

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Prof P. Katjavivi (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Prof L Kasingo (Ms)

THE CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

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

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

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr T Diergaardt	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE’S PARTY (APP)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

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

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

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

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

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

REPUBLICAN PARTY (RP)

Ms C //Gowases *(Chief Whip)*

SWANU

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

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

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

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

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

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

UNITED PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT OF NAMIBIA (UPM)

Mr J Van Wyk	<i>(Party Leader and Chief Whip)</i>
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WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (WRP)

Mr S Fleermuys	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr B Kaapala	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

Ms Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr B Haufiku (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr O Kandjoze (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms H Sibungo	
Bishop Z Kameeta (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
22 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**OATH AND/OR AFFIRMATION
BY NEW MEMBER**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would like to once again welcome the Chief Justice, Honourable Peter Shivute to the Chamber.

I now call upon the Chief Justice to administer the Oath and/or Affirmation to Ms Marina Kandumbu. I believe the Government Chief is due to escort our guest.

“I, ..., do hereby swear/solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to the Republic of Namibia and its people and I solemnly promise to uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Namibia to the best of my ability. (In the case of an oath:) So help me God.”

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath and/or Affirmation to the Member.

HON SPEAKER: That is a powerful one. I now declare Ms Kandumbu duly elected Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of

22 April 2015

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Namibia. Congratulations! Please do take your seat. Thank you. May I now call on the Sergeant at Arms to escort the Chief Justice from the Chamber? Thank you very much.

We proceed as usual. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

TABLING: REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the table, the Report of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Namibian Competition Commission for the Financial Year that ended 31st March 2013. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Chief Whip, you have the Floor.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 01, 02, 09, 23, 26, 29 and 30 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

22 April 2015

**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? We move on.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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

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

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call upon the Deputy Speaker who is also the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

22 April 2015 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**
HON ITHETE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

When progress was reported on Friday, the 17th of April 2015, Votes 01, 02 and 04 had been introduced.

Vote 09 – **“FINANCE” – N\$3,891,261,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee; Honourable Members; it is a great honour to introduce the Budget of Vote 09 of the Ministry of Finance to this august House. I am grateful to the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein, for delegating me to introduce and briefly explain the Budget Proposals for Vote 09 – **FINANCE** for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and the corresponding Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period.

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for Fiscal Policy formulation and implementation, management of the State finances, legislative oversight of the financial sector, administration of Public Service Medical Scheme and provision of secretarial services to the Tender Board of Namibia.

To give effect to its mandate, the Ministry identified and continue to implement results-based programmes and strategic initiatives that are aimed at achieving the following broad objectives, namely:-

- a) To strengthen Fiscal Policy to support sustained economic growth and a competitive economy;
- b) To contribute to equitable socio-economic development;

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HON ITHETE

- c) To ensure optimal management of Government assets and liabilities;
- d) To ensure effective and prudent financial management;
- e) To ensure effective management of the Ministry's human capital and other resources for effective delivery of services to the public.

The Ministry has adopted a number of targets to measure the progress in meeting our stated objectives. The identified indicators are aligned to outcomes of the NDP4. The details of these indicators and benchmarks are presented on Pages 133 and 134 of the MTEF document.

As indicated by the Honourable Minister of Finance in his Budget Statement, the Ministry will continue to roll out a number of reforms aimed at enhancing the management of public finances. This includes the Budget Midterm Review, the finalization and implementation of the PPP framework, finalisation of the *Public Finance Management Bill*, tabling of the *Public Procurement Bill* and the establishment of the Revenue Agency.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; barely three weeks ago, when the Minister of Finance tabled the Budget, he emphasized the importance of accountable governance and presented to this august House various policy and information documents. One of those documents was the 2013/2014 Government Accountability Report which provides an account on how Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies (O/M/As) spent the appropriated funds as well as their achievements. Pages 127 to 130 of the 2015/2016-2017/2018 MTEF document contain the main achievements, strategic initiatives and the corresponding allocations received by the Vote during the past three Financial Years.

It is for this reason, Honourable Chairperson, that I shall not dwell on the Budget Execution for Vote 09 for the past Financial Years, but I can confirm that on aggregate the Vote has performed very well on its set targets.

**INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAMMES AND RELATED BUDGET
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/2016**

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Finance is requesting a total allocation N\$3.9 billion for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and N\$3.6 billion each for the Financial Years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

Estimates for statutory expenditures such as payments for the redemption of our loans, interests on borrowed funds and for guarantees called upon, are not included in the above mentioned allocations, as they are deemed to have been appropriated, consistent with section 10 of the *State Finance Act*, 1991.

Of the total allocation to Vote 09, a proportion of 55% is earmarked for the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme, 12% to the Contingency Provision and 8% for the State-Owned Enterprises under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry has Six (6) Programmes and corresponding Activities to enable it attain its identified objectives. I will now introduce to the House brief details of the Programmes and Activities for which funds are required for the MTEF period.

PROGRAMME 01: ECONOMIC POLICY ADVICE

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; under this Programme, the Ministry formulates and implements the MTEF Fiscal Strategy and Financial Sector Development Policies as well undertaking international and regional studies. With regards to the formulation of Fiscal Strategy, this activity involves evaluation of the global and regional economic performance and to assess its impact on the Namibian economy.

The Programme also spearheads the Financial Literacy Initiative which provides financial education to various targeted groups in different communities. The Financial Literacy Initiative receives support from

22 April 2015 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**
HON ITHETE

various Financial Sector partners and the GIZ. The Ministry is grateful for this partnership.

The Ministry coordinates Namibia's involvement in regional and international bodies such as SACU, the African Development Bank, the IMF, the World Bank and SADC in the areas of Finance and Investment Protocol.

The Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$9.1 million for the Financial Year 2015/2016; N\$8.6 million for the Financial Years 2016/2017 and N\$8.8 million for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

PROGRAMME 02: REVENUE MANAGEMENT

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; under this Programme, the Ministry collects revenue from domestic sources and international trade through taxes, duties and fees as prescribed in relevant Tax and Customs and Excise Laws, and enforces the compliance to such Laws. As part of customs administration, the Ministry will continue to facilitate trade and movement of goods to and from Namibia and curb restricted and prohibited goods, using modern methods such as detector dogs and scanners.

In its quest to optimise revenue collection, the Ministry will continue to enhance tax audits and investigations and intensify the tax education campaigns in order to promote the voluntary compliance to Tax Laws.

As announced in the Budget Statement and thereafter by the Honourable Minister of Finance, tax reforms will continue to be strengthened to address the skewness in the tax system as well as the narrow base. The establishment of the Revenue Agency for Namibia will gain momentum with the drafting of the enabling legislation, and the commencement of transitional functions and the engagement of key stakeholders during the year.

With regard to the Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS), the

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HON ITHETE

Ministry will continue to invest in the development of this state of the art tax administration system. Once completed, it will eliminate a number of manual processes and will facilitate the e-filing which will reduce large crowds queuing up at revenue offices on due dates and will provide comfort to taxpayers by submitting their returns in the comfort of their homes or offices. This will complement Regional Outreach Activities.

The customs system has been upgraded and during the Financial Year, the new system will be rolled to all entry and exit points. This upgrade offers automation and integration to other IT systems.

Together with other participating Line Ministries, further resources will be needed to invest in the infrastructure to actualize the implementation of the One Stop Border Post at Trans-Kalahari and Mamuno between Namibia and Botswana.

The Ministry will finalise and implement the environmental tax and the export levy, which will also strengthen the State coffers, but more importantly to incentivise value addition of raw materials and to discourage the use of environmentally harmful products.

The Ministry will continue to provide better offices and residential accommodation for its staff, especially in the Regions where such shortage is more acute. For this MTEF, the Ministry will allocate resources for additional staff housing at Trans-Kalahari, Omahenene and Impalila while additional offices are planned for Walvisbay and Ariamsvlei.

For the execution of this programme, the Ministry requests an amount of N\$524.1 million in the Financial Year 2015/2016. For the other MTEF years, the indicative amounts are N\$579.8 million for the Financial Year 2016/2017 and N\$583.5 million for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

PROGRAMME 03: GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE
MANAGEMENT

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; the Ministry formulates the National Budget, after consultation with other Offices/Ministries and Agencies, and produces the various Budget documents.

The control over the Budget execution is another essential activity over the Financial Year, to ensure that there is a match of cash to the expenditure needs of the Government.

The Ministry is also responsible for the accounting of State finances and the use thereof. As part of the on-going Public Finance Management Reforms, the Ministry will continue to spearhead the training of accounting staff of Line Ministries, and ensure that at Line Ministries, the accounting of income, revenue and expenditure are completed, and then to prepare consolidated financial reports for submission to the Auditor-General. We plan to gradually prepare consolidated financial statements of Government in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

The payment of all Government expenditure is also facilitated through the Ministry, and the Ministry will continue to undertake reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness thereon.

In addition, the programme is responsible for management for State assets and debts. We will also introduce an asset management policy to guide Line Ministries and Agencies on the utilization and management of State Assets which are mostly left in state of dilapidation.

We shall implement the Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework, through piloting of some projects, and the PPP Bill will be finalized during the year, after consultation with stakeholders.

As announced, we will undertake mid-year Budget Review which entails the monitoring and assessing the progress of the half-year Budget

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HON ITHETE

execution. We shall also pursue to undertake public expenditure reviews to track the effectiveness and impact of public expenditure. We shall continue with the review of the *State Finance Act* to make provision for contemporary public finance management practices.

In order to ensure that the public expenditure delivers value for money, the Ministry will formulate a funding strategy for State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), Local Authorities and Regional Councils.

The Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$913.3 million for the Financial Year 2015/2016, which includes an amount of N\$499 million for the Contingency provision. For the Financial Years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, the proposed allocations are N\$450.3 million and N\$513.1 million respectively.

PROGRAMME 04: PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEE MEDICAL AID SCHEME

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; one of the overall Government cross cutting programmes coordinated by the Ministry is the administration of the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS). This is a voluntary scheme with membership, currently, standing at 224,000 members inclusive dependants.

The specific roles of the Ministry of Finance are to ensure the effective coordination and management of PSEMAS through the registration of members and the coordinating of members' services and administration of the benefits.

This is done through ensuring that timely payment of medical aid claims is done to service providers; a reliable and accurate members' database is maintained, the claims verification and audit process are improved and that an improved system of member registration and claims handling is maintained.

For this Programme, the Ministry is requesting N\$2,2 billion for the

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HON ITHETE

Financial Year 2015/2016; N\$2.2 billion for the Financial Year 2016/2017 and N\$2.2 billion for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

PROGRAMME 05: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; public procurement plays a strategic role in the development of the economy as it promotes infrastructure development, local sourcing and empowerment of local companies.

While the planning of public procurement is a function of every OMA, the Ministry of Finance under this programme provides legislative oversight as well as secretarial services to the Tender Board in line with the *Tender Board Act*, 1996.

The planned activities under the Programme include the finalization and the tabling of the *Procurement Bill* and optimizing benefits that are derived from the procurement process. Further, the Ministry of Finance engage local institutions of high learning to introduce a course of Public Procurement Management, as part of strengthening capacity building in the discipline across all Ministries.

The Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$8.6 million for the Financial Year 2015/2016; N\$8.6 million for the Financial Year 2016/17 and N\$8.9 million for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

PROGRAMME 06: POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, this Programme entails policy supervision, general administration, the internal audit function, and IT Management. This Programme includes the responsibility to ensure that the Activities of the Ministry are executed in accordance with applicable policies of Government, and that Government objectives are met. This activity entails regular policy guidance and coordination of the Ministry's Activities at other levels of Government.

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HON !NARUSEB

For the execution of the Activities under this Programme, the Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$278 million for the Financial Year 2015/2016; N\$289.7 million for the Financial Year 2016/17 and N\$294 million for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I wish to reiterate that sound public finance management system supports prioritisation of spending, accountability and efficiency in the management of public resources and delivery of services, which are critical to the achievement of public policy objectives. As we continue with reforms, the success of the reforms depends to a greater degree of the level of involvement of all the O/M/As and the degree of implementation, much of which happen at O/M/As level.

For the details of the Programmes and activities of the Ministry of Finance, I wish to refer Honourable Members to Pages 127 to 145 of the MTEF Budget document.

I now Move, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, and request this august House to consider and approve a Budget of N\$3.9 billion for Vote 09, Ministry of Finance for the Financial Year 2015/2016, and appeal to the fellow Members to support the allocation for Vote 09 – **FINANCE**. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you very much for that very brief introduction of your Vote.

Vote 23 – **“DEPARTMENT OF WORKS” N\$726,668,000.00** for introduction by the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you,

22 April 2015 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 23**
HON !NARUSEB

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, please accept our gratitude as a Ministry for this opportunity to introduce to this august House Vote 23, Department of Works for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

As you know by now, Vote 23 caters for the provision of institutional facilities, office accommodation, in some cases official accommodation (housing), as well as the management and maintenance of Government properties. Under this Vote, the Department of Works also renders essential and technical services to Offices/Ministries/Agencies with regard to the implementation of Capital Construction Projects on the Development Budget, the provision of standard stock and material supplies as well as printing services and the maintenance of garden infrastructure and equipment, to mention just a few. The Programmes under this Vote are, therefore, built around these core responsibilities.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, at this juncture allow me to introduce the total budgetary requirements for the Department of Works for the Financial Year 2015/2016, which amounts to **N\$726,668,000.00**. From this amount, **N\$679,795,000.00** which represents **93.55%** of the total Budget will go into Operational Activities. The remaining **N\$46,873,000.00** which represents **6.45%** of the total Budget will be spent on capital related investments.

**PROGRAMME 01: PROVISION OF HORTICULTURAL
SERVICES TO GRN OFFICE
BUILDINGS AND SERVICE CENTRES**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to render gardening services to Government Office Buildings and service centres including planning, layout, planting, watering, fertilising, pruning, cleaning, general maintenance, supply and maintenance of pot plants, maintenance of swimming pools and provide plants for decorations during National events. I did not know that, now I know. (*Laughter*)

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HON !NARUSEB

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$11,934,000.00.**

PROGRAMME 02: PROVISION OF STORES AND PRINTING SERVICES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to facilitate the provision of office furniture, equipment and other office materials and supplies as well as printing services to all Government Institutions, and the administering of auctioneering services for Government. The Programme also allows for budgetary provision to commence with the upgrading and renovation of the Government Central Stores and Reproduction Services.

For this Programme, I am humbly requesting you to allocate an amount of **N\$37,448,000.00.**

PROGRAMME 03: MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to ensure sustainable and reliable maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standard.

Service, maintaining and overhauling of water pumps and generator sets as well as the rehabilitation of other existing specialised installations also form part of this Programme. Further examples of specialised installations are the boilers, lifts, cooling and sewer plants. The maintenance of Government properties and installations ensures the sustainability thereof.

The construction of a new Regional Office in Opuwo and Sub-Offices in Okongo and Oshivelo, and the upgrading of other existing Sub-Offices, included under this Programme will facilitate having more offices in the remote rural areas.

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For this Programme, the Ministry is requesting an amount of **N\$347,513,00.00**.

PROGRAM 04: PROVISION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, this Programme provides for the office accommodation requirements of all Ministries/Offices/Agencies. It also includes the acquisition, management and control of accommodation for the use by Ministries, as well as the provision of staff housing to Government officials. Under this Programme, the Department of Works handles the transactions pertaining to the procurement, expropriation and exchange of property on behalf of Government.

The exercise on the sale of non-assigned government houses is an ongoing process. During the period under review, under the alienation Programme, the Department of Works sold 87 houses and generated **N\$5,794,414.00** up to 31 March 2015. The Department continues attending to subdivisions of affected properties countrywide and the valuations of these properties are conducted by the valuers in the Ministry of Land Reform. I feel nostalgic, Comrade Swartbooi. The Department is also addressing the issue of properties, erroneously, transferred to Local Authorities.

Included in the amount required for this Programme is the Operational Budget (Utilities) for paying rates and taxes to Local Authorities in the amount of **N\$21,040,000.00**, while **N\$103,622,000.00** provided for under Property Rental and related charges, which will be used for financing the rental of office accommodation for Offices/ Ministries/Agencies to ensure that Government Institutions have reasonable and adequate facilities to operate from. The Programme further includes the purchasing of land for development and property assessment studies.

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$135,132,000.00**

PROGRAMME 05: GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION
BUILDINGS REGULATION,
COORDINATION AND
SUPERVISION

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over to Line Ministries completed capital construction projects, renovated and upgraded Government buildings and properly maintained electrical and mechanical systems in buildings. The Programme is actively involved in regulating, coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards to an average of 350 projects running concurrently during any given Financial Year.

During the period under review, the Department once again, successfully, managed a variety of ongoing capital construction projects on behalf of Line Ministries worth in excess of N\$ 450 million. With the typical building construction project cycle as introduced by the Department now fully in place to guide the budgeting process by Line Ministries, it successfully contributed to realistic and balanced implementation of Capital Projects and Programmes on the Development Budget for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

Under this Programme Photo-Voltaic Systems, allowing for basic power; lights and hot water, are installed and/or refurbished in existing Government schools and clinics in remote areas where the National electrification grid does not reach. Provision has been made in the Financial Year 2015/2016 for the installation of photo-voltaic systems at Government facilities without connections to the national grid in the Oshana and Omusati Regions.

The Programme administers and regulates the Act on Professional bodies involved in the Construction Industry (Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Engineers) and supervises and monitors the construction work by contractors on Government Projects including office buildings and service centres.

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For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$90,969,000.00**.

PROGRAMME 06: SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to provide Administrative support services, including budgeting, accounting of personnel affairs. Another Activity of the Programme is to provide and manage a stable, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective ICT services and to establish and maintain a sustainable network infrastructure, the maintenance of computer software and hardware networking and support.

This Programme also oversee the implementation of the Ministerial Wellness Programmes to ensure that all staff members are well informed about diseases like HIV/AIDS and related illness as well as risks involved with the abuse of alcohol and risks associated with obesity, etc.

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$103,671,000.00**.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members, in summary the different Programmes: I think I should not mention the figures that I have already mentioned.

Summary: Vote 23 - WORKS

Programme	Amount (000)
Provision of Horticultural Services of GRN office buildings and service centre	11,934
Provision of stores and printing services	37,448
Maintenance of Government Properties	347,513
Provision of office accommodation requirements	135, 132
Government construction buildings regulation, coordination and supervision	90,969
Supervision and support services	103,671
Total	726,668

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In light of the Programmes outlined above, I now humbly request this august House to approve the total expenditure of **N\$726,668,000.00** for Vote 23 - **DEPARTMENT OF WORKS** and I want to most profoundly thank you for having listened attentively – hopefully attentively. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Once more, thank you. There is a lot of improvement this year. Everybody is brief and to the point.

Vote 29 – **“INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY” N\$603,974,000.00** for introduction by the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, *good afternoon, Mutozi cwanyi, muauhara naua, Miture, Mwauhala po, Dumelang, Goeie dag, Sitenguko sosiwa, Guten tag, g//ansio, Okuyuhala.* Honourable Royal, I am also with you. I stand here today to present to this august House Vote 29 of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

First and foremost I would like to congratulate and thank my predecessor, former Minister of ICT, Hon Joel Kaapanda for having laid the foundation for this institution to be where it is today.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate His Excellency President Dr. Hage G. Geingob, Deputy President Nickey Iyambo, Right Honourable Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Deputy Prime Minister Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on their inauguration to the

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presidency and for being given the mandate by the Namibian people to lead them for the next five years. I would also like to congratulate the Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and all members of this august House for undertaking to represent the Namibian people.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, when President Hage Geingob took oath on 21 March 2015 as the Third President of this country, he said in his inaugural speech and I quote – *“I take this oath on behalf of all Namibians and promise to serve all Namibians without exception. No Namibian must feel left out.”*

As per our mandate, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology pledges that we will make sure that no Namibian feels left out by improving the dissemination and coordination of Government information to the citizens. We pledge that our ICT infrastructure and services are reliable and up to date with world ICT trends to facilitate economic development, competitiveness through innovation, research and development. And this we owe to the Namibian people, more especially now that the citizens' expectation is very high on improved service delivery.

In addition, we will make sure to provide rapid response to public queries and give factual information to the public on Government Programmes and Services.

Honourable Speaker of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, I now ask for your indulgence as I reflect on the budgetary allocations to Vote 29 for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has been allocated an amount of **Six Hundred and Three Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand Namibian Dollar (N\$603,974,000.00).**

In summary, I will briefly highlight how the allocation will be utilized to implement the development goals of the ICT Sector through the following

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Programmes:

The First Programme relates to Information and Communication Technology Development: An amount of **Eight Million Three Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$8,342,000.00)** is allocated under this Programme for Institutional Policy and Information Technology Infrastructure development.

