaker, the issue is not the enactment of further legislation, but the use of instruments we have in place to address the needs of our people. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. From the onset we could remind ourselves that the economic crisis was actually partly triggered by the housing crisis in the United States. Therefore, this is a serious matter, whether we are talking about the extremes in terms of lack of loan repayments or defaults in the advanced countries or we are talking about the situation we are facing in our country of lack of provision of housing and proper sanitation. In any case, we are talking about serious business.

Having said that, I think the attempt of the Honourable Member Shixwameni in bringing this motion is a supplementary attempt to improve on the approach of providing decent and affordable housing to our urban population and perhaps also to the rural population, because we also have very serious shortages of adequate and decent accommodation in the rural areas. Hence, the provision of housing is actually one of the welfare issues that should be promoted, not only in terms of the principles of State policy as per Chapter 11 of our Constitution, but also as a country that has ratified the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. From that point of view it is actually obligatory on all of us and Government to ensure that we provide adequate and decent housing to our citizens.

I have to say that Namibia and by that I mean all of us – has actually done a marvellous job and it should be commended for having taken initiatives, such as revamping and restructuring of the so-called Nasboukor into the National Housing Enterprise. The Build-Together Programme, notwithstanding its shortcomings, is also commendable and I think these are efforts that all of us

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need to commend ourselves for and pat ourselves on the backs.

All of us as Members of Parliament and more especially the Government, which belongs to all of us, the Namibian Government ... (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** The SWAPO Government.

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**HON SPEAKER:** It is Government of the Republic of Namibia.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Honourable Speaker, I believe that there is no dispute of the facts on the imperative of providing decent housing that is suitable for occupation by human beings. That fact is actually established. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** May I ask a question? Honourable Member, since you are new here, I would like to ask whether you are aware that in the beginning we always referred to the Government of the Republic of Namibia and I used to say "*your Government.*" It was from that side that we were told it is the SWAPO Government. Are you aware of that?

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Maamberua raised the issue of the Covenant on Civil, Economic and Social Rights. Are you aware that this Government has ratified that Convention and we are preparing reports to that effect, but that convention commits Government to progressively realise these ideals. Are you aware that this is exactly what we are doing within the parameters of the resources available? It is a commitment and all those institutions are involved. I think Honourable Tjihuiko and Honourable Shixwameni do not understand the provisions of this Convention. That is what the Convention provides, which Namibia has subscribed to, and we are committed to progressively realising the ideals of that Convention.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Actually I am aware, but we have to be realistic. When the Convention says progressively, it does not mean slowly.

Honourable Speaker, I think we are all aware of the risks associated with the lack of proper housing. Actually, in Namibia we refer to those settlements as shacks, but I think the original word that describes those conditions properly is “ghetto” and we should do away with ghettos. The risks that are found in that type of environment include easy ignition of fires and recently we had fire outbreaks in Windhoek, Swakopmund and so on. (Interjection). We can try to be smart with terminologies, but the situation and the environment is deplorable. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. In Namibia we do not have ghettos, no squatters, no shacks. We have informal settlements.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Whatever the difference, the hardship is the same, the hardship remains the same. Easy spread of urban water-borne diseases is one of the very serious risks and the Minister of Health was here just a minute ago. High levels of crime, breakdown in family relationships, high dropouts from education are all very serious risks associated with the living conditions in the ghettos. The causes of these include high levels of poverty and we know our poverty rates at the moment, high rates of unemployment, low levels of education, poor amenities and municipal services, inadequate provision of information on various human activities, skewed distribution of national resources and I am happy that some Members confirmed that they are of socialist orientation and I think the more of us become socialist, the skewed distribution of resources will also be addressed and indirectly we shall address this problem of housing shortage.

Exploitative capitalist system is one contributing factor. Actually it is only today that I have heard of a capitalist system with a human face. (Interjection) All the dormant socialists can join us.

Low level of investment in rural areas. We have the pull-and-push factors. There are so many push factors from the rural areas and those are actually factors that drive people to this situation.