The Ministry, together with ICT companies will host the annual National ICT Summit scheduled for August 2015, with the aim to provide a platform for the youth to showcase their innovation and creativity in the field of ICT, as well as to create awareness and networking of key stakeholders in the ICT industry. The Ministry will also continue to conduct DTT consumer awareness campaigns.

The Ministry drafted a legal framework for Electronic Transactions and Cybercrime Bill which is now with the legal drafters for finalization. Policy and legal frameworks relating to broadband connectivity, electronic waste, protection of data and the Namibian internet domain name system will be developed.

ICT infrastructure and improved service delivery remains a central focus. In order to ensure that adequate and modern ICT infrastructure are in place, the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) is tasked with ensuring the activation and implementation of the Universal Service Fund.

The coordination and management of the Namibian country code top level domain name (*dot na*) will be re-organized to ensure inclusivity, continuity, stability and resilience of the Namibian domain name system. The *dot na* is considered a national asset and therefore needs to be transitioned into an inclusive multi-stakeholder model with Government oversight. At the moment it is in private hands. This will come to an end during this Financial Year.

It is not a secret that the use of technology has and will continue to shape

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our socio-economic environment for the better and it plays a big role in poverty alleviation, provided people have access to technology.

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

The Global Information Technology Report, 2015 of the World Economic Forum, confirms that ICT is a vector for social transformation and an enabler for inclusive growth. Its Networked Readiness Index rankings indicate that Namibia has moved up to 102nd place (3 places upwards from 105 to 102 out of 143 countries). This puts Namibia in the top five countries in SADC at 4th place together with Seychelles (44); Mauritius (45); South Africa (75); Namibia (102) and Botswana (104).

I, therefore, encourage all stakeholders including the telecommunication industry and financial institutions to avail themselves at the grassroots level, and ensure all our people have access to technology in order to fight poverty and improve their living standard.

We know for sure that the majority of Namibians use cell phones as part of technological advancement. However, we must ensure inclusivity so that all Namibians have access to network coverage as this will help us in disseminating information that will assist people to fight poverty and diseases, and also to make decisions and right choices on issues affecting their lives.

Access to technology, coupled with access to information will also help our people to demand better service delivery.

Moving on to the Second Programme: **PRINT MEDIA AFFAIRS**

Under this Programme, an amount of **Forty-Two Million Nine Hundred and Sixty Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 42,962,000)** is allocated for the Financial Year 2015/2016. This is further divided into the following:

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An amount of **Sixteen Million Nine Hundred and Sixty Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$16,962,000.00)** will be for the Directorate of Print Media Affairs, split equally between its two Divisions, namely the Production Division and Media Liaison Services Division each getting an amount of **Eight Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-one Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$8,481,000.00).**

The two Divisions will use the money to undertake the Directorate's usual activities as follows:

- Facilitate consultations, drafting and tabling of the *Access to Information Bill*;
- Review the Government Information Policy and Communication Strategy;
- Develop Government's Social Media Policy;
- Develop a strategy for the marketing and distribution of Government materials;
- Production and dissemination of publications;
- Coordinate and run National Campaigns such as the Nationhood and National Pride Campaigns and others as per stakeholder needs and Cabinet directives;
- Build a media monitoring strategy in order to gauge public understanding of Government in the media thereby facilitate proper response to both public and media queries;
- Translate and publish the Namibian Constitution in all Namibian local languages;
- Translate and publish the Government Information Bulletins and other important Government publications into local languages;

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- Organize National events;
- Facilitate media accreditations and render assistance to international journalists visiting Namibia; and
- Organize and undertake workshops to build the capacity of Government Public Relations Officers.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in conjunction with the Namibia institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM), the University of Namibia (UNAM), and the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED) and other language experts have echoed the outgoing Minister of ICT's appeal for the establishment of an Indigenous Languages Institute in Namibia. Such an institute would address, among others the use of indigenous languages to promote democracy and cultivate the principle of good governance.

This initiative is aimed at creating a platform to assist those who communicate to citizens in their indigenous languages and strengthen the capacity of indigenous language translators for purposes of building One Namibia, One Nation.

The institute will promote public awareness on the importance of indigenous languages and culture in Namibia. This institute will conduct research on each indigenous language in Namibia and it will also teach indigenous languages, and further ensures that each indigenous language in Namibia gets serious attention.

The envisaged institute will similarly publish dictionaries, monographs, and other reading and reference materials in indigenous languages, to promote individual identities of indigenous communities, preserve heritage, and pass on the heritage to future generations in indigenous languages and to change attitudes and perceptions about indigenous languages.

Within this Programme, provision is made for targeted subsidies towards

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print media institutions falling within the ambit of the Ministry of ICT. A total amount of **Twenty Six Million Namibia Dollars (N\$26,000,000.00)** is set aside for both New Era Publication Corporation and the NAMZIM project.

New Era Publication Corporation (NEPC) is allocated an amount of **Thirteen Million Namibia Dollar (N\$13,000,000.00)** for its Operational Activities. I, hereby, urge all State-Owned Enterprises and Governments Offices, Ministries and Agencies to make use of the services provided for by the New Era Publication Corporation, this will enhance their efforts to acquire their own printing press, saving on high printing costs currently incurred.

NAMZIM is equally allocated **Thirteen Million Namibia Dollar (N\$13,000,000.00)** to implement its operational activities including continuing to provide news, feature articles, analysis and opinion pieces from an African perspective as well as market the tourism and investment opportunities in the SADC region.

Additionally NAMZIM is in discussions with other SADC Member States to also come on board as partners with the aim of opening NAMZIM branches in each SADC country.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, we now take a look at our third Programme AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIA and COPYRIGHT SERVICES to which an amount of Four Hundred and **Thirteen Million, Two Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$413,002,000)** is allocated to cover for the ICT roll-out implementation, production, sound management and dissemination of audiovisual information to the public.

The expected output would be the production and dissemination of multi-media content and dissemination thereof, on diverse platforms. This will enable citizens to make informed decisions and participate in national development.

The procurement of vehicles, multi-media equipment and accessories and

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the construction of Regional Office buildings will enable a smooth transition for the soon to be decentralised 14 MICT regional offices.

The acquisition of staff and procurement of additional multi-media equipment and accessories for the 26 remote rural multi-purpose community centres will complement the E-government project implementation.

The impact is envisioned to be based on the provision of access and encourage usage of diverse multi-media content and platforms towards the fulfilment of a knowledge-based society by 2030.

Within this Programme lie the targeted subsidies for the Namibia Film and Video Development, Namibia Press Agency and the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation.

An amount of **Eight Million, Nine hundred and Twenty-Five Namibia Dollar (N\$8,925,000.00)** is allocated to the Namibia Film and Video Development Fund to market Namibia as a desired film and investment destination in the SADC region, develop the local film industry in order to contribute a greater percentage margin to the country's GDP.

Here we expect to uplift the local screen culture, consolidate the Namibian identity in our people and increase investment prospects for the country, as well as the increment of foreign film productions in Namibia.

The film industry has the potential to educate our visitors about our country and as well as to contribute to nation building, therefore I call upon the Private Sector to meet Government half way in investing in the local film industry in order to encourage film makers to tell the Namibian stories that not only educate and inspire the citizens but also the outside world.

The *Namibia Film Commission Act* (Act No.: 6 of 2001), is currently under review to reflect new realities and to act as a regulatory body to promote and regulate the film industry. All stakeholders will be consulted

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through stakeholders consultation workshops to be held in Windhoek, Swakopmund, Oshakati and Keetmanshoop, while Kunene, Otjozondjupa, Kavango East and Zambezi Regions will be consulted remotely.

Under this Programme, the Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA) stands to receive an amount of **Twenty Million Namibia Dollar (N\$20,000,000)**.

The news agency will continue to gather and provide credible local news contents to international, regional and local networks and vice-versa with an expected output to increase news features, news sourcing of stories, compilation of news bulletins and the production of news audio clips.

This confirms and consolidates the freedom of the press in our society and ensures that the people receive credible and reliable news without distortions, as well as, ensure the credibility of journalists locally and elsewhere.

The Namibia Broadcasting Corporation will this Financial Year receive an amount of **Three Hundred and Forty-One Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$341,742,000.00)** as a national/public broadcaster to inform, educate and entertain the nation via diverse platforms in order to promote peace, nation building and unity.

Namibia remains a DTT migration forerunner with Mauritius and Tanzania in SADC. Since the implementation of DTT, the NBC TV now offers viewers Seven (7) television channels including NBC 1 (generic family entertainment), NBC 2 (Parliament and Current Affairs), NBC 3 (Sport and movies), One Africa TV, TBN, EDuTV as well as Namibian music channel, THIS TV, 9 radio stations running on 17 digital transmitters.

The expected output would be the conversion of analogue transmitters to digital ones (DTT), which would expand and diversify TV channels and local languages and content, which will enable the broadcaster to establish more local TV language programmes. The impact would be a hundred

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percentage radio and TV coverage in remote and rural areas as soon as possible.

So far, the towns of Okahandja, Rehoboth, Windhoek, Arandis, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Henties Bay and the northern towns of Oshakati, Ongwediva, Ondangwa, Oshikuku, Elim, Oniipa and Onyaanya have been completely switched to DTT and the next switch-off deadline will be determined very soon.

We now offer a Digital Terrestrial TV network covering at least 67% of the population (meeting the ITU target analogue switch off deadline of the June 2015 deadline).

Having said that, I would like to emphasise that information is power and it creates a knowledgeable society. When people have no access to information, ignorance will give rise to social disharmony.

In our efforts to bridge information gap in our society, the Ministry will ensure that the Programmes and Activities up to the Constituency level are highlighted and stories from the grassroots level are told and shared in order to inspire each other as a nation as we march together on our road to prosperity.

This will, of course, be done through information gathering and dissemination by MICT regional offices, Government media such as NBC, New Era and NAMP, as well as by engaging private media to tell real Namibia stories with the aim to educate, inform and inspire our people in all corners of the country.

The media is also encouraged to tell our stories to visitors so that they know more about our country.

We have also identified a gap in telling Namibian stories abroad and therefore, we will start reporting about the Programmes and Activities of Namibian Missions abroad in order to inform and educate our people what our missions do and also tell Namibian stories to the world. This is how

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then in the 1970s the SWAPO Party rose from just having an observance status to the United Nations to being accepted and recognized as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people by comprehensively telling the Namibian story to the world.

As we all know that of recent Namibia has been hailed as not only a champion of democracy and good governance, but has also inspired the world in other areas including environmental conservation, therefore we must continue telling the world inspirational stories about our country.

We shall also give extensive reportage to Government Capital Projects as this will act as a tool to not only expose opportunities in terms of job creation in order to fight poverty, but also to promote accountability, good governance and improve service delivery.

On access to Data Services (both fixed and mobile) for all citizens countrywide, both MTC and Telecom Namibia are at advanced stages of planning to realize this goal. All Namibians have the right to information and our SOEs responsible for providing these services will focus all their energies on accelerating access for all our people in all corners of this beautiful country.

Last, but not least is Programme 4, which caters for **COORDINATION AND SUPPORT** within the Ministry.

Under this Programme, an amount of **One Hundred and Forty One Million, Eight Hundred and Eight Thousand (N\$141,808,000.00)** is allocated for current capital projects, as well as for policy supervision.

These funds will be used towards the construction of the Ministry of ICT's Headquarters in Windhoek. Phase two of this project will be the completion of earthworks which has been advertised and the Ministry is expecting the earthworks to be finalized by October 2015 in order for the construction to resume during November 2015.

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Regional Office constructions for the Ohangwena, Omusati, Omaheke, Erongo and Kavango East Regions are also in the pipeline. All of these constructions have an estimated practical completion date ranging from August to September 2015, except for the Erongo and Kavango East Regional Offices, which is estimated for completion in March 2016.

This is due to the fact that these sites were only handed over during February 2015.

In our effort to expand and provide a conducive working environment for our staff, the Ministry is also planning to construct regional offices in Zambezi, Kavango West and the Hardap Regions. Advertising for the tender for construction in these regions is expected to be done by June 2015 by the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members; in light of the above, I humbly submit Vote 29 to the amount of **Six Hundred and Three Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$603,974,000.00)** for your endorsement. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. It was reasonably long.

Vote 26 – “**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**”
N\$274,959,000.00 for introduction by the Honourable Minister of Economic Planning. You have the Floor, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, I rise before you to motivate the Budget request for Vote 26. It is in this respect I congratulate the Honourable Minister of

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Finance for having tabled a budget that, if timely and effectively executed, has a real opportunity to deliver prosperity for our people.

In terms of Article 129 of our Constitution, the National Planning Commission is established in the Office of the President to “*plan the priorities and direction of national development.*”

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, in order for us to deliver prosperity to our people, we are convinced that the most effective economic development model is where the Government is in the driver’s seat. For some time now, the prevalent worldwide wisdom on economic development has been that sustainable economic development is only possible when a country follows free-market economic policies. A free-market doctrine prescribes that the state plays a facilitating role in economic development and leaves the rest to the Private Sector.

The reasoning behind this proposition is that Governments inherently lack the necessary information and know-how to make informed business decisions. It is argued that given the profit motive, private sector businesses always have better information and therefore will make superior business decisions. To further justify this proposition, it is also argued that decisions that are good for businesses are necessarily good for the economy and therefore for the general public.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is my contention that there is nothing inherent about Governments’ inability to pick economic winners. We know of many examples where Governments successfully picked winners – including those that are today advising others against it. It is also my argument that given our level of development, it will be inappropriate of us to believe that a pure free-market economic development model will yield the necessary results in a timely fashion. What we need is the State that is investing in the necessary infrastructure both physical and non-physical without which no meaningful economic development can take place.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would also like make it to clear that I am not promoting a wholesale replacement of the Private Sector with the Public Sector. What I am advocating is to dispel the notion that suggests that only private sector businesses can pick economic winners. I am also not suggesting that when picking winners, Governments cannot fail while doing so. There are numerous cases where Governments all over the world failed at picking winners, just as there are numerous cases of Private Sector failures.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, at the National Planning Commission we have embraced our responsibility of planning our economy earnestly. We are convinced that with the cooperation of all our stakeholders, public and private, we will be able to navigate around the complexity of economic development and deliver on our mandate.

We will continue to advocate for prioritising public investments in those Economic Sectors where we believe we have a better chance of a high and sustainable economic growth and therefore new employment opportunities.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, one such area of priority under NDP4 is to transform our economy into an international logistics and distribution hub. A logistics and distribution hub is a system where you have a supply chain management that is efficient in planning, implementing and controlling the flow and storage of goods and services between the point of origin and the point of consumption. Such a system is only possible when an economy is competitive in terms of the general business environment, transport and communication infrastructure and the extent to which border administration facilitates the entry and exit of goods.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am happy to inform this august House that we are making meaningful progress toward the realization of our goal of becoming an international logistics hub. We now have a Logistics Master Plan that provides a detailed future image of Namibia as an international logistics and distribution hub. We are now

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busy with the drafting of a clear implementation strategy. It is our view that we need to create an implementation unit with a clear mandate, authority and resources to implement the master plan. It will also be desirable that the implementation Unit is given a fixed timeframe within which to implement the plan. In this manner, I believe, we will have a better chance to achieve the success we seek.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will be the first one to admit that the necessary public investment required to put our economy on a high and sustainable growth trajectory will be enormous. I am also aware that there are those, including some Honourable Members, who are anxious about the affordability of the needed public investment. They caution against high budget deficits that will lead to unsustainable public debt.

These are legitimate concerns that should not be ignored. I therefore want to assure you that one of the principles underpinning the formulation of NDP4 is the maintenance of our macroeconomic stability, without which it will be impossible to achieve the set targets. What is equally important is for us to recognize that in the long-run we cannot resolve the problem of unsustainable debt and deficits without a credible economic growth strategy. In the long-run, it is only sustainable economic growth that is capable of successfully addressing the twin problem of deficit and public debt. It is therefore our considered view that we will be better served if we use our fiscal space to invest in the growth of the economy.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, you will recall that in 2011 Parliament passed the Statistics Act that established the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). The NSA was made operational in April 2012 and it is now the central repository of all statistics produced in Namibia. I am happy to report that since the NSA was established, much progress has been made with respect to strengthening our statistical system.

In this regard, it is satisfying to note that the NSA's medium-term strategic plan is in line with the requirements of the NDP4. It is

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noteworthy that today the key macroeconomic statistics including the Annual National Accounts, Quarterly GDP statistics, Quarterly Trade Statistics and Monthly Consumer Price Indices are all up to date. It is also the case now that we do produce annual labour force statistics as opposed to every four years as it was before the existence of the NSA. You will also be happy to know that the NSA rebased both the National Accounts and the Consumer Price index to better reflect our economic reality.

While a lot has been achieved since the establishment of the NSA, more needs to be done to strengthen the national statistics system. We are living in times of uncertainty and volatility where real time data has become indispensable to inform evidence-based economic planning.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the NPC is also charged with the responsibility to monitor and evaluate the progress we are making with regard to the implementation of our development plans. An effective monitoring and evaluation system is indispensable. It will provide us with the necessary information that will make us achieve better results. In performing our function of monitoring and evaluation, we will continue to rely on the full cooperation from all our stakeholders, especially in terms of providing data and information related to the implementation of our planned Programmes and Projects.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, what I have said so far, Honourable Members, was to chronicle to you what we do at the National Planning Commission. In order for us to fulfil our mandate, for the fiscal year 2015/2016 we will require an estimated Budget of N\$248 million. It is, therefore, my hope that our budget request is supported by all the Honourable Members. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. That was very brief. With this, can we go for a tea break? We will come back 16:20 so adjourned.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 01
HON VENAANI

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:09

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:40

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please be seated. Once more, the Whole House Committee is called to order. We now enter into Discussions of Votes 01, 02 and 30.

Honourable Members, I would like to advise the new Members that during Committee Stage general discussion is not allowed, you have to be specific even if you did not have a chance to talk during the second reading. You should say it in such a way that it is regarded as specific and detailed – not general. I advise us to set aside the congratulations and gratitude.

You may, at least, take 10 minutes and then come back again for another 10 minutes for intervention. I do not have the screen, I will rely on your lights, you must therefore not put them off.

Vote 01 – “**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to make my few contributions on the Vote of the President, given the fact that most of the time when we go to Committee Stage, we talk about specific Programmes.

Let me, firstly, start with the complex one which is the continuous general culture that we have developed in our country and many other states around us when it comes to *Programme 1 – Supervision and Support*

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Services that addresses the question of Central Intelligence Agencies.

We know that it is a very important body that secures, collates and correlates information that secures peace and stability in our country. However, I want to be on record that it is no longer globally acceptable for money appropriated to these bodies to be assumed that they have a free hand and not to account for their Programmes.

I want the Presidential Minister to make sure that even if these accounts should not come to this House, there must be a hand somewhere that makes sure that people are accounting for these funds, because we know that sometimes these funds are used for other purposes. I am not blaming our country, but in other countries even Presidents enrich themselves with Central Intelligence Agencies' money.

This morning I was reading about a country that has (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Member, do you remember when His Excellency was addressing us here, yesterday?

HON VENAANI: You stopped me from asking questions, I would have asked these questions.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Who stopped you? Proceed.

HON VENAANI: Your Superior. However, be that as it may, allow me

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to continue, I have unlimited time on this. The issue of none accountability of NCIS should not – I am sure they are here and they are listening to what I am saying (*interjection*). Please do listen. Stop your Otjimbingwe school manners.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
You have done your preamble, please proceed to your specific question.

HON VENAANI: I will go to the specific question, please do not rush me. Let me just gather my thoughts. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I know what I am doing please give me one moment.

I want to address myself on *Programme 2 – Marginalised Communities*. Allow me make a preface because it is an issue very close to my heart. I have a technical problem and it has to do with the mere N\$48 million that we apportion to marginalised communities. It tells a story that we are not prepared, we do not know what we are doing and we are just running around trying to do something around the marginalised communities.

I want to address myself on the San Communities. Many of us are village people, we come from Okatjoruu, Okongo, Otjombinde and Katjinakatji, where we see the San communities manifesting themselves around us. Ask yourself this one question; why are the San communities still in abject poverty after 25 years of Independence? If there is an ethnic group in this country that is the lowest of the lowest. If the Indian caste system was in Namibia, the San community would be at the lowest level.

What are we doing in return? We are running around – I am very glad that the President has put the Deputy Prime Minister with a portfolio now because Deputy Prime Ministers did not have a job before. I believe that the Deputy Prime Minister should have played a role of being a senior Cabinet Minister without portfolio and a trouble-shooter but of course,

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they started trouble shooting on marginalised communities. You go to the San community and build them some corrugated iron houses, these people stay there for three hours when you are there giving them the houses, then they move back to their old (*Intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Page?

HON VENAANI: Listen, I am addressing it under Programme not page. I am suggesting. I am raising the issue so that what I am suggesting will make sense. We give cattle to people and it is appreciated that Government is trying to do something, but what they are doing does not take the people out of poverty.

We have been running this Programme for the last ten years, but the people still live in abject poverty 25 years after Independence. We need to expand this Programme to address specialised training. Government should put deliberate educational facilities in place, take San children from farms, put them into schools that are 60 kilometres from nowhere, pay their clothing, give them food and make sure that they go through a formal education process for them to get out of poverty.

We allocate N\$48 million to marginalised communities while we have not identified all marginalised communities in this country, for example, the Ovazemba people. (*Interjections*) They are minorities. I will tell you why they are minorities. They are marginalised (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I would like to remind you that you are supposed to intervene for at least 10 minutes and thereafter maybe when the Minister (*intervention*)

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HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: I have not even done five minutes and I have unlimited time. Check your Rules. I have unlimited time. I can spend the whole night here and I do not want to do that because I have to get out of here. I have unlimited time. (*Interjections*) Yes, check your Rules.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
In the Second Reading you have unlimited time.

HON VENAANI: Even in Committee Stage.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Discussing of Votes Page 27, we have you. Okay, proceed.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I do not intend to waste your time. I do not intend to argue with the Honourable Chairperson, but the Chairperson should protect the speaker. Am I protected?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes. Please make your preamble, the introduction and put it to the Minister so that he will be able to know what he is supposed to do.

HON VENAANI: The marginalised communities have certain skills.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am getting confused, Honourable Chairperson, because I think the discussion about marginalised people falls under the Prime Minister not President.

HON VENAANI: You do not even know how Government is functioning. Sit down. It has been shifted with the new Government, not the old (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Is it under the Vice President or under the Prime Minister?

HON VENAANI: It is Programme 2 in the Office of the Presidency.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: If it is there then ask questions. Please, proceed and make your contribution clear. The Floor is yours.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I was talking about the artisan skills that the San and Ovatue communities have that we must try to augment. We have a new policy framework in existence, AGOA, which we have signed with the

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HON VENAANI

Americans for our products to enter their markets. If you go to Tsumkwe you will find people selling things, but these people do not know that they can proliferate these products and they can access international markets where they can generate a lot of income. Traditional marginalised communities have certain skills and we need to hone these skills to make sure that people maximise economic benefits within our country.

I am saying that N\$48 million for Programme 2 is a good start but now that we have a Deputy Minister who will be tasked with minority rights, we will have to overhaul our policy to address key facet areas that will take people out of poverty. There is one thing of wasting money and not getting the results that you want while you are just throwing money at the problem. If we want to get the San community, in particular, out of poverty, the answer lies in skills development, skills training and vocational training.

These people are good hunter-gatherers by nature and lodges can use them, if they are properly trained, to help trace - especially now with this poaching problem that we are encountering in our country. We should be able to create necessary skills so that we take people out of poverty. Next year when we meet I would want to see that we are not sitting with N\$48 million Budget for minority rights. It is too little. It is not targeted to address (*intervention*) Point of Order?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
Honourable Venaani, I think you are making an important point, but do you not think that a proper study would probably be the answer to the first question; to evaluate the interventions and also to analyse the psychological effects of the interventions, because this community is not necessarily at a stage of development where we are? I have gone to some

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of these places where I have seen that some of the kids go up to a certain level. When you place them in school they do not get the necessary support. Do you not think that it is a better approach to study and evaluate your interventions first before we even assume, because for the most part we are assuming? When I was in the Ministry of Justice, we were looking at the San law. They have laws that regulate their behaviours and how they understand things. If we do not understand these things, do you not think we will be able to still continue shooting off-target (*incomplete*)

HON VENAANI: I do not disagree very much with you, but I do not wholeheartedly espouse the opposition because we are doing nothing. We are just giving cattle, building corrugate iron shacks and we are doing PR to address marginalisation. This is just for somebody to prove that *President, I am working, now I am opening schools and I am doing this.* We are not addressing the real problem and I partly agree with you that perhaps we should re-evaluate these things. I do not want to belabour the issue of marginalised people, but it is what the Minister of Finance said when he quoted Darwin, that it is us that are going to fail these communities if we do not do anything about their plight. However, N\$48 million to address their plight is nothing.

I am a person that travels and traverses this country due to my work and what I do, as well as during my election campaign. I have a farm worker, perhaps just for the interest of the House, who is probably 57 now. He asked me one day; *you people like elections, elections. Can I ask you something boss?* I said - yes and he said; *why is it that I have never seen a San member of the community owning hundred herds of cattle besides Royal /Ui/o/oo?* This is an informed person, very informed. He listens to the radio. He knows all of you. He has not seen you, but he knows who the Ministers are.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Is he also a San?

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HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: He is a San. As a leader, one cannot really answer these people because what he was saying is real in the area where I come from. If you find a San with five cattle, it would be for two months. They would slaughter them and eat them. We will have to make sure that the generations, starting from the lowest generation, must be taken through specialised training and school programmes that will take them out of that culture. That needs to be done.

I now want to address an important Programme, *Programme 4: Democracy, Consolidation and Promotion*. The President was very eloquent here and he has really done something extraordinary to say that he will declare his own assets - that is something extraordinary being in leadership. We all know Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs when you answer this question (*intervention*)

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

HON JAGGER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. I just want to intervene. If you speak about the San Community (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It has already finished because he is busy with another Programme.

HON JAGGER: I raised my hand.

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HON VENAANI

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

For the sake of time you can come in again as a contribution if you want to contradict this one. It can also be done. (*Interjections*) No, no! Yes, either this or that. You can stand up. He can say something and if you want to contradict, you can either raise up your hand for the Floor or you can ask for an interjection like you did. It can be done. Madam, please. (*Interjections*) Yes, I am in charge.

HON JAGGER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. When it comes to the San, Ovatie, Ovatiimba, Ovahimba, and the Hai//kom, I can assure this House today that the Government has done a lot for these communities. When it come to skills development, which starts with education, Government has made sure that all these communities are provided with education; whether it started in a tent school or in a corrugated iron roof sheet, Government has provided (*intervention*)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Order, she is making a statement. She is not asking me a question. You can stand up and make a statement.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
That is what I was saying (*intervention*)

HON VENAANI: Please be seated.

HON MEMBER: Point of Information.

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HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: Is it a Point of Information?

HON JAGGER: Yes, it is a Point of Information. Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. Government has provided education because skills development starts with education. We have development partners – the Norwegian Development Partners. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we call it NAMAS in short. The Government has signed a contract with them and we have a Traditional Skills Development Programme that is running in Kunene, //Karas, and Otjozondjupa Regions and I am sure in Omusati Region as well. I worked with that Programme.

We should rather talk about strengthening these Programmes instead of saying there is nothing going on and the Government is not doing anything. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let us do research on what we want to present to the Nation in this Honourable House.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I am sure the (*interjection*)

HON VENAANI: My dear sister, there is one politician who speaks (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
You are speaking here.

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HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: It is this one. If I bring something to the House, I know what I am talking about.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
She also has a right to intervene.

HON VENAANI: I am not disputing that it is just a heated argument of research. She is taking me back to the facts. My dear, all San communities wherever they manifest themselves, are in abject poverty while we have these Programmes. Like it or not it is the reality on the ground. We are not here to defend what the Government has been doing, we are here to perfect a society. We have failed the marginalised communities, that is why we are saying we should do more. The reason why we have a N\$48 million Budget tells a story that we have not started planning better for them. Let me not be taken back to that issue.

Let me address the two issues. The President was very eloquent (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Wait for him to say something before you come in. Put the light off.

HON VENAANI: The President was very eloquent on declaring assets. However, Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs, we know and I am not accusing the President, I am accusing the system. We have a Presidential S & T system in our country and globally. When you are invited as President to visit the United States of America, your Government would give you 100% whatever rate of S & T knowing so

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HON VENAANI

well that when you reach America the Americans would be hosting you. Everything would be free of charge from your arrival at the airport until you come back.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Who? Be specific.

HON VENAANI: I am addressing a Vote. It is a reality.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Maybe you can say *some* but not everybody, generally.

HON VENAANI: The rates?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes.

HON VENAANI: I know when it becomes hot the Ruling Party's side has a problem. (*Interjections*) You are having a problem. It is a reality. It is fact not fiction. It is fact that when a President is invited to a country most of the time (*intervention*)

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HON VENAANI

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The dispute here is not that Heads of State and Government are hosted by Government of the State that they visit. That is not the dispute. The dispute here is that he is assuming that just because there is an S & T system in the country a President would, even though he is sponsored by another Government, still claim what he is entitled to. That is the wrong assumption that he is making. He cannot prove that. It is true that there is an S & T system; it is true that one can be hosted when one is travelling, but you cannot say that just because these two exist the President is benefiting from both. That is the point I am trying to make.

HON VENAANI: As a Leader of Government and a Leader of that side you have the right to do that, and as the Leader of this side I have the right to point out a reality. Let me just refresh your memory; we had a case of corruption of one Secretary of Cabinet (*interjection*) Listen! Listen to the argument. It happened and it was mentioned in public that every time when the President goes out I must carry cash around with me through S & Ts. If we want to be consistent against corruption, Heads of State rake in internationally. There are even International Reports, Heads of State rake in millions of dollars through S & Ts while they are in office.

I want to ask the Minister of Presidential Affairs whether - *puratena mundu wa hongaze, puratena* - the office would make sure that we nip this in the bud to make sure that we remain accountable.

Lastly, we have amended our national Constitution to make a provision to have a sitting Vice President of the Republic, but the rules that govern (*interjections*) Listen! I know it is always good when you are praised when it is getting hot then *what is your point?* (*interjections*) Listen!

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HON VENAANI

Undja! You shall wait for five years. I will tell you. The point that I want to make is as follows:

We have amended our national Constitution to allow to have a sitting Vice President of the Republic. In tandem with the procedures that we use to determine a salary scale of the President is through an Act of Parliament. That is the truth. The President's salary is determined by an Act of Parliament. We are sitting a month in the office. We have not presented the salary scale of the Vice President.

HON MEMBER: Why are you in a hurry?

HON VENAANI: It is my job to hold you accountable. You are sleeping on the job.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Sorry Honourable Member, Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to ask Honourable Venaani a question. I think what he is talking about here is general. Can he pinpoint specifics so that we can be convinced and everybody is clear on what is happening? Can you be specific rather than generalising? I think we should avoid assumptions and stick to being specific. I thank you. Your answer please.

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HON DIENDA

HON VENAANI: *Pulikina, shiveli shange.* Listen! We have a Programme here which is referring to the Office of the Vice President. We are saying, on this side, that just as we amended the Constitution we were supposed to have a Bill addressing the salary scale of the Vice President. At the end of the month the Vice President would be paid on an assumed and unauthorised salary scale because you are sleeping on the job. You are just congratulating now. Start doing the work. Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs, I want you to tell this House what you are doing in that regard. Otherwise, I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, I have four questions and my first question is on Page 27 – *the Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure*. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on *Improvement of Remuneration Structures*, can the Honourable Minister please explain to me the following:

This improvement only caters for certain divisions in the Budget of the President. The divisions which are catered for by this Improvement of Remuneration Structures are: Office of the President, Administration, Former President's Office and they exclude the Cabinet Secretariat and the San Development Programme or the marginalised groups. Can you please explain why? Is it a salary increment? Is it a re-grading which is late and would come in now? I just want clarity on that.

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

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HON DIENDA

HON VENAANI: Can I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Dienda, are you aware that we have spent close to N\$2 billion to build the new State House. There is an old one and this is the new one and now after we have spent N\$2 billion on that State House they omitted to put fire extinguishers.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Venaani, talk through your microphone, we cannot hear you when you move like that.

HON VENAANI: Are you aware that after this country has spent N\$2 billion on the new State House people omitted to put fire detectors at the State House and there is a problem now. After we spent N\$2 billion they want to put fire detectors at the State House.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you. Yes, I agree Honourable President. Honourable Minister, my second question is; Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, please forgive me maybe I am ignorant, but I cannot see any budgetary provisions made for the Disability Programme in this Budget yet it is mentioned on Page 6 in the speech of the Minister for Presidential Affairs. I cannot find this. Can somebody please help me? Honourable Minister, I cannot find anything to support the budgetary implementation of the Disability Programme. If it was a copy and paste document, can we correct it?

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HON DIENDA

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my third question is; can the Honourable Minister also explain to this House the funding of the former President, His Excellency Pohamba. Where are his expenses reflected in this Budget?

On Page 32 of the *Estimates and Revenue Income and Expenditure* document – the Division for Former President’s Office I could only find the following: One First Lady and one President were budgeted for - where is the other President and his wife mentioned? I cannot find it. (*Interjections*) On Page 32 here Former Founding President’s Office. There are no budgetary provisions made for President Pohamba and his wife here.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I further need additional information on the Budget of the Office of the Vice President and his Deputies. The manner in which other Divisions and Programmes were explained by Honourable Kapofi were very unspecific to me. Moreover, the items mentioned do not correlate with what was budgeted for in the Budget tabled by Honourable Calle *difficult surname*.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Maybe you can say Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, can I please get clarity on these issues so that we can surely not be expected to authorise blank cheques. If there is no budgetary provision we cannot expect from this (*intervention*)

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

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HON DIENDA

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I please ask the Honourable Member to behave a little bit Parliamentary and call Honourable Calle Schlettwein by his name and not Calle *difficult surname*. Can we please respect each other?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Or she can say Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Please but not Calle *difficult surname*. He does not have another surname. Can we have respect for each other, please? Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I agree with that.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, he is the one calling me Dienda, Dienda every day. Do I complain?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Dienda I think you can (*intervention*)

HON DIENDA: Honourable Calle, I will just call you Honourable Calle.

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HON DIENDA

I cannot say your surname and I will not be educated by anybody else to say it. Honourable Minister Calle, thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

You listen to me; you can say Honourable Minister of Finance. Can you say that?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

No, just say Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON DIENDA: I want to be specific.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Proceed.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, question Number Five is Page 27 – *Estimates of Revenue*.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have noticed there is no provision made for the next three years to buy vehicles in the Office of the President.

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HON DR KAWANA

HON MEMBER: Why are you complaining?

HON DIENDA: I am not complaining, I am actually happy. This means that we will save money. I just hope that it will remain like this. I thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Minister of Justice, Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 01 and maybe to answer, on behalf of my Colleague, some of the issues raised by the Leader of the Opposition, although I prefer the terminology Leader of the Minority Party because Opposition is even opposing positive things. You oppose issues of national interest, but if you are a minority party there are certain issues of national interest where we meet each other. Maybe other countries use the terminology *minority party*. I hope you will not complain about that.

Now, regarding the lack of audit of the intelligence – I want to assure the Honourable Member that in Namibia it is different; those books are audited. The only difference is that they are not made public. Honourable Member, it is a pity that the former Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee is not here. You will see in the Auditor-General's Report year in year out that, indeed, we had a proud record that the audited report of the Office of the President, or I will rather say Vote 01, has always been clean year in year out, *clean, clean, clean*.

We used to follow the letter and spirit as per the provisions authorised by this House. I want to assure the Honourable Member that we do things differently in Namibia. Those accounts are audited.

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HON DR KAWANA**

Regarding the salary of the Vice President; again I can assure this House that before 21 March we knew about this office and that there were going to be appointments, therefore, this issue was referred to the Public Office Bearers Remuneration and Benefits Commission and they proposed something. Obviously, in addition to that, whatever issues are pending because this is just interim to make sure that the appointees at least receive something because as you know this Vote has not yet been approved, although in terms of the State Finance Act 1991 you can spend one third of the money allocated. However, with regard to that, I want to assure the Honourable Members that as an interim measure, the Commission recommended the salary structure and some benefits which would be formalised at a later stage. I want to assure the Honourable Member on that one.

Let me join other Honourable Members who have commented on the Vote of the Office of the President maybe just to say to my Dear Brother and Comrade, the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs, that I hope you will get more staff because during my tenure, as you are aware Comrade Minister, at times we used to spend the whole night in the office working because of the shortage of staff, this is very, very critical. I can give you an example: I had an opportunity to visit the Office of the Minister of Presidential Affairs in one of our neighbouring countries – for diplomatic reasons I am restrained to mention the name of the country, but it is one of those countries which we always praise as one of the shining examples of democracy where the office of the Minister of Presidential Affairs has seven Permanent Secretaries under him and each Permanent Secretary has a number of what we call personnel. Compare that with our State House, it is really nothing. It is totally under-staffed and I think that as time goes on we will need to get, and I agree with Honourable Venaani, professional people in all the departments. I wish and I hope that this issue would be addressed as soon as possible. Otherwise, I support Vote 01. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for that information. I recognise Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo.

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HON /UI/O/OO

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:

Thank you very much Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for giving me this opportunity to make a few remarks. It was not my intention to stand up because this is my Vote, but I was provoked by some of the sentiments made here. Honourable /Ui/o/oo is standing here wearing two hats. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am sorry, let me congratulate the Founding Father. *(Interjections)* Wait, I am coming to the page. It is here. I will tell you the page.

Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, just give me an opportunity because I will come up to the current President who appointed me to deal with marginalised communities, please. I would like to thank both the former President Doctor Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba and the current President Doctor Hage Geingob for appointing me Deputy Minister for Marginalised Communities. That is why I said I am wearing two hats. On my left-hand side I am representing the Government and on my right-hand side I am with my communities the Ovatie, Ovashimba and the San people *(interjections)* *(Intervention)*

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can we listen. You have the Floor, proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:

Honourable Venaani, I have been here for two terms. Maybe you do not know me and I am a person who talks straight. I used to tell them that straight talk does not break any friendship and I am going to repeat it. This is what I have prepared and I gave this to my boss.

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HON MUHARUKUA**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
What is that?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:** I am not going to tell you the content of this, I am sorry, because I am sick and tired of the middleman. It is also time for the San people to take high offices. There are some of them like me. I am very happy to serve my Government as Deputy Minister. I am going to try my level best to serve my people to the best of my ability. This document has it all, and I am not going to reveal it and I support Vote 01. Thank you.

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

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First and foremost, I would like to commend the allocation of N\$48 million to the marginalised communities. I am also grateful for the things that the Government is doing for the communities out there; the Ovaherero and the San Communities. Government has built schools and people are receiving food even if there is no drought. However, when determining what a marginalised community is, the Government and the leaders must look at and listen to the people on the ground.

The people on the ground are the ones that see who is sleeping on an empty stomach, who has to push wheelbarrows in order to get two Namibian dollars, whose children and young people are being pushed into alcoholism because they have no hope – their communities are

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HON REV KAPEWANGOLO**

impoverished. The Office of the Councillor of the Epupa Constituency under the then Councillor Kasita Mburura informed the Government that the Ovazembas are marginalised and impoverished. I would beg the Government to consider the Ovazemba's plight under these marginalised communities because at least now they have food because of the drought relief. When drought relief goes, they will be impoverished. We will push them to be marginalised. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Reverend Kapewangolo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is my short Maiden Speech.

I thank the Almighty God who guided the heroes and heroines of the Namibian liberation struggle under the able leadership of the Founding President Comrade Doctor Sam Shafishuna Nujoma who delivered us from the yoke of colonialism. I thank the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation for this legacy and the strong foundation that he left.

In the same vein I pay tribute to our former President Hifikepunye Pohamba for having continued the legacy of - amongst others - peace, stability and sustainable development for our country. I also thank him for having had appointed me as a special advisor to the Governor of Oshikoto Region. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Honourable Members of this August House, I thank our mighty SWAPO Party, its rank and file, and most especially my Comrades from Oshikoto Region, who have bestowed trust and placed me where I am today.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my gratitude goes out to the entire Namibian Nation for voting overwhelmingly for the SWAPO Party. Well done to

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HON REV KAPEWANGOLO

the Namibian Nation and congratulations to the SWAPO Party.
(*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is a Maiden Speech, but normally Reverend, sorry under the Committee Stage, we do not really allow a Maiden Speech that long. You can make a short preamble and then ask or comment on a specific point. A Maiden Speech can be made throughout the whole year, even when you come back you can always do that. Once I allow you the other people will also request the same thing.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Can I read the other paragraph?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Come again?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE Can I read the gratitude for (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You can say I thank the Almighty God, the President and then you can comment or ask a question on the Vote.

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RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Honourable of the Whole House Committee. I applaud His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob for setting a clear tone on eradicating poverty in Namibia. This is a journey that we will all travel together to ensure that poverty is eradicated and the social welfare of the Nation is well taken care of. I thank the Namibian Government for the Drought Relief Programmes, especially for this year's rainy season, which is not predicted well.