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Honourable Speaker, it is incumbent on the Line Ministry to provide this House with data on how many families were earmarked to be provided with housing per year. I think that is very important.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that you will agree with me that we have the potential to avert a housing crisis in this country, provided we have the political will and disobey blind loyalty to the rules of free market forces and regulate the prices of land. Otherwise, if we do not control the prices of land, I think we will continue facing the same situation. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question, please? Honourable Maamberua, you made a number of good interventions, but amongst others you mentioned the lack of political will. Could you just expand on that, what do you mean by lack of political will.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I am saying, if we do not have the political will to address and to tackle this problem head-on, then we are in trouble. Hence, it is incumbent upon all of us as a country, all Political Parties as a Nation, to be able to join hands and forces to address this plight of our people. That is what I mean by political will. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Including NUDO.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Including all of us. I think Members should desist from paying blind loyalty to a mixed economy, since we emerged from unequal, differential and an unbalanced society reminiscent of capitalist and white settler colonial apartheid situation. That is very important. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is Honourable Tjihuiiko on the right hand still in SWANU and on the left in NUDO where he

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is now?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Honourable Speaker, I think the debate is very interesting, but let me conclude. I support the Motion with the following additional recommendations:

I recommend that Government should embark on a national housing study and/or programme to assess the needs of the entire population. Secondly, Government should intensify rural development programmes to curb rural-urban migration of which one of the consequences is the housing crisis in the urban areas. I should also recommend that Government should consider subsidising municipalities of urban areas so that they can be in a better position to transport workers in their buses at affordable prices. I also recommend that Parliament should delegate one of its Standing Committees specifically to review obligations that are imposed on the State by Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution. Such review will not only unearth the extent to which we have fulfilled our obligation under the Constitution, but will also guide us on other ingredients, so that we do not keep on addressing these crises one after another. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, President of SWANU, ideologically I was hoping that you were going to join us in SWAPO, because we believe in socialism, but do you not think that your proposal that the Government must subsidise municipalities to acquire transport for the workers would mean that Government is indirectly subsidising capitalism, since some of these workers will be working in the private sector? Is that ideologically correct?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Yes, the concern is the poor, desperate strata of our society. Municipalities are not there to transport each and every burgeon class, I am talking about the working class that is actually the strata of our society that we are concerned with and I think the Motion is aimed at that group and not the entire population as such. I rest my case.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Any further discussion? Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I also want to add my voice regarding this very important and crucial issue affecting our working class.

I do not have the benefit of the motivation, but looking at the wording that appears on the Order Paper, it is actually calling for a debate on the conditions in which our people live in urban areas. This phrase needs to be broken down into different parts. Is it addressing the issue of these workers as a class that is not propertied? Is it addressing the conditions that they are living under as deplorable? Is it addressing the issues of housing as such? If it is to be referred to a Committee, then these issues should be properly addressed so that an equation and formula is found to address to each of them.

Honourable Tjihuike made reference to capitalism with a human face. There have all along been attempts to embellish on capitalism – corporate capitalism, participatory capitalism, democratic capitalism – but they have never solved the problem that the capitalist system faces, never ever. Therefore inasmuch as we are trying to embellish on it, capitalism remains what it is – capitalism.

If we are addressing the issues, we should also be ideologically clear. You cannot choose to have a capitalist system with benefits of a socialist system. Capitalism is what it is, it worships profit and it maximises that. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice, are you aware of the fact that as we are sitting here, we are presiding over a mixed economy system in this country, constitutionally and otherwise? Being an Honourable Member who took the oath this morning to defend and uphold the Constitution, are you now saying that you do not believe in the principles as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and you are now coming up with something different before the Constitution has been amended?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Tjihuiko, you do not need to defend the theories that you are not the author of. You did not invent capitalism with a human face, that is not your invention, therefore, do not be defensive about it. There is also what they call ideological blackmail and that is what you are attempting to do, but I have already seen through that.

The issue is simple and serious, when it comes to the issue of homelessness or the endeavour of Government to come up with formulas to address the issue of homelessness or providing shelter to our people, I think it is something that is really critical, but we will not be able to address it if we do not address the ingredients that cause the problem.

The land issue has already been mentioned. Most of the building materials are manufactured outside the borders of this country and I would suggest that the organs of the State tasked with providing shelter should find a formula Regionally and exert pressure on those who manufacture building materials to see how best the prices can be brought down. The effort of this Government to localise the production of building materials, such as cement, is a step in the right direction, but I do not know whether Government is participating in that. You are a capitalist not because you dress well or own what, it is the means of production that you have and you can cry as much as you would like, if you do not have the means of production, capitalists are not going to listen to you. They will worship the profits and endeavour to maximise that. I said in this House one day that with salaries you will never be able to get anywhere, no country has developed on the basis of salaries and we should be aware of that.