I applaud the Namibian Government for, not long ago, proposing a prayer day on Gender-Based Violence. Let us not be discouraged to propose similar occasions to pray to the Almighty God for issues that might arise in future. May I go to the conclusion Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee? Honourable Deputy Speaker, may the legacy of our forefathers Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Dr Shafishuna Nujoma, Dr Hage Geingob for his legacy. (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Reverend, can I advise you? You can divide those points in different Votes when it comes to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. You can now mention Kaunda when it comes to the Ministry of Poverty so that you can divide them like that, but this time it is not allowed. Who is next? My dear, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to say a few words in support of Vote 01, but specifically to speak to the issue of marginalised communities for which there is a Special Programme that is now under the Presidency, Office of the Vice President. There are comments made about the allocation being inadequate to make an impact and about the Programmes that are scheduled for implementation not

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RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

being suitable to bring about a meaningful change in the lives of these communities that we would like to see. I want to say two things.

Firstly, a dedicated Ministry for poverty reduction was established as part of the Government's efforts to strengthen the response of Government to poverty. It should not be seen that because there is a Special Programme dealing with these marginalised communities that this constitutes the entirety of the Government's efforts to address the plight of these people. The issues related to poverty in general would still be addressed through the Programmes, first and foremost, of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, but the Ministry would, amongst others, also work to mainstream poverty reduction into the Programmes of various Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

It should, therefore, not be seen that all the efforts of Government to address poverty would be made through the Activities of one Ministry. These are just efforts to make sure that nothing falls in between the cracks. There would be somebody who would see it as their primary responsibility to deal with poverty and would call upon all others to make sure that their programmes are well aligned to addressing that issue. That would be the poverty reduction. However, we felt that because of the special circumstances of the Ovatie and San communities, it is not enough to deal with them under the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare or under the Programmes of other Line Ministries. We felt that we should have a dedicated Programme for them, but we should not really see it that if there is N\$40 million allocated for that, that is all that would ever flow to these communities. It is not like that. That is a very important point to make and the Ministry, being new, will still elaborate its Terms of Reference and its Programmes and come next year, we would see adjustments in the Programmes under that Ministry.

We recently had an Induction Seminar for Senior Members of the Executive and one of the things that we agreed upon is that Government is going to look at the Terms of Reference of each Office, Ministry and Agency and we have co-opted one of the continental organisations - being the Economic Commission for Africa established by the United Nations -

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT

to work with Government in that regard so that the Performance Agreements that we, as the Political Office-bearers, will be expected to conclude with the appointing authority, will be guided by the Terms of Reference of the institutions to which we are deployed. I think that it is very important to see this Programme in that context. Thank you. I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for that clarification. I wish the Honourable Venaani and Honourable Muharukua were here. Those are the two ways in which you can respond to a point raised. You either raise a Point of Order or you take the Floor to either clarify or to contradict like the way the Right Honourable Prime Minister has done. To the Colleagues who are new Members; we were all in the same position. I was one of those who used to be cut through my presentations and I used to get so angry when I started. I did not know the difference between Second Reading and Committee Stage. I implore you to listen and learn when the other Members are intervening during the Committee Stage. You will be there. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Like you said, I wanted to ask you to please clarify the proceedings to all the Members so that they know. I can intervene on the Vote and still keep my Maiden Speech for any time in the year so that we do not get confused with these things.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Come again?

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Guide this House in terms of what I wanted to ask you; clarify issues of contributing to Vote and a maiden speech so that we do not laugh at and ridicule people. Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for your advice. What do you mean by Maiden Speech? A Maiden Speech means the first time to talk. You can, eloquently, contribute during the Committee Stage but it is also maiden. It can also be regarded as a Maiden Speech because you are talking for the first time provided you do not generalise. For example, this Vote of the President if you do not have anything to say, you can say Vote 01, I would like to congratulate the President, very short. But to say I thank God, of course, I am a God fearing person. You are not alone.

We have all been there meaning that the Maiden Speech can be done any time in the year even when we come back from recess. Even now you can present your intervention in such a way that it is not going to be interpreted as if it is general. It is still a Maiden Speech and I would like to urge those people who would like to take the Floor to press the button. I understand, Madam Anna you want to take the Floor, or do you want to do it tomorrow?

HON SHIWEDA: I want to do it today if possible, but when we discuss Vote 30.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It will come later. Any other discussions? I will give the Floor to the Minister to respond.

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HON KAPOFI

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity. Firstly, I would like to thank all of the Honourable Members for having taken a keen interest in the Activities and Programmes of the Office of the President and to have raised questions. I do not know whether one answers questions of the Honourable Members who are not there.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, just try to comment.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Maybe I will do that for the sake of the record.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you. There was an issue that NCIS, our National Intelligence, has a carte blanche of spending money as they wish. I think that issue was clarified by my predecessor and I would like to confirm that it is indeed the case. The issue of the marginalised communities was explained in detail by the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the other Minister who spoke before me, my predecessor, and also the contribution made by the Honourable Deputy Minister responsible for this Programme.

There was some kind of uncertainty as to where this Vote is. It has been moved to the Office of the President with a specific emphasis on the need

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to address the plight of these citizens. It is not that Government or the leaders of our State do not know this. I do not think there is anyone who has a monopoly of travelling around the country to see the problems, and you will see that the President's actions would have clearly explained to everyone that he means business as far as this is concerned. When he says *no one should be left out* he knows exactly what he means. I think we need to explain in detail what he meant by that, but that is the reason and he knows exactly too well. All of us are aware of this.

Programme of the San: When I was young, there was a place called Okongo in the area where I was born. That was an area where the Church tried to create a Programme for these communities. They are still there and we are trying to look at this Programme carefully. You must also know there are pressure groups who are talking about de-culturing people and some people are friends to these people. You do this, they come and speak behind your back. Government is trying to do this and they are de-culturing people. What is that? I think if we all are unanimous to say let us set the stage and address the problem of the people – our people. Some of our people are living in a Stone Age kind of thing and some of them are living museums. You do not want to do this because if we continue to have this it will never take us anywhere. This N\$48 million was transferred with the re-alignment of Government structures and Government Ministries, but this is a good beginning as one of them has just said. We are grateful for your support. Thank you.

I just want to respond to the question that says you ask the former President Pohamba and First Lady and I want to assure you, ***Honourable Dienda***, that it is not that we are doing things under the carpet, we have catered for them under Programme 4. They are catered for there. In the main book you may not have seen it there but definitely they are as I explained in my speech; that we are catering for them within that main Programme 4. We will look after them, there is no problem.

The Vice President was appointed by the President. He is not the President. He is the Vice President appointed by the President and the President determines the Conditions of Service of all his appointees,

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HON DIENDA

therefore, the President is on that case. There is no worry. I cannot see how the President will bring the issue of the salary or the Conditions of Service of the Vice President to be determined here because he is an appointee of the President.

You said there is no provision for vehicles and I think we probably need to interrogate that. I am not sure about that.

Honourable Kawana, thank you very much for your support and for the contribution you made. *Honourable Muharukua* is pleading for the Ovazembas to be considered marginalised and I think the answer was given by the response of the Right Honourable Prime Minister who addressed that issue. I do not think that it is a nice thing to be considered as marginalised. It is not nice that you, as a proud citizen, want to be perpetually called marginalised. You do not want to do that. You must have your pride. We must also know that we were all created the same. We were created equal and we need to know that. If Ignatius is able to read, why can I not read? These are the issues. I thank you very much, Honourable Members for supporting Vote 01.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussions? Any objections? Agreed to.

Vote 02 – “**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**” put for Discussion.
Any discussions? I recognise, Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole Committee, Honourable Members, Honourable Kapofi maybe forgot to answer my question on the *Improvement of the Remuneration Structures*. I will now ask the same question to the Office of the Prime Minister because there are also provisions made for certain divisions in your Budget, while no

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provisions were made for other divisions. I want to know why and what it is for.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my first question on the *Improvement of Remuneration Structures* is on Page 35.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my second question is on Page 39 – *Estimate of Revenue and Income Expenditure* under item 044. The Red Cross Society of Namibia will receive N\$5 million for the next three years. When I browsed through the Report of the Auditor-General's Office, I could not find any financial expenditure on this N\$5 million. Since this is taxpayers' money, I want to know whether the Red Cross Society is not obliged to report to this august House on how they spend this money. The same goes for *the Disability Units* on Page 41, which also received N\$2.5 million. This is also not reflected in the Auditor-General's Report. Is there no law which can compel them to account to this House how the money was spent? That is all and I thank you very much. I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Next is Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to dive straight into the Budget of the Office of the Prime Minister. Programme 4 on Page 12, I like some of the statements that are made here, for example, *introduce a public sector innovation award*. Can the Right Honourable Prime Minister please explain a little bit as to what is coming and will this be restricted to the Public Service only or will it eventually move over to the Private Sector and all the citizens?

The President has been very consistent in using the word *innovation* in his

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HON //HOEBES

new administration and I think it is something that we must all support and be innovative in our doings and thinking.

Programme 6 on Page 12 is very specific about the e-Governance Project and I do not want to sound like a broken record repeating the same thing. I will only talk to one issue. I do not want to be known as a single-issue individual.

With e-Governance and the X-Road Interoperability Framework, I just want to indicate to the Member of the House that there will be laws coming to establish the workings of those technical things and we should prepare ourselves for the laws that are coming to enable the work of Government so that it becomes e-Governance. It is just a forewarning. Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Any further discussion on Vote 02? In the absence of any discussions, the Honourable Deputy Minister would like to respond.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members for the opportunity accorded to me to respond to some of the questions, which have been posed against Vote 02.

I want to thank *Honourable Bezuidenhout* for having given impetus to the e-Governance and the X-Road Interoperability Solution that we are busy implementing. Thank you for your support. The Public Sector Innovation Award is an award that we are looking at implementing and this will be for the whole Public Service. We are in the process of developing the frameworks which will drive this process. However, since we are talking about innovation, we also want to entice the public servants

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HON LIMBO

and want to reward them for good service and good governance. That is why this Public Sector Innovation Award is being discussed and soon after all the regulations and all the systems are in place, it will be rolled out. However, before it is rolled out, you will be informed as to how we are going to roll out this award system.

Honourable Dienda, the N\$5 million which was allocated to the Red Cross Society for the next three years is for operational expenses. The Red Cross Society has a financial report and it is not audited by the Auditor-General. Their financial reports are audited by private auditors, but we have decided to take their financial report to the Auditor-General, henceforth. So far so good, thank you very much for supporting the Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Any further discussion? Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 30 – “ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION” put for Discussion.
Any discussion? Yes, I recognise, Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Thank you very much and do not worry it will be less than five minutes. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I do not have much. I want to refer to Page 10 where they are talking about *Human Resource Capacity* because as we know we are saying that we must fight corruption in our country. We realised in the past that this body was under-staffed and after looking at the money allocated to the Vote, I do not think that they will be able to recruit capable people who can follow up the cases.

I know resources are always limited, however, I want to appeal that we allocate more funds to this Vote in the next Budget. This will enable the Institution to recruit new staff and to retain its current workforce because

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we understand that well-qualified staff leave the Institution to the Private Sector for better salaries.

Otherwise, I support the Bill. Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Next is Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. On Page 369 – *Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure Anti-Corruption Commission, Vote 30*. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will not keep quiet about vehicles which are not being budgeted for. Again, there is no budget for vehicles under this Vote. The main objective of this Vote is to take measures through educating the public, take information and to prevent corruption. If you do not have vehicles how will you travel to all the 14 Regions? How does the Honourable Minister propose this unit to travel through the country where no budgetary provision has been made for vehicles.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we all know that there is no insurance on Government vehicles – unless it has changed. If these vehicles are being written off, where will the money come from to buy new vehicles if we did not budget for three consecutive years? That is my first question.

My second question: There is also no Development Programme for this Unit for the next three years. Does it mean, Honourable Deputy Minister, that no regional offices will be built within the three years? Because corruption is not only here where the vehicles are, corruption is everywhere and people need to have offices where they can go. Despite

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this, Honourable Deputy Minister, I have noticed that there was an under-expenditure of 4.8% in the Development Budget during the Financial Year 2013, which the latest received from the Auditor-General.

My third question, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee: I also need an explanation from the Honourable Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister on why Treasury was granted permission to open an account called the *Anti-Corruption Commission Special Operations Account*:

- a) Where does this money come from;
- b) What will it be used for; and
- c) Explain to me, Elma Dienda, the balance of N\$2.5 billion in this account?

My fourth question is on the training on Page 369 of the estimates of revenue, income and expenditure for the next three years; will it be conducted in the whole country, throughout all the 14 Regions or has your office identified specific focus areas? If the answer is in the affirmative, why only certain areas and which areas will it be?

My last question, which nobody has answered so far, the *Improvement of the Remuneration Structures*. What is this money all about? Nobody is answering me and I will hammer on it until I get an answer because not all the divisions are being affected. If you want to improve the salaries of people then everybody's salary must be improved. That is why I need an explanation. Is it re-grading or what is being budgeted for? Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support your Vote, Honourable Deputy Minister.

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

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HON SHIWEDA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, thank you very much for the opportunity to rise and speak for the first time in this Chamber, as a new Member of Parliament. I want to combine my statement, or my comments, on the Anti-Corruption Commission with my Maiden Speech and I will take a maximum of six minutes.

In the same breath, I extend a distinctive appreciation to my Parliamentary Colleagues, the Honourable Members present here for your tolerance for me to stand in your midst. I hereby sponsor an admission that it is with a great sense of honour and humility to have an opportunity that is only available to a very few to speak from this echelon in the capacity that I hold. Having said that, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wish to reflect on Vote 30, the Anti-Corruption Commission, which is under scrutiny. Namibia has been on the pitch of fighting corruption for some time now. Indisputably this is not because we have nothing to do as a nation, but primarily because corruption is the catalyst for the breakdown of any nation. Allow me, therefore, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to commend Namibia for its continuous determination, through the Anti-Corruption Commission, to eliminate all corrupt deeds and associated intentions. The degree of the tenacity to make Namibia a corrupt-free society has been evident during the tenure of both retired former Heads of State and it remains a call of duty to the incumbent President.

It is, therefore, compelling on my part to pronounce that the Anti-Corruption Commission is an important Institution for the sustainability of Namibia and heritage. However, while recognising this importance of the Commission and the budget allocated, I would like to call upon the following radical interventions:

1. *Integrated Approach between the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Namibian Police:* It seems the effectiveness of the Anti-Corruption Commission is being hampered by the protracted completion of investigations, as a result of the voluminous cases reported at the

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Commission. On this, I Move that there must be an integration of efforts between the Commission and NAMPOL to guarantee a speedy completion of investigations of reported cases. As the saying goes; *justice delayed is justice denied*. If the harmonisation of the *Anti Commission Act* and *NAMOPL Act* is necessary, same be effected.

2. *Anti-Reprisal Law*: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the need and call for this law can never be over stated. As reported under the Namibian National Urban Corruption Perception Survey of 2011, about 67.5% of the participants indicated that they were aware of corrupt incidents, but did not report them for fear of retaliation, victimisation, intimidation or dismissal from employment and occasionally, death threats as well.

There is a high degree of urgency to pass an anti-reprisal law in order to protect whistle blowers against possible retaliation by the perpetrators of corruption and all their associates. This law should as well prohibit the provision of false information and all malicious allegations. The passing of this law will not only serve as evidence of the collective commitment of this august House to the fight against corruption, but also as a compliance to both the SADC Protocol against Corruption of 2001, Article 4 and the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption of 2003, Article 5(6) and other relevant international covenants.

3. *Corruption Reporting Incentive Scheme*: Although this scheme may as well be part of the anti-reprisal law, I single it out to emphasise its importance. As a nation, we can defeat the apathy in the reporting of corruption by members of the public, through an introduction of an incentive scheme.

Again, here diligence is required to mitigate malicious allegations by people against one another. This, however, lies in the certainty of the law or policy as the case maybe.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

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Honourable Members, I would like to re-emphasise that corruption is the catalyst for the breakdown of any society or any nation. It undermines the rule of law, democracy and ultimately good governance. It creates an exclusive economic system, threatens principle of fair competition and downgrades the credibility of public Institutions.

Above all, corruption offends social harmony and causes political uncertainty. Therefore, I wish to remind my fellow Honourable Members of this august House that the challenges lying ahead are enormous and call for collective task and action if we are to navigate Namibia into a prosperous future. Let us use our collective and individual Parliamentary membership, as well as our God given wisdom, toward adding value to the process of lawmaking by passing laws that are modern, relevant and progressive, but yet uncompromising in addressing poverty, social imbalances and economic disharmony.

Our time in Parliament can only be well accounted for if our dedication, determination and intelligence are channelled towards the attainment of the common good of the Namibian society. This is a clarion call for all of us.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I thank you for your undivided attention. I support Vote 30. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am not responding because I did not motivate the Vote. It was motivated by my Colleague, the Deputy Minister. I am just going to make one appeal to the Honourable Members

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of the House. It is not a new appeal. It is one that I have made before and I think it is very important for us to consider it if we are to strengthen our Debate, especially on the Budget. We are aware that our financial planning is based on a multi-year planning framework being MTEF.

We also know that a Programme approach to budgeting that we have adopted means that we moved away from the Input-based budgeting to a Programme-based budgeting where we stipulate the objectives that we want to attain with the allocated resources. We outline the activities that we are going to undertake and their costing so that we can then focus ourselves to what we are going to achieve through the implementation of those activities instead of the individual inputs that we are going to acquire, because if we do that we may lose sight of what we are achieving with the Budget that we are appropriating.

Therefore, I want to urge us all to use these estimates of income and expenditure only as reference material. However, our Debate should be based on the Programmes and the targets that we have set and the outcomes that we have reported under the accountability reports. I think the most important point that I want to make is related to the fact that for purposes of checks and balances, we have decided that certain Institutions like Anti-Corruption Commission should be autonomous from the Executive Offices.

Previously, the Anti-Corruption Commission resorted under the Office of the Prime Minister, as was the Election Commission. We decided that no, we wanted these Institutions to be separate for purposes of transparency, and checks and balances. However, that also comes with a cost that one does not really have all the fine details about the Activities of that Office at the tips of one's fingers. One can get this information later from the relevant offices, meaning that one is not able to respond to the queries related to the Activities of these offices *impromptu*.

What I want to advice us to do is; not only for the purpose that these offices are established as autonomous offices and it is difficult to react *impromptu* to the queries related to these offices, I think it will also enrich the *Appropriation Bill* Debate if we can first study the proposed

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 30
HON NEKUNDI

Programmes before we come to the Budget, maybe before the Budget is tabled, since now we know through the MTEF that these are the programmes that the office has put in place over the three-year period.

We should find time maybe through the appropriate Committee of Parliament to call this office and interact with them so that we satisfy ourselves that the Programmes they have adapted, for which they would seek funding later on from Parliament, are actually adequate to enable them to address the objectives for which the offices were established - because if we wait until Budget time to interrogate the Programmes, not the allocation but the Programmes, we would probably not do justice to the issue.

I know that my Colleague there is quite competent and we had asked the office to also avail some officials to be here to assist us with the responses. She will probably be able to respond to the questions but I am just appealing that for the future, let us remain engaged throughout and not wait for the Budget time to raise queries. When we table this MTEF here, let us not only concentrate on the cost estimates for the year for which appropriation is sought, but let us look at the Programmes for longer than the year. Let us remain engaged throughout the intervening period until the next *Appropriation Bill* comes so that we can, at least, agree on the Programmes. When the Budget Bill comes next year, we would only be looking at the amounts that are allocated - knowing what each Programme is about, why certain activities are not there and what the activities that are there are going to achieve, and whether the targets that we have set are acceptable and would take us to where we want to go. I just wanted to make that general point. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Next is Honourable Nekundi.

HON NEKUNDI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 30
HON NEKUNDI**

Whole House Committee. I rise to add my voice to Vote 30 - **ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, despite my appreciation for its existence, I am one of the citizens who is very concerned with the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Page 5 of the Motivation says that a total of 427 cases were reported and 177 cases were found to be baseless. Comrade Shiweda said it very well and I support her argument; this Institution is used to tarnishing people's names on political and social agendas. This House continues to finance this Vote to continue tarnishing people's names.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, there must be ground rules indicating what must be ticked off if you are going to report a case before the case gets admitted. You will realise that this Commission is very washy in the sense that if Veikko has been reported, the Director calls the media to announce and to confirm.

If you look at the 427 cases reported, how many cases were published in the media, how many were not published, why some were published and some were not published, some people are cleared by the Director after investigations. This person was cleared. Why were others not cleared? It is high time that the same House that looks at corruption also cleans its administration. You cannot operate on the premise of advancing people's agendas who want to tarnish other people's images because you are in their pockets. People who purposely report others on the premise of tarnishing people's names must be held accountable because some people go there knowingly. There is a saying in English, *where there is smoke there is fire*. In Oshiwambo, they say *momeya ihamu ingenge owala*. Once your name appears in the papers everywhere, in Independence Avenue or wherever, people look at you and say, *he is corrupt, he is corrupt*. They must equally take charge of their administration. For the next five years while I am here, by God's grace, if they continue in the same way I will rise one day and say I do not support their Vote. Thank

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 30
HON //HOEBES

you very much for the sake of my submission, I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Any other discussions? None. I now recognise the Honourable Deputy Minister. You have the Floor to respond, Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise again to respond to questions posed to Vote 30, but before I do that, let me respond to the question of *Honourable Dienda* where she marred me on the improvement of remuneration. This money is meant to cover expenses for job grading and evaluation.

Another question by Honourable Dienda - or rather, before I go there, *Honourable Shiweda* spoke eloquently about the interventions that the ACC together with NAMPOL and all the other stakeholders would employ. We take note of that. We take note of the recommendations and we thank you very much.

On the question on vehicles by Honourable Dienda; she mentioned that she does not see any allocation for vehicles, this is because the ACC is using vehicles from the Government Garage in the wake of curbing expenses. The question on under-spending which was again raised by Honourable Dienda, in that particular year, the under-spending arose as a result of vacancies which were not filled but we have filled those vacancies and they will not be any under-spending. The vacancies that have been filled up to the present moment amount to 96%.

On the issue of training, she wanted to find out whether training is for the whole country or only for specific Regions. We can never fall short on training. The intention is to train the whole country and we have offices in strategic Regions like Otjozondjupa-Otjiwarongo, Erongo-

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HON //HOEBES

Swakopmund and Oshakati in Oshana Region.

The funds in the special account came directly from Treasury. It is meant to supplement should something happen and we do not want to be caught off guard when cases are coming and we do not have enough money. This money is just laying there in case we run out of funds. It is not that money will just lie there without being used, the money is always used.

On the issue, or the intervention, it is not a question by *Honourable Nekundi* on the issue of the ACC going after bogus *whatever* - fish. Like you rightly said, *where there is smoke, there is fire*. We cannot leave anything unturned. If there is a little hint, then the ACC steps in and they investigate. You will see from our reports that so many cases were reported, but a lot of cases were thrown out.

If the ACC investigates it is good but if it does not investigate, you will be the same person again to come and ask why the ACC is not investigating. Let us give the ACC time to do their work. If the case does not hold water, it will be thrown out but if a case holds water, it will be followed up and executed. Thank you very much and I actually support our Vote. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussions? Any objections? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again. Anyone who has lost a key? It is here.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much quite impressive hardworking Parliamentarians. You have done your job extremely well.

I suppose it is time to call it a day. On that note, may we adjourn until tomorrow, at 14:30 as usual? The House stands adjourn.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:25 UNTIL 2015.04.23

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
23 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I must say we are doing quite well, judging from the energetic and vibrant discussions so far. I have nothing to add or to say other than just to remind the Honourable Members about one particular issue.

I think we are all aware that we have a standing commitment to avail to any Member of this august House who wishes to express himself or herself in any of our national languages. In fact, as an old Member of this House, from the very beginning after our Independence, sitting somewhere around there, I was extremely touched when one of our Members of this House asked to speak in his own language, the San language and was granted that opportunity. He impressed all of us to hear him speaking calmly and talking about the issues concerning the land. There is nothing to prevent any of you to take the Floor to do precisely that.

However, as a courtesy to all of us and particularly to the team managing the affairs of this House, alert us, inform us in good time so that we can facilitate your request because we would like to hear you speaking eloquently and quite confident since you are speaking in the language in which you have such competency. There is nothing to prevent us and I would like to hear any of you from time to time doing that. I will be prepared to do that as well if I have got a particular issue which I hold dearly to myself which I feel passionate about. We can do that.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

Please Honourable Members be informed that you can do that, just inform us in good time and find a person who will be able to do justice to what you are trying to share with the rest of the House, in other words someone who is competent to be able to translate from the language you will be speaking from. I think we have put that issue to rest. There is nobody who is in any doubt, we can do that when the time comes. Thank you very much for that understanding.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, I rise to make a Ministerial Statement. The Honourable Members of this august House may recall that on 27 August last year, Namibia lost its national under unclear circumstances, the late Comrade Frieda Ndatipo, one of the Children of the Liberation Struggle.

You may further recall that the late Comrade Ndatipo was shot dead by an unknown person when the Children of the Liberation Struggle attempted to march to the SWAPO Party National Headquarters to seek audience with the SWAPO Party leadership on issues relating to possible employment opportunities in Government institutions.

Following the unfortunate event, the then Right Honourable Prime Minister, today His Excellency Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, assured the Nation that there should be an impartial investigation into the death of the late Comrade Ndatipo. In terms of Article 91 of the Namibian Constitution, the Ombudsman was then requested to investigate the circumstances of Comrade Ndatipo's death. A team of reputable professionals in various disciplines was assembled by the Ombudsman to carry out an impartial investigation.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

A Report was, subsequently, submitted to me, then in my capacity as Attorney-General and Minister of Presidential Affairs, as well as to the Prosecutor-General in December last year. The Prosecutor-General was requested to decide whether or not to prosecute on the available evidence. After extensively studying the Report, the Prosecutor-General declined to prosecute on the available evidence. The decision of the Prosecutor-General was communicated to the Ombudsman on 10 April this year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, you will recall that this matter generated a lot of public debate. A citizen of our country lost her life in unfortunate circumstances. Our President who was then Prime Minister promised the Nation that the Government will do everything possible to establish what exactly happened. Against this background, I have decided in my capacity as Minister of Justice to invoke the Provisions of Section 7(3)(b) of the *Inquest Act (Act No. 6 of 1993)* to request the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice to designate a judge of the High Court to hold an inquest.

I am pleased to report that the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice has acceded to my request. Allow me, therefore, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to take this opportunity to thank one of our finest and most efficient jurist, the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice for his prompt response. I thought since this matter evokes public interest I should inform the leaders of our country who are Members of Parliament.

I, therefore, call upon all stakeholders to ensure that an inquest into the death of the late Comrade Ndatipo is held as soon as possible and give maximum cooperation to the High Court Judge who is going to preside over this matter.

I also want to clarify further to say in terms of the *Inquest Act* the Minister of Justice has power to request a Magistrate or the Deputy Chief Justice to designate a Judge of the High Court, but because of the public interest and public debate that it generated following the incident, instead of appointing a Magistrate I have decided to request the Deputy Chief Justice

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**QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS/COMMENTS
TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MAAMBERUA**

to appoint a Judge of the High Court so that this issue can be put to rest. I so submit Honourable Speaker.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker?

**QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS/COMMENTS
TO THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Justice for that information. I have got only two things to clarify.

The first one is if you can please explain to us what an inquest is. The second question is whether the Report by the Ombudsman on which the Prosecutor-General declined to prosecute can be made public. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I ask the Honourable Minister of Justice - would you like to respond to that?’

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank my Colleague for asking this question. An

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

inquest is an inquiry that is held to investigate the circumstances of death that is caused by other means other than natural causes. The Presiding Officer will determine whether somebody is criminally liable and whether that person is known or unknown. If that person is known and it is found that he is criminally liable, that person can then be prosecuted on the basis of evidence because the Judge now has the power to summon any Witness or any professional expert to enquire deeper to give information or evidence so that the Judge can come up with that determination whether the cause of death was caused by an unlawful act or by accident. If it is by unlawful act which constitutes a criminal offence, whether that person who caused that death is identifiable or not, if identified that person will be subject to criminal prosecution.

Now, regarding the Report whether it can be made public, as I said you will now appreciate, Honourable Members, that those are some of the documents which must be given to the Judge. Therefore, it is premature to make that Report public. I so submit, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think that is very clear. Chief Whip, have something to inform the House.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: I wanted to Move a Motion. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Vote 05, 06, 09, 17, 21, 23, 26 and 29 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not be interrupted, if still under consideration at 17:45. I so, Move Honourable Speaker.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I omitted something very important; I thought I should share the happiness and the joy of one of our Colleagues in this House who was part of the University of Namibia graduating class, Honourable Peya Mushelenga - he has added yet another degree to his long list of academic achievements. Warmest congratulations, Honourable Member. (*Applause*)

I am also assuming that today being Thursday, usually devoted to responding to specific questions, I suppose we will put this aside for obvious reasons because we have a very long Budget agenda. Is that in agreement?

The Secretary will read the Order of the day.

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

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

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, I do.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA

the Deputy Speaker, who is also the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee of the Whole House has considered the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

When progress was reported on Wednesday the 22nd of April 2015, Votes 01, 02 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 09, 23, 26, 29 had been introduced.

Vote 05 – **“HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”** – **N\$518,858,000.00** put for introduction by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to underline the salutations I offered when I delivered my Ministerial Statement on the 31st of March this year, just about two weeks ago.

The Speaker and yourself, as Deputy Speaker, are congratulated for your election as our leaders in this august House. Equally, His Excellency the President, Dr Hage G Geingob is congratulated for his ascendance to the highest office in the land.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, it is my honour and privilege to motivate

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Vote 05 for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration (MHAI).

From the onset, let me join this august House in congratulating Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance and Honourable Tom Alweendo, the Minister of Economic Planning and their teams, for crafting an accommodating Budget to address socio-economic challenges.

Honourable Minister, truly, you have spoken soundly and passionately to the aspirations of many Namibians in rural and urban areas. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration appreciates the improved budget allocation this financial year and promises to reach out to more citizens in terms of service delivery.

Honourable Members, our programmes and all our efforts are geared towards realizing our Strategic Plan, NDP IV and Vision 2030 as per the following programmes of the Ministry:

1. Civil Registration;
2. Immigration Control;
3. Refugee Administration; and
4. Administration

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me now take this opportunity to present to this august House the Budget Allocation of the MHAI for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and to outline individual programmes for which the funds will be utilised.

An amount of **Five Hundred and Eighteen Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$518,858,000.00)** is allocated for the Financial Year 2015/2016. Out of that amount, **Three Hundred and Sixty Five Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$365,655,000.00)** is allocated for Operational Budget while **One Hundred and Fifty Three Million; Two**

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Hundred and Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$153,203,000.00) is allocated for Capital Budget of the Ministry. This Year the Ministry, amongst its priorities, will work towards consolidating all the efforts to improve service delivery and improve the working environment of our staff members by constructing offices countrywide.

This is indeed what is required for a growing economy like ours which at the same time takes care of our citizens, including foreign nationals who visit Namibia. This is an indication that the SWAPO-led Government has the interest of the Namibian people close to its heart as huge allocation was given to social Ministries such as Education, Arts and Culture; Health and Social Services; Rural and Urban Development; Agriculture, Water and Forestry and other critical Sectors of our economy.

However, while appreciating the Budget allocated to the MHAL, my aspiration is that the allocation to this Ministry be increased in the years to come - taking into account the central and pivotal role the institution renders to the public. The Ministry is indebted to the support of this august House and other stakeholders. It is now my distinct honour and privilege to share with you the summary of achievements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and introduce the requested allocations for each of the following programmes under the Ministry's Vote:

PROGRAMME 01: CIVIL REGISTRATION

This Programme is mandated to administer national documents which include birth certificates, identity cards, marriage certificates, death certificates, as well as the management of records thereof. The Activities under this Programme are aimed at ensuring that Government has the necessary demographic information it needs for planning purposes, identification of nationals and to facilitate the establishment of family basic units.

Further, I would like to inform this august House that in 2014 the Department of Civil Registration in close cooperation with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) conducted an assessment of Civil Registration

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and Vital Statistics System in Namibia. Honourable Members, I should inform you here that in a very short period of time you will receive a copy of this Report that I am referring to.

The assessment was conducted within the framework, principles and guidelines of the Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS). APAI-CRVS is a Pan-African initiative, created under the directives of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, to provide management and programmatic guidance to African countries in the improvement of CRVS systems.

The aim of the comprehensive assessment was to generate information on the status of the Civil Registration System, in terms of its effectiveness, timely registration and delivery of data, to ensure vital statistics can be generated. Subsequently, a 5-year strategic plan has been drafted with clear objectives for all civil registration's key stakeholders, Ministry of Health and Social Service, NAMPOL, Ministry of Justice and Namibia Statistics Agency. All Ministries and agencies including public and financial institutions are beneficiaries of vital statistics and records generated by this Ministry, hence the need to capacitate it in terms of resources allocation.

In 2010 the Department of Civil Registration commenced with a major digitalisation project aiming to digitalize all civil registration processes and documents. The online National Population Register, which integrates all civil events, namely birth, death, ID, marriage and divorce registration, was developed in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister, while the Automation Project was established to capture all current and historical national documents. Today 3.5 million historical birth, marriage and death records have been captured electronically. The production of workflow of registration, producing and dispatching ID cards was reviewed and re-engineered in 2014 resulting in a reduction of turnaround time for production and dissemination of ID cards from 120 days to 12 days. Turnaround Initiative - A total number of 152,131 ID cards were printed, of which 123,459 were new applications.

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Two major national mobile registration campaigns targeting birth and IDs were successfully conducted during the period under review. The statistics prove that 57% of all first time applicants are less than 20 years.

Similarly, in Financial Year 2014/2015, the Marriage and Death Section was re-vamped and separated from the Birth Section. All processes have been reviewed, and marriage records and marriage officers' records are being captured electronically. Pastors who wish to be appointed as Marriage Officers can now write exams twice a month in Windhoek.

For the above mentioned Programme to function well, I wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **Two Hundred Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$200,938,000)** only.

PROGRAMME 02: IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND
CITIZENSHIP

This Programme is responsible for the facilitation of lawful migration and issuing of national documents. It has two directorates:

- 1) The Directorate of Immigration and Border Control; and
- 2) The Directorate of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship

Directorate for Immigration and Border Control

This Directorate is responsible for the efficient, smooth and regulated movement of persons entering and exiting the country. Other responsibilities of this Directorate include surveillance of suspected illegal immigrants, the facilitation of deportations of illegal immigrants, the provision of secretariat services to the Immigration Tribunals and conducting joint operations with other law enforcement agencies. Immigration officers are our first point of contact with visitors to Namibia.

Understandably, whatever impression they create usually portrays the level of service delivery in the country. As you may imagine, this

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impression has an impact on the growth of tourism and perception of service delivery in Namibia, negatively or positively. In this regard, the Ministry remains committed to improving the customer care skills of our staff members in order to ensure and maintain a good image of the Land of the Brave.

The Border Control Management System (Immipass) is still serving its indented purposes and the Ministry can track down the inflows and outflows of travellers who enter and exit Namibia. However, the distances between our northern and north-eastern border posts remain long, permeable and this makes it difficult to effectively combat illegal migration. The Ministry will continue to engage with our neighbours through diplomatic channels to see the possibilities of establishing additional entry and crossing points along the common borders. It is my belief that when additional entry and crossing points are established, the Ministry will be able to control the movements of people along the borders.

The creation of Regional Immigration Tribunals in eight (8) Regions has improved the deportation process. I can confidently report that at the moment the period between detention and deportation has been decreased to an average of 30 days. Plans are underway to create more tribunals in the remaining regions. At the moment, the tribunal in Windhoek remains seized to hear cases from Regions that are yet to be covered.

The Directorate of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship

This Directorate is responsible for receiving applications and managing various types of visas, permits, passports and citizenship. In executing its functions, the Directorate, among other things, serves as the secretariat to the Immigration Selection Board (ISB) and its Sub-Committees which consider applications for visas and permits and to the Citizenship Committee which deals with applications for various categories of Namibian citizenship.

One of the major achievements for the Directorate is the completion of

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phase one for the automation of visas and permits application forms. This milestone achievement allows the Ministry to increase high level of efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. This will contribute substantially to our Government's e-Governance policy. Progress has been maintained with regard to the waiting period for visas from 10 working days to 3-5 working days while Employment Permits continued being maintained at 30 calendar days and Permanent Residence Permit (PRP) at six (6) months.

While at this point, I would like to inform this august House that the Aliens Control System (ACS), a project aimed at automating visa and permit functions continues to progress well, where all applications for permits now go through the system, while the applications for all categories of visas applied through the head office will start to be captured as from 1 April 2015. While at this point I would like to inform this august House that the Aliens Control System, the project which is aimed at automating visa and permit functions continues to progress well where all applications for permits now go through the system while the applications for all categories of visas applied through the Head Office will be captured starting as from the 1st of this month. It is already operational. . The electronic visas (e-stickers/visas & permits stickers) are planned to be introduced during the Financial Year 2015/2016.

Linked to the above stated progress is the pilot project aimed at connecting four (4) Namibian diplomatic missions to the system. These are the Missions in Beijing, China; Berlin, Germany; Pretoria, South Africa and Abuja in Nigeria. The initial pilot phase of these projects has already begun and will be finalized during the Financial Year 2015/2016. These will be followed by linkages of other Namibian Diplomatic Missions to the system in different phases.

The Ministry is impressed with the progress achieved with regard to the waiting period for applications for passports which reduced from ten (10) working days to between 3 and 5 working days as of current, while the waiting period for emergency travel certificate (ETC) remains a few hours service. The Ministry can also confirm that our SMS enquiry system for

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passport services continues to work perfectly well, which allows our clients to enquire progress on their applications at any time of the day and getting feedback in seconds.

However, slow progress continues to be encountered with regards to the waiting period for applications for citizenship in general were Citizenship by Descent has an average of 30-60 days while other categories of applications such as Citizenship by Marriage and Naturalization may take up to an average of 4 months. The average waiting period proposed for this category of citizenship is 60 days, while for descent is 30 days from the submission date.

During the year under review the Ministry issued 52,056 Visas and Permits while 2,807 applications were rejected due to non-compliance of necessary requirements. Equally, a total of 71,263 applications for travelling documents were issued while 1,323 applications were rejected. Furthermore, a total of 2,088 applications for Citizenship by Descent, Naturalization or Marriage were approved while 37 applications were rejected due to non-compliance of the necessary requirements.

Apart from the above mentioned citizenship granted, the Ministry has also issued 893 Certificates of Identity to foreign nationals married to Namibians during the period under review.

In order for this Programme to continue yielding tangible results, I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **One Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Six Hundred and Twenty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$166,620,000.00)** for this Programme.

PROGRAMME 03: REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION

This programme is mandated to provide protection and support to all refugees and asylum seekers in Namibia. It further coordinates and facilitates the voluntary repatriation exercises of refugees to their countries of origin. This is done in accordance with the *Refugee Recognition and Control Act* of 1999 (Act 2 of 1999) and the obligation

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placed upon Namibia by International Conventions relating to the treatment of refugees and displaced persons.

Currently, there are 1,773 refugees and 874 asylum seekers at Osire Refugee Settlement which brings about the total number to 2,647, majority of these refugees and asylum seekers are from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Ministry together with the assistance of UNHCR has facilitated the return of 6 Namibian refugees from Botswana and they were integrated into their communities in the Zambezi Region. However, there are still 977 Namibians in Dukwe Refugee Camp in the Republic of Botswana. Note should be taken that the Government of the Republic of Botswana has indicated the intention to invoke the cessation clause in respect of Namibian refugees in Dukwe effective from the 31st December 2015.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **(Five Million, Four Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$5,483,000.00))** for this Programme.

1. ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of this programme is to provide administration support services through proper coordination, on Financial Management, Human Resources Management and Development, Legal Support Services, ICT and General Support Services to ensure efficient and effective service delivery. The Directorate facilitates the construction, renovation and maintenance of offices of the Ministry. During the year under review the Ministry, successfully, inaugurated Oshana Regional Office and Kashamane Border Post. Plans are underway to have the //Karas Regional Office completed during the next Financial Year. The Ministry anticipates a number of constructions of Regional offices, Border Posts and Headquarters of the Ministry of Home Affairs to commence during the Financial Year 2015/2016.

The Ministry has made great strides during the year under review through

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the introduction of the project of Turnaround Strategy for a period of 18 months. The project was introduced to transform the Ministry into a highly effective organisation with faster turnaround times, effective systems, shorter queues, efficient offices and improved customer service. The programme is yielding tangible results and will continue to all our offices country-wide.

Further, I would like to bring to the attention of this august House that the MHAI continues to generate revenue through administration fees of permits, visas, passports and miscellaneous items including consular fees collected by our Missions. To this effect, an amount of **Seventy Million Three Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand and Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Namibian Dollars and Seventeen Cent (N\$70,359,368,017)** has been generated during the period under review.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **One Hundred and Forty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Namibian Dollars (N\$145,816,000.00)** for this Programme.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work and support of our development partners through capacity building and technical support. Amongst the partners that support the Ministry are the UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM. Their support is very much appreciated.