It is a critical problem that sometimes we have the resources, but we do not have the people to develop them. It is a dichotomy that we are facing. Should we really want to address that problem, we should get the ingredients. I am not advocating what others see as radical socialism, but when a country like Venezuela tackled that problem, they first went for the production of cement. The Government should participate in production and bring down the prices of land and building materials. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask a question? Honourable Nambahu said that with a salary you will not get anywhere. Is he aware that there are some land barons in this House who bought their farms with salaries?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** That is like saying someone has made his fortune by selling sweets and you leave out other things from the equation that he has embarked upon to get there. There are always certain things that you find in capitalists' CVs, that they did only this or that, but there are all kinds of things that they have done that they are not mentioning. Therefore, I am not so sure about that, Comrade Prime Minister. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, it is interesting now that we are debating ideology. Who is the worst between a person who receives a salary of N\$70,000 per month and a private person who is regarded as a capitalist whose income is N\$5,000 per month? Who is the worst between the two?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I am tempted to answer that one, but it will take me away from making my point. The point I am trying to make is that if you are just a country of salaried workers, if the two million Namibians are receiving salaries and do not participate in production, are you going to get anywhere as a country? That is the point I am trying to make. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I have another question. If the salary is fair, like the one I get from the Government, you can make it. It is only when the salary is exploitative, when you are employed by a capitalist and he is making profit from your sweat, then that one you can question.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Comrade Prime Minister, a man is not an elephant, you are not supposed to live a hundred years. Therefore, you can make it on your individual, but how long will it take you before you get there? It seems that I am being misunderstood, but I am saying that if you do not participate in the ownership of the means of the production, with a salary you will not be able to save and get anywhere. That is the point I am trying to make. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Minister, if you look at the senior leaders who have never earned a salary during the liberation struggle, who started earning a small salary twenty years ago and through that have been able to buy farms and properties in this country, would you agree with me that with your commitment to yourself and your family, you can still make a living with that income and accumulate assets and resources, more than anybody else who sits back and waits for the Government to provide a living.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Tjihuiko, the point is, who is it that is supposed to own the means of production? It is not the individuals. Even if you yourself manage to make some progress, you are not going to be able to solve the problem the people of Havana are facing. How many of our people are at that level that you are talking about? We are speaking for the majority. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** May I ask Honourable Nambahu a small question? I think you are making a very important point that a Nation must participate in the means of production. You quoted the number of two million Namibians. Do you intend to argue that two million people must own the means of production and if that is the case, who will be on the other side to receive salaries?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Katali, you are a believer of that philosophy that there must be us and them in terms of equality in society. It is somehow interesting, because even in America they do not have equality. The State should own the means of production on behalf of the people. (Intervention)

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Honourable Speaker, just a question to the Honourable Deputy Minister. Is the Deputy Minister aware that about 10% of the population of this country own approximately of the wealth of this country and is the Honourable Deputy Minister aware that this situation

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has existed for many years and with the current philosophical basis on which we run our economy, we have not been able to address that situation, we have not been able to close the gap and eliminate the disparity between the haves and the have not's?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Yes, I am aware, Honourable Maamberua, and the point I was trying to make is that the State owns the means of production on behalf of the citizens.

If we do not believe in an egalitarian society and there have to be those who are going to work for me and if all of us are salaried, that brings a serious ideological question. I rest my case.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The next speaker is Honourable Kawana. Before I give you the Floor, each day before we commence the business of the House, the Speaker is required, whether he likes it or not, to read the Oath and Affirmation and it says that we, sitting here as Members of the House, pledge and remind ourselves through the Oath and Affirmation that we will uphold the Constitution, the Supreme Law and all the other laws passed by this House. The Constitution came here as a Bill, I was there, we debated and adopted it as the Supreme Law of the land. The Constitution provides for amendments. Until such time as we amend the Constitution, it shall remain the Supreme Law of the land and all the other laws that we pass here until we amend them remain in force. Mixed economy is part of the Constitution. Unless any Honourable Member proposes to amend the Constitution, we must not infringe on the sanctity of the Constitution. The debate that we are having is very interesting, I would very much have loved to participate in it, but there are other ways in which you can do it without saying the kinds of things that we are saying about the Constitution. It will be a good debate. Maybe we should have socialism, maybe we should have capitalism, maybe we should have some other arrangements that pursue all these things that we are saying. That would make us a better Nation, but for now, let us respect the Constitution. Any Member is free to bring a Motion or a Bill seeking to amend the Constitution. It can be amended, it is not written in stone. Minister Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Unless there are other Honourable Members who would like to continue the Debate, I beg the indulgence of the House to adjourn the Debate to Wednesday, next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday next week. That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, I move that we adjourn until Tuesday, 22 June 2010 at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00 UNTIL 2010.06.22 AT 14:30**