It is clear that resources granted to the Ministry are for a good cause and therefore it is my distinct honour and privilege, to request this august House to approve the budget allocation to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration under Vote 05 amounting to **Five Hundred and Eighteen Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$518,857,000.00)** only for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and promise that we will do more with less!. Thank you in advance, Honourable Colleagues for your kind support.

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HON NAMOLOH

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much.

Vote 06 “**Police**” – **N\$4,772,679,000.00** put for the Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am glad that this Vote comes after the Vote of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The sequence is such that if you enter Namibia without a Visa, the Ministry of Home Affairs will hand you over to the Ministry of Safety and Security, therefore, it is a good sequence of Votes.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am hereby today presenting Vote 06 of the Department of Police, one of the two departments that form the Ministry of Safety and Security. I am doing this for the first time under my new portfolio as the Minister responsible for the Police Force and Namibia Correctional Service in the Republic of Namibia.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia for the trust and confidence His Excellency has bestowed in me by appointing me as a Minister of Safety and Security. I also would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, Calle Schlettwein and his team for a well thought-out Budget that - among others - addresses, infrastructural development job creation, poverty alleviation as well as economic growth of our country.

That in itself is an intention that, echoing His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob’s wish, the Government has to ensure that citizens have decent houses and a good living standard and that can only be attained through adequate resource allocations to various components of the State like my Ministry.

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Vote 06 takes root from Article 118 as per the second Amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, which calls for the establishment of the Namibian Police Force, with its prescribed powers by the *Police Act* of 1990, (Act 19 of 1990) as amended. The powers and functions of the Force are the preservation of internal security of Namibia, maintenance of law and order, investigation of any offence or alleged offence, prevention of crime and protection of life and property. It is satisfying that Namibia has just celebrated her twenty-fifth year of Independence as well as the orderly transfer of power. That deserves an all round of applause for the men and women in uniform for having maintained law and order for all those years. Peace and stability we enjoyed since the attainment of our Nationhood on March 21, 1990 is really an indicative that the Namibian Police Force has grown into a Force to reckon with.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in order to effectively execute its mandate as enshrined in Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution, the Namibian Police Force has identified five (5) broad Budget Programmes according to which it plans to attain its stated objectives. These Programmes have been developed along the country's long and medium term development goals; namely Vision 2030 and NDP 4, with a view to ensuring an environment conducive for economic development, internal security and peaceful coexistence for our people.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me now to spell out in detail the composition of the five Programmes which I have referred to as being the core activities during the Financial Year 2015/2016.

1. Combating of Crime Programme

The main purpose of this Programme is to prevent and reduce the level of crime in the country in order to provide for a safe and conducive environment for economic development, attract investors and guarantee law and order for all people in the country. Furthermore, under this activity, the Force will be able to engage a number of other stakeholders in

the fight against crime that will include Government Institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Society and regional and international organisations.

On the same score, the Activity will facilitate the participation and cooperation of international, regional and bilateral Police exercises as entered into by the Force with International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPPCO). It will still be under this Programme that intelligence on criminal activities are collected, detected and investigations of crime are carried out and at the same time ensuring that accused persons and witnesses are brought to courts.

In a nutshell, Combating of Crime Programme forms the main part of the activities of the Department of Police.

An amount of **Three Billion, One Hundred and Fifty Million, and Five Hundred and Thirty Three Thousand (N\$3,150,533,000.00)** is required for this Programme. In addition, an amount of **Six Hundred and Forty Seven Million and Six Hundred and Forty Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$647,648,000.00)** is set aside for the Development Programme.

2. VIPs Protection Programme

The central purpose of this Programme is to render protection to national and visiting foreign Very Important Persons (VIPs) and at the same time provides security at their residences and offices. The Programme will also cater for foreign missions and national visits by our national leaders in the country and abroad.

An amount of **Three Hundred and Seventy Six Million, Six Hundred and Ninety Five Thousand (N\$376,695,000.00)** is required for this Programme.

3. Training and Development Programme

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This Programme is aimed at improving Police service delivery by providing quality education, professional training and career development through basic training, advanced, specialised training and staff development. It is always incumbent upon any institution that has a desire to stay upfront in service delivery to engage continuously in the academic progression of its staff compliment. Under this Programme the Force intends to train six hundred detectives in both basic and advance courses during the Financial Years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. The intervention will provide for 50% in every Financial Years and will translate into 1,243 trained detectives after the consecutive Financial Years.

An amount **One Hundred and Thirty Three Million, Nine Hundred and Forty Six Thousand (N\$133,946,000.00)** is required to achieve the objectives of the Programme.

4. Forensic Services Programme

This Programme centres on providing services to multi-disciplinary scientific entities that may require scientific solutions to crime related problems at hand. It covers a range of genetics - complex, scientific skills like human, documents examination, analytical chemistry, explosives analysis, blood analysis etcetera. The National Forensic Science Institute is the custodian of the aforesaid Activities and its service is essential in crime analyses, hence it needs adequate resources in order to provide answers among other complex murder and rape cases.

An amount of **Twenty Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty Four thousand (NS27,824,000.00)** has been allocated to this Programme during this Financial Year.

5. Supervision and Support Services Programme

It is under this Programme where the social factors that contribute to members' condition of service, social welfare, public relations, policy formulation, financial obligations, logistical and infrastructural management are catered for. It is also under this Programme that salaries

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and other allowances for the members are taken care of.

An amount of **Four Hundred and Thirty Six Million and Thirty Three Thousand (N\$436,033,000.00)** is required to meet the set objectives of this Programme.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, permit me now to give a brief account of crime prevalence in the country. Though we have been privileged to enjoy peace and stability and Rule of Law, there are crimes of concern that pose a challenge to the Police operations - that is murder, theft, robbery, domestic violence, drug trafficking, rape, fraud, cyber crime, just to mention a few. Such crimes do not only create fear amidst our Law abiding citizens, but also an uncertainty for investors who may perceive our environment not to be conducive for the investment of their money.

Therefore, the solution lies with all of us to ensure that we support all efforts/actions put in place by Law Enforcement Agencies in the country through the endorsement of this Vote's allocation. My humble appeal further goes to church leaders, Traditional Authorities, school principals as well as to you, Honourable Members of this august House, to assist Law enforcers in curbing the occurrence and commissioning of crimes in our society.

My concern is mainly on the domestic violence which is carried out within the confines of our houses, because it is only possible for the Police to intervene when alerted by individuals within the confine of given residences. Therefore, the onus is upon all of us to bring to an end the scourge of senseless killings of mothers, daughters, children and sisters by some men who turned themselves into the killing machines of the innocent and vulnerable of our population.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, Namibia continues to maintain excellent cooperation with all its neighbouring countries. It goes without saying that without the ongoing mutual assistance, understanding and cooperation, it would be very

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difficult if not impossible to fight crime, especially cross-border and transnational organised crime. The country maintains Joint Permanent Commissions on Defence and Security with Angola, Botswana, South-Africa and Zambia. All security related threats are openly discussed at those platforms and joint Programmes of actions are designed during those meetings at Ministerial level.

This cooperation with the neighbouring States is further consolidated through Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organs on Security and Defence; hence, Namibia remains a member of SADC Standby Force Brigade.

In support of the International Community's efforts 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/Keeping Support Operations under the auspices of the United Nations and/or African Union, by sending individual Police officers for deployments, since the year 2000.

Currently, the Namibian Police Force has fifty-two Officers serving in Darfur, out of the fifty-two, thirty are female Police Officers; sixteen in South Sudan, nine in Liberia and four in Abyei. In total, the Namibian Police Force has eighty-one officers contributing to global peace initiatives. In the Southern Africa Development Community, Namibia contributed a Police Contingent that oversaw the elections in Lesotho after a coup that toppled a democratically elected Government by some army elements.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Namibian Police Force has succeeded to curb some incidences of crime in the country; it did so with inadequate resources allocated to it through the National Budget.

If one looks at the accommodation of most Police officers country-wide it is deplorable to say the least. However, with the allocation availed, the force managed to improve some police facilities and it will continue to do

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so.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Namibian Police Force has budgeted to recruit at least one thousand (1000) new intakes every year, whilst taking into consideration the balanced restructuring of the Force in the context of gender and regional representation.

The allocation of sufficient financial and human resources to the Police will therefore guarantee the sustainability of the pillars of our cherished democracy that we are all obliged to jealously guard, defend and protect. This, on the other hand, will enhance the competitiveness of our country in areas of economic development within the context of SADC, the African Continent and Globally.

The total allocation of this Vote is **Four Billion, Seven Hundred and Seventy Two Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$4,772,679,000.00).**

SUMMARY

In summary, I am submitting to the august House to approve the Budget Allocation for Vote 06 for the following Programmes and amounts:

Programmes for Vote 06	Amount per Programme
Combating of Crime	3,150,533,000
VIP's Protection	376,695,000
Training and Development	133,946,000
Forensic Science Services	27,824,000
Supervision and Support Services	436,033,000
Development Capital	647,648,000
Total	4,772,679,000

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HON NAMOLOH

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.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Members, in terms of Rule 18, we normally have a break at 15:40, but I do not want to disrupt the introduction of the Votes. We can thus go for a tea break after the introduction of the Votes.

Vote 21 – **“NAMIBIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES”** – **N\$850,559,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, I stand before you again to introduce Vote 21 of the Ministry of Safety and Security – **NAMIBIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICE (NCS) of Eight Hundred and Fifty Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$850,559,000.00)**, for your consideration.

This Financial Year the Budget Allocation constitutes an increase of about 6%, this shows that the Government is committed to improve the quality of service and to ensure safe custody and effective rehabilitation of the offenders.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, before I continue, allow me to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein, for his well-presented Budget. We wish him and his dedicated team all the best in their endeavours to steer our economy to greater heights for the prosperity of our Nation.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the 2015/2016 Budget we request for the NCS will be divided in two as follows:

Operation Budget of which **Six Hundred and Ninety-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$699,957,000.00)** is required.

Development Budget which requires **One Hundred and Fifty Million, Six Hundred and Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$150,602,000.00)**.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015/2016 BUDGET

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, last Financial Year, this august House approved the Budget to the sum of **Eight Hundred Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two Thousand, Namibia Dollars (N\$800,962,000.00)**. I am honoured to inform this august House that, with that Budget, we have successfully managed to implement the following Programmes:

Safe Custody, Rehabilitation, Re-integration; and Coordination and Support.

For the reason that these are continuous programmes, I hereby request this august House for the approval of the Budget of **Eight Hundred and Fifty Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$850,559,000.00)**, for both Operations and Development of 2015/2016 Budget.

We intend to continue to improve our key Programmes this Financial Year, we will therefore focus on the following three Programmes, which are briefly discussed as follows.

- **Programme One: Safe Custody and Rehabilitation**

An amount of **Seven Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Eight**

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Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$734,874,000.00) is allocated to Safe Custody and Rehabilitation.

This Programme contributes to the protection of society by providing reasonable, safe, secure and humane custody of offenders in accordance with universally acceptable standards. It also assists inmates in the reformation of criminal behaviour through the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy, which includes, amongst others, risk and needs assessment, delivery of rehabilitative programmes and services to reduce reoffending.

- **Programme Two: Reintegration**

Seven Million One Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$7,171,000.00) are allocated to Reintegration.

This Programme will assist the offenders to successfully return into society as Law-abiding citizens through controlled and gradual release supported by community corrections with proper supervision and support.

- **Programme Three: Supervision and Support Services**

One Hundred and Eight Million Five-Hundred and Fourteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$108,514,000.00) are allocated to Supervision and Support Services.

This Programme encompasses all administrative and coordinative services to support the Namibian Correctional Service in achieving its mandate.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the successful implementation of our programmes as mentioned above were not without any challenges, I have highlighted them below as follows, in the next Financial Year we would request for more funding to gradually reduce these challenges:

- **Shortage of Manpower**

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The Namibian Correctional Service is experiencing an acute shortage of staff of over 60% due to the lack of funds.

The shortage of staff, particularly custodial staff responsible for security at facilities, is a serious security threat both to our facilities and the community at large because it has a potential to fuel escapes, riots and other serious incidents.

However, let me take this opportunity to thank the Government for making it possible for the Namibian Correctional Service to recruit 325 new officers who have undergone basic training and are due to graduate next week at the Lucius Sumbwanyambe Mahoto Correctional Service Training College in Omaruru.

- **Old and Dilapidated Correctional Facilities**

Our Correctional Facilities are dilapidated and not correctly placed in the country, therefore, some areas that are densely populated do not have correctional facilities. For example, Oluno Correctional Facility currently services Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto Regions and to some extent both Kavango West and East and Zambezi Regions. As a result, we devote much time and resources on transporting offenders to remote areas for courts and other activities.

- **Security Equipment**

The need for appropriate security equipment such as communication devices, transport, standby power generators, fire-arms, handcuffs and scanners is critical for the maintenance of security and order in a sensitive environment such as corrections.

- **Materials and Supplies for Offenders and Staff**

As parties to the United Nations and the African Union, we strive to live up to UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the African Charter on Human Rights. This means we are expected to

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provide inmates with adequate food, water and electricity, clothing, open space, ventilation etcetera. However, the inadequacy of funds does not allow us to provide these services as required and it often results in legal action by offenders.

- **Lack of Farming Equipment**

The Namibian Correctional Service is doing very well in terms of food production for self-sustenance. However, with the right support, it can do even more and provide its surplus to our communities. Our farms are in need of critical farming implements and key agricultural staff.

In conclusion, I now have the pleasure of requesting this August House to approve the sum of **Eight Hundred and Fifty Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$850,559,000.00)** for the **Namibian Correctional Service under the Ministry of Safety and Security**. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Congratulations to your staff who compiled this Vote, very brief and to the point.

Vote 17 – **“URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT”** - **N\$3,121,810,000.00** put for Introduction by Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Kasingo.

Honourable Members of this august House, I stand before you to motivate the Budget Allocation to Vote 17 of the **MINISTRY OF**

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URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT for the Financial Year 2015/2016. Honourable Chairperson, you have alerted me that my predecessor was rather short?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No, it is okay, yours is a big Ministry.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Believe me, we are dealing with Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, it is only the name that has changed but the mandate and functions remain intact.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members of this august House, I stand before you to motivate the Budget Allocation to Vote 17, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, before I motivate the Budget allocation to Vote 17, I wish to take this opportunity to renew my humility and gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia for his confidence in me and for bestowing me the honour of serving as a Member of his Cabinet in the capacity of Minister of Urban and Rural Development. I am also equally thankful that, knowing the mammoth responsibility involved, His Excellency, the President, has given me two able Deputy Ministers; Honourable Sylvia Makgone and Hon. Derek Klazen. My Deputies and I, would like to thank our predecessors Major General (Rtd) Charles Namoloh and Honourable Priscilla Beukes, and other preceding Ministers of this Ministry, for the strong foundations they laid for us.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Comrade Calle Schlettwein and his team for tabling a budget that

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responds to the declaration by our President of “*an all out war against poverty*” and to many other pressing national development priorities including the Urban and Rural Development Sector despite competing demands and resource constraints.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the importance of Regional and Local Government Structures, the availability of urban land and related infrastructures, and effective mechanisms for addressing poverty and housing backlog as cornerstones for our democracy and to our national development agenda cannot be over-emphasised. Our commitment to participatory governance is evident from the fact that the role of regional councils and Local Authorities is recognised in our National Constitution, specifically Chapter 12. The Honourable Members of this august House will also recall that as far back as 1991 the SWAPO Party-led Government declared housing as one of the four top development priorities together with education, health and agriculture. The reality that a large number of our people reside in rural areas justifies the inclusion of rural development to the list of our top national development priorities.

Let me now present the Budget Allocation to Vote 17 totalling **N\$3,121,810,000**. The allocation represents an increase of 15% in comparison to the budget allocation for the Financial Year 2014/2015. This is a clear demonstration of our continued commitment, as a Government, towards ensuring effective sub-national governance and service delivery, urban land delivery and administration, affordable housing and rural development.

The allocation consists of **N\$1,795,780,000** for Operational Budget and **N\$1,326,030,000**, for the Development Budget.

The Activities of the Ministry are grouped under five (5) main Programmes, and the budgetary allocation for the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 is divided among these Programmes. I will now present the allocations per Programme.

PROGRAMME 01:

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

One Hundred and Twenty Two Million, Three Hundred and Eleven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$122,311,000)

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, through its Directorate of Rural Development Coordination, is mandated with the responsibility of initiating and coordinating development interventions that create basic social and economic conditions and opportunities necessary to improve the welfare and living standards of our people who reside in the rural areas of our country. Such interventions are, among others, aimed at reducing rural-urban migration and such other conditions that push people away from rural areas in the hope of making a living and realising their dreams in urban areas, which is often not the case.

Through our Rural Development Programme, the Government has devised development initiatives that seek to empower rural communities to create and take advantage of opportunities that enable them to take charge of their own development by initiating self-help development projects.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the focus of our Rural Development Programme is on reducing rural poverty and improving the livelihood of our people who reside in rural areas. As such the Programme is, without any doubt, in line with our President's declaration of an all out war against poverty. In this connection, I seek the support of this August House for the budgetary allocation to this Programme in the amount of **N\$122,311,000.00**.

The Programme consists of the following Sub-programmes and the budgetary allocation will be utilised to finance the implementation of the planned activities under each sub-Programmes as follows:

Implementation of the National Rural Development Strategy

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In order to effectively address rural poverty, Cabinet approved the adoption of a Policy on Rural Development on 28 May 2012. The Ministry subsequently developed the National Rural Development Strategy, and both the policy and strategy were officially launched on 20 February 2014.

The Ministry now plans to embark on an outreach to create awareness and understanding of the policy and strategy among stakeholders and the general public, and will utilise a portion of the budgetary allocation to this Programme for this purpose. Therefore, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology through its print and electronic media shall be fully engaged.

Development and Administration of Rural Development Centres

In order to support our rural development initiatives, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has constructed and operates Rural Development Centres (RDCs). So far there are three (3) such fully operational Centres at Ongwediva, Okashana and Ben-Hur.

With an initial budgetary allocation that the Ministry received during the preceding Financial Year, the Ministry has started the construction of new centres in other Regions. We are seeking additional funding to continue and finalize the construction of the following centres:

Region	Location	Budget Million	Amount	N\$
Zambezi	Masokotwane	10 Million		
Kavango West	Rupara	13 Million		
Ohangwena	Eembaxu	10 Million		
Omusati	Ogongo	10 Million		
Kunene	Alfa	10 Million		
//Karas	Synfontein	6 Million		
Hardap	Gibeon	10 Million		

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A total of 6,500 jobs are expected to be created during the construction of these centres; and when completed, these centres will provide access to appropriate technologies and services that are expected to benefit some 60,000 people in the regions where they are located.

Micro-Finance Scheme

The sub-programme is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas through the provision of micro-financing to viable entrepreneurial project ideas. The support that we have so far provided under this sub-programme has resulted in the creation of some 180 micro, small and medium enterprises, which have in turn created a total of 2,100 jobs.

Our interventions during this MTEF period are expected to increase this number to over 3,500 jobs, thus providing work for an additional estimated 1,440 rural people. However, rural development is interlinked and crosscutting all Ministries, hence let us not allow funds allocated for rural development projects and programmes to go back to treasury.

Food/Cash for Work

This sub-programme is aimed at creating employment opportunities for unemployed able-bodied, disaster-affected people and poor households in rural areas by recruiting and involving them in rural infrastructure development projects and rewarding them by way cash or food. A total number of 8,000 people are expected to be recruited and benefit countrywide from this project during the Financial Year 2015/2016. To this end, the Regional Governors must ensure that no funds allocated to their respective Regions return to treasury.

Rural Sanitation

This Sub-programme is aimed at promoting sanitation and hygiene as well as creating employment opportunities in rural areas through the construction of sanitary facilities at household level and growth points. To date, a total of 5,892 ventilated pit latrines have been constructed

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providing employment to some 492 SME contractors and 5,217 people benefited. The Sub-programme has been implemented in seven (7) Regions that are prone to floods.

It is expected that over 6,000 jobs will be created over the MTEF period, and is expected to benefit some 57,500 rural people. The offices of the Honourable Governors must ensure quality for money.

Regional Specific Action Plan

The sub-programme is aimed at creating and increasing on-farm and off-farm income and employment generating opportunities for food insecure and vulnerable households. The specific food security projects that we are supporting were identified in 2005 in the various Regions.

A total of seventeen (17) projects have been implemented in ten (10) Regions to date, benefiting 578 people, of which the majority (337) are women. It is expected that about 3,965 people will benefit from our Regional Specific Action Plan projects during the current MTEF period.

One Region One Initiative

In its continued effort to improve the livelihood of our people in rural areas, the Ministry with technical assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has devised the One Region One Initiative (OROI) Programme that seeks to promote innovations and employment by promoting and facilitating capacity building and transfer of skills and technology as well as value addition to natural resources found in rural areas.

The One Region One Initiative started during the Financial Year 2013/2014 targeting some 100 projects. So far, 33 projects have been supported, while the remaining 77 projects are lined up for support under the current MTEF period. The 33 projects that we have supported have benefited approximately 236 beneficiaries in the four (4) pilot regions, namely Omusati, Kavango, Oshana-Oshana and Oshana-Oshana.

The Programme is expected to benefit about 500 entrepreneurs during this MTEF period. The Regional Governors are expected to take ownership of this programme and ensure successful execution thereof.

Rural Employment Scheme

This Sub-programme is aimed at promoting and creating employment among rural communities by engaging them in development initiatives. Preference is given to unemployed youth and women in rural areas. To date, a total of 662 jobs have been created and we expect to create over 1,000 jobs during this MTEF period.

Support to Poor Rural Farmers

The main objective of this sub-programme is to provide financial support to poor rural farmers to enable them to initiate and carry out community projects such as water infrastructure development, electrification, and to acquire or access appropriate modern production equipment and technologies. The communities that are supported are identified and assessed by Regional Councils and Rural Development Centres through Community Outreach programmes.

With additional resources that we are seeking for, we plan to support approximately 600 poor rural farmers throughout Namibia through this Sub-programme. Upon approval, I expect the Honourable Governors to own this information and demand what is due for their Regions.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of our rural development initiatives involves various stakeholders. Through this sub-programme, the Ministry seeks to ensure that an effective mechanism is in place to monitor and ensure the alignment of rural development sector interventions to broad national and rural development policies, strategies and guidelines as well as to evaluate the impact of cross-cutting sector policies, strategies and programmes on rural development in the country.

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For this purpose, the Ministry, with the financial assistance of the Spanish Development Cooperation Agency, developed an electronic Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System during 2013/2014. We will use the budgetary allocation under this Financial Year to reinforce this monitoring and evaluation function. On this note, I expect a talk less and do more approach.

Statistics and Research

Our activities under this sub-programme are aimed at collecting evidence-based information on rural development needs and initiatives for dissemination to stakeholders and to contribute to a better understanding of the dynamics of rural development in Namibia and to guide policy decisions.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me move on to the next Programme.

PROGRAMME 02:

SUPPORT TO PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

N\$1,842,681,000 (One Billion, Eight Hundred and Forty Two Million, Six Hundred and Eight One Thousand Namibia Dollars).

This Programme consists of the various interventions that we provide in the areas of housing and infrastructure development as well as urban and regional planning.

Housing Development

Let me start with housing. Namibia has a housing backlog estimated at over 100,000 housing units and a large section of our population still lives under deplorable conditions and informal settlements, which are a common feature especially in the urban centres of our country. The

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absence or acute shortage of similar basic housing and related amenities in rural areas has also seen high inflows of people especially the young from rural to urban centres.

In addition to the failures of the market to provide housing products that meet the needs of many homeless Namibians in terms of quantity and affordability, many of our people cannot afford to acquire the housing products that are in the market as they are either unemployed or due to their low-income levels.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in terms of NDP4, Namibia has committed itself to put in place and I quote – *“a robust and effective housing delivery programme where affordability is the key feature of the Programme.”* Given the obvious market failures in the delivery of housing to the majority of our people, the Government resolved to play an active role in the sector in the form of financing towards the servicing of land and the actual construction of houses with particular focus on the needs of the ultra-low and low-income groups.

In this connection, the Government has been providing financial assistance to local authorities to service land and to provide affordable financing through the decentralised Build Together Programme to enable homeless low-income earners to construct affordable houses for themselves. Furthermore, the Government has also been providing financial support to community-based organisations that share the Government's vision of providing affordable housing to our people who are in the poor and low-income groups.

While the above-mentioned interventions, and through other State instruments such as the National Housing Enterprise, have made and continue to make a great contribution towards providing affordable housing for our people, we recognise that such interventions have so far only been able to reach a small section of the needy population.

Our commitment is to expand our coverage and housing supply to reach as

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many of our homeless people as possible. Our resolve in this regard saw the adoption of a blueprint on the implementation of the Mass Housing Development Programme (MHDP) by Cabinet in June 2013 and the launch of the commencement of the implementation of the first phase of the Programme by His Excellency, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba on 26 November 2013.

The Mass Housing Development Programme was designed with the aim of building on and expanding the gains made through the earlier housing development interventions and in keeping with the Government's desire and policy aimed at accelerating and scaling up the delivery of housing and decent shelter in the country, and especially to meet the housing needs of the ultra-low and low-income groups. The Programme consists of 7 Sub-programmes: the Social Housing Subsidy Sub-programme; Informal Settlement Upgrading, Peoples Housing Processes, Rural Housing and Sanitation Sub-programme; Land use planning, design and service Infrastructure Sub-programme; Construction and Delivery of Credit-Linked Housing Sub-programme; and the Strengthening of the Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Environment and Capacity Building Sub-programme.

In terms of the blueprint, the Programme is to be implemented during the period 2013-2030 and is expected to result in the construction of some one hundred and eighty five thousand (185,000) houses. The estimated total investment to realise this target is N\$45 billion over the 18 years period or an average annual investment of N\$2.5 billion.

The Programme is being implemented in phases. The first (current) phase runs over two (2) Financial Years; namely Financial Years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016, with the NHE as the implementing agency. The plan is to roll out the Programme countrywide and this will see Local Authorities and Regional Councils, as well as other stakeholders, involved in housing delivery playing a greater and more direct role.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, despite various financial and technical challenges, which should

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be expected during the implementation of a new and large-scale programme of this kind, I wish to report that out of the total houses of 9,306 that are planned for construction during the financial period 2014-2016 (Phase 1), 1,071 houses have so far been completed as at end March 2015. One hundred and ninety-four (194) of these were handed over to beneficiaries during November-December 2014 in Walvis Bay, Oshakati and Mariental.

The Ministry received a Budget of N\$305 million for the Programme during the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 and has to date spent N\$292,495,340.41 mainly towards financing the cost of constructing the housing type (social houses) that are earmarked for the low-income groups.

The NHE has tasked and is still in the process of mobilizing funding for the construction of credit-linked houses that are planned to be constructed under the current phase of the Programme. The company requires the assistance of the Government in this regard in the form of a Government guarantee. I wish to thank the Minister of Finance for his continuous support towards this programme.

The Ministry has been allocated a budget of N\$330,000,000 during the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 to continue our efforts to build more houses under the Programme.

While we are grateful for the allocation so far made towards the Programme, the allocation is far below the projected annual allocation of N\$2,5 billion as provided for in the Blueprint. If sufficient resources are made available, we can expand and accelerate the delivery of serviced land housing and actual housing development in a shorter period of time.

On a separate note, it is disheartening to note that the Government's efforts and investment in the delivery affordable houses are being thwarted or slowed down by what I would term greedy-pricing and high construction fees being charged by private contractors. I am also dismayed that the State institution that was tasked with the implementation of the first Phase of the Programme could not negotiate and ensure construction costs that

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will enable us to achieve our affordability goal. My team and I are determined to implement measures to minimise the impact and to ensure a more desirable situation going forward.

Among others, the Ministry will re-activate the decentralized Build Together Programme revolving loan system, which is under the administration of Local Authorities, and will provide financial support to community-based organisations that are involved in the delivery of houses to the poor and lower income groups. I believe these vehicles are relevant and will enable us to deliver more housing stocks that more effectively respond to the needs of the target groups. We will however first ensure that proper guidelines and accountability and monitoring systems are in place and effective before we activate these housing delivery arrangements. I do not want to see half done projects - the houses must be completed and there must a physical monitoring of the projects. It must not be left alone for people to do as they want.

In addition we, together with the Ministry of Finance, are also exploring - and in the process of developing - a framework for viable Public-Private Partnerships, especially those that offer the use of alternative durable and cost-effective building materials and construction technologies, hence ensure value for money.

Recapitalisation of NHE

The NHE has been assigned an important role of serving as the Government instrument for constructing and providing housing for the large segment of our society that is not served by the Private Sector. The company's capacity to adequately perform its assigned role has however being constrained by limited funding, which in turn affects both its implementation capacity and ability to finance and deliver the required number of housing stock.

In this connection, we are very grateful for a budgetary allocation of N\$220 million in the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 for the recapitalization of the

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NHE with a view to strengthen its balance sheet and enable it to source external funding to sustain its operations.

Planning, Surveying and Design

During the Financial Year 2014/2015, the Ministry considered and recommended a total of 480 applications from local authorities and the community throughout Namibia. These applications for approval by the Minister via the Namibia Planning Advisory Board (NAMPAB) and the Townships Board, included land delivery and development in the form of spatial development frameworks, urban and regional planning, land subdivision and consolidation, township establishment, zoning schemes and appeals/objections thereto.

The approval and regulatory role that has been assigned to my Ministry and is being performed through NAMPAB and Township Board impacts on land delivery in the country, and we have already started a reform process that seeks to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. We have noted that while a number of planning, legal and regulatory instruments (namely planning and zoning ordinances, building regulations and By-laws) are in place to regulate the land market in Namibia, the implementation thereof has had limited results among others because the planning models that are in use are outdated.

In order to expedite the delivery of and access to land, we have embarked on a number of reforms one of which is to repeal and replace outdated town and regional planning legislations (the Town Planning Ordinance no. 18 of 1954 and Townships and Division of Land Ordinance no. 11 of 1963), by introducing a single law (the Urban and Regional Planning Bill). The new legislation will see the functions that are currently being performed by NAMPAB and the Township Board being amalgamated into one body and some of such functions are also to be delegated to local authority level. The Bill has already been drafted and is expected to be promulgated during the 2015/16 financial year.

The objective of this Bill is to:

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- Establish an urban and regional planning board;
- Regulate spatial development frameworks and structure planning;
- Decentralize urban planning and land use management; and
- Provide for zoning schemes, subdivisions and consolidation of land, establishment of urban areas and extension of urban areas situated in local authorities in such a way as will most effectively promote health, safety, order, amenity, convenience and environmental and economic sustainability in the process of development.

With the help of the budget that we are seeking, we plan to finalize our work on this important piece of legislation and to continue rendering the support and regulatory functions in respect of urban and regional planning.

Provision of Infrastructure in Regions

The shortage of office accommodation has become a serious concern for Regional Councils. This is also identified as one of the reasons that influence the pace of delegating functions to Regional Councils. To overcome this challenge, the Ministry was directed to lead the process of constructing Regional Office Parks in the Regions, which intervention is aimed at enhancing service delivery to our people at local and regional levels.

The following infrastructure projects are either already under implementation and/or are planned by the Ministry in order to address the shortage of office accommodation at sub-national level:

- Construction of Town Council Offices at Divundu, Bukalo and Oniipa;
- Construction of Constituency Offices at Kabbe, Linyanti, Mankumpi, Mpungu, Ncamagoro, Ndonga Linena, Tondoro, Opuwo Rural,

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Oshikunde, Ondangwa Urban, Daweb, Aranos, Karasburg West, Eenhana and Nehale Lya Mpingana Katutural Central Constituencies;

- Construction of Settlement Offices at Sesfontein, Okangwati, Fransfontein, Hoachanas, Okandjatu, Okatjoruu and Coblentz; and
- Construction of Regional Office Parks for Zambezi, Kunene, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Hardap, //Karas, Omaheke and Kavango West Regions.

Provision of Basic Sanitation/Rural Sanitation

- The construction and provision of Basic Sanitation in Rural Areas (rural toilets) in Kavango East, Omusati, Kunene, Zambezi, Ohangwena, Hardap Oshana, Omaheke, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa and //Karas Regions.

We are going to do what we are saying, you must just support us.

Sanitation in Urban, Peri-urban and Incorporated/Declared Settlement Areas

- Construction of Services in Okahao, Omuthiyagwiipundi, Katima Mulilo, Eheke, Uukwangula, Leonardville, Oshikuku, Arandis, Omaruru, Usakos, Walvis Bay, Okongo, Eenhana, Helao Nafidi, Gobabis, Ongwediva, Oshakati Masterplan, Ondangwa, Okahandja, Okakarara, Rundu, Outjo, Gochas, Mariental, Grootfontein, Nkurenkuru, Tsumeb, Windhoek, Katwitwi, Omitara, Buitepos, Oshivelo, Oniipa, Hoachans, Klein Aub, Kries, Gibeon, Maltahohe, Stampriet, Aranos, Rehoboth, Okatjoruu, Gam, Okandjira, Otjiwarongo, Tsumkwe, Otavi, Noordoewer, Aroab, Berseba, Bethanie, Koes, Tses, Karasburg, !Nami#Nus formerly known as Luderitz, Oranjemund, Keetmanshoop, Oshakati, Groot Aub, Epukiro, Witvlei, Divundu, Onesi, Okalongo, Tsandi, Ogongo, Ruacana, Outapi, Okombahe, Otjimbingwe, Uis, Henties Bay, Karibib, Fransfontein, Kamanjab, Khorixas, Opuwo, Omungwelume,

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Swakopmund, Bukalo, Chinchimane, Kongola, Ngoma, Sibbinda, Lusese and Sangwali.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me now move on to the next Programme of our Vote.

PROGRAMME 03:

ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Eleven Million, Six Hundred and Sixty Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (NS11,667,000.00);

Decentralisation

The fundamental principle of democracy is based on the notion that citizens are able to exercise choices, participate in development planning, and also acknowledges that communities are aware of and knowledgeable about their needs and their local conditions.

In this regard, decentralisation and local governance are increasingly recognised as basic components of democratic governance, since they provide an enabling environment in which decision making and service delivery are brought closer to the people. Decentralisation creates the required environment and platform for local communities to participate in the processes of planning, identifying and prioritising community development needs.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has been assigned the role of spearheading and coordinating the implementation of our Decentralisation Policy of 1998 and the *Decentralisation Enabling Act* (Act No. 33 of 2000).

Although in general the process of decentralisation is somewhat slow, we nevertheless recognise the following progress that has been made and activities undertaken during the Financial Year 2014/2015:

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- The identification and subsequent approval by Cabinet of the decentralisation of the functions of print media and audio visual
- production of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in 2014, and their gazetting in February 2015;
- The development of a Decentralization Action Plan (DAP) and the Functional Framework for the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture (now the Ministry of Sports, Youth and National Service);
- Fifty (55) staff members of Regional Councils and Decentralising Line Ministries were trained on Regional Development Planning and Management Practices;
- Surveys were conducted on the functionality of Development Committees in all the constituencies of 7 Regions, namely Zambezi, Kavango East, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Erongo, Kunene and Ohangwena Regions, and a training manual for Development Committees developed in partnership with the Namibia Institute of Democracy and financial support from the EU; and
- Six (6) outstanding Public Participation Surveys were conducted for the Zambezi, Kavango, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati and Otjozondjupa Regions.

Activities planned during 2015/2016

The Ministry will undertake the following activities under this programme during the Financial Year 2015/2016:

Awareness and Acceleration of Decentralization

Various interventions will be embarked on during 2015/2016 to ensure that the Decentralisation Action Plans for decentralizing Ministries are developed for functions to be delegated and to ensure that:

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Regional Councils commemorate Africa Decentralisation Day for the second time on 10 August as adopted by African Union member states;

- Annual Focal Persons meeting is held for all decentralising Line Ministries;
- Awareness sessions are conducted with individual Line Ministries in an effort to enlist understanding and prioritization of the implementation of the decentralization policy;
- Regional Councils maintain the minimum requirements and have accompanying implementation plans for decentralization, including the readiness to take on the management of staff, functions, assets and funds as stipulated in the Decentralisation Enabling Act and Decentralization Policy.

Decentralization must happen and functions must go to the regions. This will ensure that development and services will reach the majority of our people, and these are the people in the rural areas.

Institutional Capacity for Decentralization Reform

During the Financial Year 2015/2016, Constituency Development Committees will be provided capacity building support on Regional Development Planning and in full understanding of the role of Constituency Development Committees.

Decentralization Systems Development

We will continue to ensure that Line Ministries are well equipped to efficiently and effectively transfer functions and also that Regional Councils and Local Authorities have the necessary systems to properly manage the transferred functions. The identified systems cover areas of Human Resources, Asset Management, and Financial Management. Among others, the Ministry will facilitate the standardisation of ICT

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systems for decentralised services and the acquisition and deployment of ICT hardware and software.

Improved Information and Communication Strategies

The Ministry plans to facilitate the development of Regional Council Public Participation strategies in six (6) Regions (Zambezi, Kavango, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati and Otjozondjupa Regions) and to also audit the progress that Part I and Part II municipalities are making on Public Participation.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members;

PROGRAMME 04:

**COORDINATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS, LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES AFFAIRS**

**One Billion and Six Hundred and Five Thousand Namibia Dollars
(N\$1,000,605,000.00);**

This Programme is aimed at facilitating the establishment and development of effective and sustainable regional and local government structures and systems. These institutions are important vehicles for bringing Government closer to the people and for the delivery of services to communities. In addition, the programme also provides support to recognised Traditional Authorities to perform their community administrative and developmental roles.

The Programme comprises of the following Sub-programmes/Activities:

Enhancement of Regional Councils Administration

Article 103 of the Namibian Constitution provides for the establishment of Regional Councils in the country, and also defines the rights, powers, duties and functions of such sub-national governance structures.

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In order to ensure effective Regional Councils, the Ministry conducted training for Management and Senior Officials from nine (9) Regional Councils on Leadership and Change Management during the previous Financial Year. We plan to conduct the same exercise in the remaining 5 Regional Councils during the current Financial Year.

In terms of financial assistance, a total amount of **N\$595,105,000.00 (Five Hundred and Ninety-Five Million, One Hundred and Five Thousand Namibia Dollar)** has been allocated during the Financial Year 2015/2016 as subsidies to Regional Councils to enable them to perform their assigned mandate.

Enhancement of Local Authorities Administration

In our quest to ensure effective governance system and service delivery, a lot of time and resources are being invested in facilitating the establishment of Local Authorities and setting up proper governance systems.

The Ministry will continue to invest in settlement areas with a view to prepare them and to create the necessary conditions for them to become fully fledged local authorities in the coming years, when the right governance and self-sustainability conditions are in place.

During the Financial Year 2015/2016, the Ministry envisages to facilitate the proclamation of Oniipa in Oshikoto Region as a Town Council as well as Tsandi in Omusati Region, Okongo in Ohangwena Region and Divundu in Kavango East Region as Village Councils. The proclamation of new Local Authorities has financial implications including the need for Central Government to provide operational subsidies due to the fact that these Local Authorities cannot sustain themselves, especially at their formative stage.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is a known fact that our Local Government Sector is faced with challenges such as poor or ineffective capacities at various levels,

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which have resulted in most of our Local Authorities not meeting the expectations of the people that they are supposed to serve. In particular, most Local Authorities in our country lack the necessary financial and technical capacity to plan and deliver basic infrastructure and services. These capacity constraints, coupled with poor cadastral land records system, cumbersome land approval and registration procedures and speculative conducts of the Private Sector, negatively affect the supply of and access to serviced land and housing in the country in general, and for the poor in particular. In this regard, it is not always about ineffective capacities, but lack of discipline and political sensitivity. Therefore, my team and I need to work on this, on a serious note.

Our interventions under this Programme entail financial and technical support to Local Authorities to enable them to provide water, electricity, urban land and other municipal services. We have also been investing a lot in building the capacity of Local Authorities, especially the village councils and small or struggling towns, and we will continue to do so. In some cases, the Ministry had to second its officials to go and help in setting up and even running the administration of some of the new or struggling Local Authorities on a temporary basis. Ultimately, we expect that such support will help Local Authorities to scale up their governance and service delivery capacity and to create conditions for attracting investment and income generation activities to them (Local Authorities) to boost their revenue generation options and to create employment opportunities for our people.

In this regard, I seek the support of this august House for continued budgetary support to Local Authorities. Indeed, the Government needs to increase budgetary allocations to Local Authorities in order for us to achieve our goal of enabling the landless and homeless majority to have access to serviced urban land and decent housing, an aspiration which will be delayed and/or be realized at a high cost if the process of land servicing and development is left to market forces and the Private Sector with no mercy to the low income and the poor.

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Some of the reforms that we have already initiated and are pursuing to improve; the *Local Authorities Act*, 1992, (Act No. 23 of 1992) as amended, the formulation of an Urban Land Policy and the introduction of a Web-Based Urban Land Information Management System. The amendment process is at an advanced stage. The Urban Land Information Management System will enable Local Authorities to capture and keep ease retrievable data/information on land and municipal rate and tax payers. The system will also enable the Ministry and Central Government in general to be in a position to know the amount and other details of the land available at the Local Authorities. The Ministry has already procured and installed the system and is piloting it at ten (10) selected Local Authorities. A full roll out is planned during and from the current Financial Year, guided by the outcome of the piloting phase.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members, we want to develop this country, but there are consequences. You must, therefore, listen to this one:

Compensation for Loss of Communal Land

The reality of urban development in Namibia involves the incorporation of communal land into Local Authorities - a process that requires the valuation of such and according to set guidelines and payment of compensation to the affected people to make way for urban development.

Local Authorities are not able to cover the cost involved from the meagre resources that they generate and thus entirely depend on financial support from the Central Government through the Line Ministry. In this regard, I seek support of this august House for the budgetary allocation in the amount of N\$105 million for this crucial land delivery support. I, however, wish to point out that the actual funding needs that the Ministry has received from Local Authorities and submitted for funding consideration is way more than the allocation. Nevertheless, we have taken note of the competing demands on the fiscus and will try to do with what has been made available to us.

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In response to various concerns that have been raised regarding the current compensation system, the Ministry plans to commission a review of the efficacy of the current National Land Compensation Policy. The question is; are we doing justice?

Local Government Reform

The Government has embarked on a Programme to reform the Local Government Sector aimed at improving the operation of Local Government in Namibia. This reform focuses on efficient and effective service delivery in recognition that they are part of the system that is at the delivery point to our people. The reform encourages Local Authorities to reduce red tapes, the free flow of information between them and their communities and provide high quality infrastructure within the resources at their disposal.

The other area of focus of the reform is the establishment of financial prudence requirements for Local Authorities. In building a more competitive and productive economy, it is critical for local governments to take a prudent financial approach to public resources. The reform also aims to strengthen Local Authority governance capacity by reviewing political, institutional and staffing requirements, inter Government relations and the development planning procedures among others.

The Local Government Reform policy is at the advanced stage of adoption and the activities to kick-start and finalise the policy will commence in this Financial Year.

Disaster Preparedness

With the introduction of the *Fire Brigade Services Act* of 2006 (Act No. 5 of 2006), the Government, through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, is obligated to subsidize the fire brigade services of the Local Authorities.

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The Ministry has procured modern fire fighting equipment for all fifty-two (52) Local Authorities in Namibia. The impact of this intervention is among others:

- An improvement in the capacity of Local Authorities to deal with and prevent fires and other emergencies, thereby protecting the lives of people and reducing damage to properties; and
- Increased investor confidence to invest in our Local Authorities. The next intervention is to assist local authorities to construct fire stations. In this regard, a total of twenty-four (24) Local Authorities have been allocated for the construction of fire stations as part of our capacity building efforts. The majority of these fire stations are currently under construction, but additional funding is needed to complete the construction of some of these infrastructure due escalations in construction costs.

The Ministry is seeking the support of this august House for the budgetary allocation to this sub-Programme to enable the Ministry to assist the remaining Local Authorities over the current MTEF period and prevent our people from dying or to lose their properties.

Local Economic Development

The main objective of this sub-programme is to provide a framework and deliberate strategies for economic development at local and regional levels informed by and taking into account the overall national economic and industrial development framework and agenda.

Specifically, our support in this regard entails assisting local authorities and regional councils in formulating and implementing their Local Economic Development (LED) policies and strategies with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, and with the primary objective of creating an enabling and conducive environment for economic growth in their localities that is attractive to investors.

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During the past four years, the Ministry, supported by Germany's GIZ, assisted and supported a total of 38 Regional Councils and Local Authorities to develop their LED policies and strategies. Most of these are already being implemented and bearing fruits for the respective Regional Councils and Local Authorities, in terms of investment interests, employment and income generation.

Other activities undertaken and results achieved during the past Financial Year are:

- Capacity building in the form of five (5) annual LED conferences and training workshops;
- Establishment and institutionalisation of three (3) regional LED forums in the Southern, Central and Northern parts of Namibia that serve to leverage the potential of peer-knowledge-exchange and initiate cross-town and regional LED initiatives, as well as to identify and discuss concrete solutions and interventions to address common LED challenges in the respective localities;
- Studies carried out on among other the impact of Public Private Dialogues (PPDs) among business owners in Namibia and benchmarking of LED initiatives; and
- Development PPD implementation guidelines to guide LED practitioners in Namibia on how to conduct PPD engagements successfully.

We will continue this supportive role in the current Financial Year and beyond.

Traditional Authorities Administration

The increase in applications for recognition as Traditional Authorities and leaders as well as leadership succession disputes over the years is putting a strain on the Ministry and calls for the allocation of more resources to

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enable the Ministry to effectively deal with such developments and related challenges - most of which are complex in nature and often require lengthy verification or investigations that require the Minister to enlist the assistance of outside stakeholders.

During the preceding Financial Year, the Ministry commissioned investigations into leadership succession disputes in five (5) Traditional Authorities, namely Blouwes, Simon Kooper, Afrikaner, Mbunza, and Vita Traditional Authorities.

More funding is required to investigate leadership disputes that have been reported to the Ministry as well as to equip Traditional Leaders with leadership skills, and to train members of the Boards of Trustees of the remaining Community Trust Funds.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this is a challenge and we must take serious note of it. I must also say that we should not allow anarchy and we must respect our cultures and traditions. *(Interjections)* Yes, when they hear about a chief's death they all come running trying to break the chain of events that needs to be followed. That is why I am saying that we need to respect our cultures and traditions and give guidance.

To enhance accountability and transparency in the management of Community Funds, members of Board of Trustees from seven (7) Traditional Authorities were trained on management of Community Trust Fund Regulations during the previous Financial Year. As part of our commitment towards improving the livelihood of rural communities, the Ministry also contributed N\$1.5 million to thirty (30) established Traditional Authority Community Trust Funds during the same period.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I must mention that these are our people, hence Government assistance cannot be overemphasized.

Council of Traditional Leaders

The Council of Traditional Leaders plays an important role of advising the

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President on matters related to communal land. The Council meets every year to discuss social, economic and developmental issues that affect their communities and to bring these issues to the attention of Line Ministries for further consideration. The meeting allows the Council to make proper and collective recommendations to the President in line with the *Council of Traditional Leaders' Act*. The Council financially depends on the Ministry as it has no own sources of income. The Ministry has a Division that deals with all matters related to Traditional Authorities and also serves as the Secretariat to the Council of Traditional Leaders.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members;

PROGRAMME 05:

POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

One Hundred and Forty Four Million, Five Hundred and Forty Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$144,547,000.00);

The purpose of this Programme is to provide administrative support to the other core functions of the Ministry. The Activities under this Programme are as follows:

Policy Supervision

The Ministry requires a budget in the amount of **N\$10,247,000.00** for this critical Sub-programme/Activity during 2015/2016.

Coordination Support Services

The Ministry will require **N\$67,209,000.00** for this Sub-programme/Activity for 2015/2016.

Optimise Utilisation of ICT Systems

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The Ministry will require **N\$8,377,000.00** for this Sub-programme/Activity for 2015/2016.

Risk Management

The Ministry will require **N\$5,502,000.00** for this sub-Programme/Activity for 2015/2016.

Representative of Central Government in Regions (Governors Offices)

The Ministry will require a Budget of **N\$53,212,000.00** to support the activities of Regional Governors during the current Financial Year.

I must inform this august House that the effectiveness of the Governors and their Offices are constrained, primarily, by lack of proper office and residence accommodation resulting in most Governors having to operate from costly rented office premises and having to travel long distance to and from their workplaces. I was in a *Kambashu* I know how it feels.

The other constraint is a lean personnel structure as the ideal structure that has already been cleared by the Public Service Commission has not yet been implemented as no budgetary allocation has been provided to the Ministry. The Honourable Governors must bear with me.

I hope that these pressing needs will be catered for in the next Financial Year. I must emphasize that for better coordination between the Governors' Offices and the Regional Councils, the Governors' Offices should be constructed on the same premises with the Regional Councils, or at least in the proximity of the Regional Councils. For better coordination and control we need to be hands-on.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members, may I use this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for granting me good health, also my children for their continuous support.

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HON SHANINGWA

I was never in hospital, thank God. I am covered by the Almighty and I also pray that God continues to bless Namibia.

In conclusion, I hereby now request this august House to support and approve the total Budget of **N\$3,121,810,000** for Vote 17 for the Financial Year 2015/2016. I thank you for your attention and support. I so submit Honourable Chairperson.

I thank you for your kind attention, God bless you Comrade Chairperson and your team, thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Attention! Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. The mere fact that your Ministry is one of the Ministries that have been allocated two Deputy Ministers indicates the magnitude of your mandate. Besides the Ministry of Health and Social Services, I think this is one of the biggest Ministries.

However, Honourable Minister, I hope next time the people who assist you with the preparation of the motivation will shorten it a little bit. Thank you so much.

With this, we can take a break for ten minutes and come back for the Discussions. So adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20

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HON WITBOOI

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House Committee is called to order. We are now entering into the Discussions of Votes 09, 23, 26 and 29.

Vote 09 – “**FINANCE**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Deputy Minister Witbooi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 09 of the Ministry of Finance. Allow me to start by putting questions to the Honourable Minister of Finance. My comment is about tax on Page 4 in the Motivation. I will go straight to the points:

Can the Honourable Minister of Finance please explain whether businesses such as taxis, *shebeens*, property rentals, developers and contractors or other unregistered business, do pay income tax like any other businesses in Namibia? If they do, how does the Ministry of Finance calculate their taxes? If they do not pay income tax, please explain why not.

Secondly, how does the Minister record and administer taxation on farmers, for example, cattle and goat farmers? Comrade Minister, are profit-making resettlement farmers also paying income tax?

Thirdly, I have been informed that the Farm Ongombo, which is now a resettlement farm, could make a profit of approximately N\$1,200,000.00 at a given time through flower farming and the sale of flowers, now my question is: Is the flower farming still part of the farm activities and does the Government benefit from tax of once flourishing and profit making farm?

Fourthly, as I was previously a Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, we visited various

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HON VENAANI

Regions on Capital Projects and I am happy with the progress made for the provision of offices and accommodation to the staff members.

Lastly, Comrade Minister, on the IT System at the border posts that we visited there is a great improvement Comrade Minister, money well spent. However, Comrade Minister, at most border posts we visited like the Ngoma, the Wenela and so on just to mention a few, under one roof you will find the Ministry of Finance, the Customs, Safety and Security, the Police, Home Affairs and Immigration at all these posts. The Ministry of Finance has internet connections, telephone lines, computers, faxes, televisions, cell phones, radio coverage and so on but the other two Ministries that they share the same building with, have none or few of what the Ministry of Finance has - for example, no internet, no cell phones, no computers. Comrade Minister, my question is; why does the Ministry of Finance equip their offices adequately while the same Ministry cuts other Ministries, even those they share a common goal with? This is my concern and I thank you. I support your Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Next is Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to give my sincere support to this very important Ministry. However, I want to raise two or three issues on the Programmes.

Permit me, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to start with Programme 4, ***Public Service Employee Medical Aid Scheme:*** First and foremost, one would be in agreement with the fact that besides the administration of this important Medical Aid Scheme, the Ministry is not really responsible for the health matters that are attached to it. However, one must say that we are putting so many billions of dollars into

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HON VENAANI

the Medical Aid Scheme and what has become very clear is the fact that service providers are milking the system. *Service providers are milking the system* because when you go to a physician in Rundu, he or she charges you a different fee for the same service from a physician in Windhoek - then you wonder, same service provided, same Medical Aid Scheme, but the charges are different because Medical Practitioners are in the know that many people that are on the Medical Aid Scheme do not ask how much you are paying because you have Medical Aid. You only ask about your excess because it is what is coming out of your pocket.

Every time you see a physician or a doctor in this country they get really annoyed when you start asking, "*How much is my visit to you?*" Either you end up being told that, "*I do not really know; I do not really calculate these things - my staff would know.*" They do not have prices. If you look at the 224,000 Namibians that are on this scheme and the amount of money that you are putting in, I doubt whether we are doing justice to our people. I want the Honourable Minister to tell us how he wants to reform this Medical Aid Scheme to be people centred and that people are able to benefit from it because sometimes you are told, "*No, please pay priority*" or what do we call it?

HON MEMBER: The high option!

HON VENAANI: The high option – you come at a hospital, "*No, go to Katutura Hospital!*" Now why am I paying high option, what is high about *high*? You know, what is the high about *high*?

HON MEMBER: That is why you go to Katutura.

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HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: Every time that you have a high option you are told, *“No, in fact you must have a top-up, it is better to have a top up,”* so why have a high option if I have to top-up? Why do you not just tell me to have a top-up once? I think PSEMAS needs to come under serious review. I will Move a Motion at a later stage to address it.

Secondly, on Programme 2, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is the issue of VAT Return delays. It is a serious concern that we have in our country, especially for small businesses that are starting up. People are waiting for too long; you buy a tractor, you have a small company but your VAT is taking forever to come back. It really weakens small businesses to run competitively and we really need to improve that system. To that end, I would want to know from the Honourable Minister what measures are in place to make sure that we expedite these delays on the VAT Returns.

Madam Chairperson and the Minister of Finance, through you Madam Chairperson, I will continue hitting on this nail of transfer pricing. It is a serious concern and I was reading last night how the Kenyan Government even addressed transfer pricing and they raked in over US\$17 billion back in their economy from transfer pricing. International companies that have opened shops in our country are employing international tax experts to avoid paying taxes on our shores. We must, therefore, put capacity at Inland Revenue, even get consultants from abroad to help us in addressing this issue of transfer pricing. I am a Parliamentarian, if you have to interrogate a company like Rossing that has set shop in our country for a number of years, you will be surprised how they have mastered the process through transfer pricing. It is an issue that I will raise consistently to make sure we create that capacity and rake in a lot of billions through revenue collection.

Of course, the President did not answer the question I asked on the EPZ Status. Perhaps this may be open for another day's Debate, but I do not think that we should give mining companies that are coming to get raw materials in our country without adding any value, tax exemptions on our shores.

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HON VENAANI

It is not how we can increase revenue collection.

Lastly and very fundamentally is Programme 05 – ***Public Procurement***. I want to be very bold and candid to say the following on procurement:

First and foremost, there exists an ethical problem with procurement in the country. Let us start with high officials, us, Members of Parliament, Ministers, etcetera. If you want to venture into business we use proxies. John Mutorwa must be my proxy in that company because I am Honourable Venaani, a Minister in this country. John Mutorwa is my cousin - do not worry, Honourable Mutorwa it is an example. It is just a name that came to my mind. What am I trying to say? The ethics – a high official who wants to do business in this country wants to hide and this erodes procurement in our country. It is better for people to declare their assets honestly and fairly as opposed to the ethics that exist in our country of us hiding behind proxies. What am I saying? I have engaged a number of international representatives, Ambassadors in this country and for the privy of the discussion, I will not mention the names of those countries.

Foreigners are complaining that they are not getting into our economy because deals are made in boardrooms and restaurants in this country. It is very clear that if there is a big railway line coming through Botswana to the coast, two or three companies would run for it, but the person who is closer to the powers-that-be gets that deal and people start bragging about it at airports like, *“Venaani or whoever, you are wasting your time, it is already mine.”* We, therefore, need to review and look at our procurement system because some countries that want to invest here say that - *we already know that there is no need for us to compete because there are golden people that are already chosen to get these deals as well as countries that get preferences on these deals.* It is a matter of serious concern on our procurement system.

We need to bring about reform on procurement because every deal in this country is sealed before a tender is even submitted and I am speaking from experience. (*Interjection*) Yes, of course, I am a business person, I know what is happening in this country. One thing that I want to tell

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HON VENAANI

Members of Parliament is that I do not rise to say things I do not know. I always quantify and verify my information before I say it. Most of the time – and that is 95% of the time.

We are really doing a disservice to our own prosperity if a Minister must hide to do business in this country because you are a Minister. When you are hiding you are also hiding the deal because you are influencing that deal in the dark, we must thus be open about business. People are very apologetic about it – that it is bad for someone to be rich; so why do you live if God says live on earth, work and eat from your sweat – which kind of sweat is this that is making me poor? We should not be apologetic about wealth creation in this country. Our country can only grow if *(interjection)* Yes, I agree with you. I agree. It is good that you are mentioning that because you have not heard my view about it. Let me tell you my view about a number of things in this country. *(Interjection)* It is a Programme that I am addressing.

It is bad in African culture to flaunt wealth; it is wrong and do not think that if a family member is wrong, we do not advise them. We do. We are elders - we are elder brothers and we know these things. There is one person who has grown up with old people all his life and it is *this* person. I know how Africans behave. Of course, when you advise family members you do not advise through newspapers; you do it within the decorum of family affairs, but that is not the issue.

The issue that I want to raise, that is very fundamental is: Let us not hide the deals, let us not hide behind proxies, let us not use cousins - you will find somebody sitting in a boardroom and the person does not even know what the deal should entail, but this person says he is a Director. What Director are you? You are, of course, representing Tweya's interests *(laughter)*

HON MEMBER: If you say Tweya, is it Honourable Tweya?

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HON SHIKONGO

HON VENAANI: Honourable Tweya. Honourable Minister, we need a *Reformed Procurement Bill* here. The Tender Board – these are the ethics that I am talking about - because we are hiding. We all know each other in this country, we are cousins, we do business with one another. Nearly all Permanent Secretaries have business interests, we know it, but these are the same people who are sitting on the Tender Board, hiding their procurement interests through proxies and they must now decide on the deals while they are hiding. What do you think the results of the Tender Board are? Perhaps it is also time to look at reforming the Tender Board to bring in people of high ethics, such as Honourable Bishop Kameeta; people of his likes to sit in on some of these (*interjections*) No, I am talking about the profession he comes from. I have great respect for him through his ethics. Sometimes we need to balance the Tender Board to tell me that all representatives are Permanent Secretaries while we know what Permanent Secretaries are doing in this country. In order to have a healthy Tender Board, people of certain professions of high ethics should be brought in to be able to balance the interests of procurement.

One country that has really run a great race through procurement is Ghana. Look at Ghana's procurement. Ghana is a country that has created one of the most flourishing procurement systems. Companies are running to Ghana because they have Procurement Laws that are really tight. You go there to compete and get your deals. Now and then there is a story in the newspaper, but if we follow their trend we can go far. With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Shikongo.

HON SHIKONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to give my comments on Programme 04 – *Public Service Employee Medical Aid Scheme*. I noticed On Page 7 that

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the Ministry of Finance is experiencing problems with ensuring effective coordination and management of PSEMAS, and that the payment of the medical claims to service providers are not done timeously. I, therefore, think that we should do away with this Medical Aid Scheme so that we can cut out these middleman. That way we can ensure that all the Namibian citizens are receiving proper medical care through universal high, standard medical service at all the hospitals, then there will be no need for us to go to private doctors to be told about the highs, the lows and the whatever. All the services can be done at the hospitals and we can all go there.

It has been mentioned here and I quote, *“No Namibian must feel left out”* (intervention)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we listen to the Honourable Member? You have the Floor.

HON SHIKONGO: Thank you for the protection. Please look at Article 95 – *“Promotion of the Welfare of the People*

(j) consistent planning to raise and maintain an acceptable level of nutrition and standard of living of the Namibian people and to improve public health.” I thank you and I support the Vote(laughter)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Next, Honourable Nekundi.

HON NEKUNDI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As I rise to support the Vote, allow me to pose

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HON NEKUNDI**

some critical questions to my Comrade Minister that I would like him to entertain and look at on a serious note.

Comrade Minister of Finance, as you are aware, on individual tax we have a Progressive Tax System while it is across the board for companies. Is it possible for your good office to consider applying the Progressive Tax Systems on companies like SME and large companies in order to facilitate their growth in terms of revenues and profits that they can retain for reinvestments and so forth?

Comrade Minister, my next comment is on VAT. When companies submit their VAT Returns late, the Government starts charging them interest. However, as individuals, after submission, the officials take their time, even up to twelve months to respond. You can make enquiries, they just do not respond because they know there is nothing you can do to the Government or to them. Is it not fair that we attach the same punishment, if Government is given two or six months to refund then Government must equally pay interest to the citizens and the employees who fail to process the returns must be punished? If I must be punished, the State must equally be punished and that must also be prescribed by Law. Some colleagues in the Ministries are really not doing anything – six to twelve months waiting for tax refund is not good.

Comrade Minister, I take note that the Secretarial functions of the Tender Board are under your good Ministry and the record speaks for itself that construction takes the biggest chunk out of the Capital Projects in this country or the biggest chunk of the Budget goes to the Construction Industry. At most we have learnt that big projects go to large and multinational companies, Comrade Minister. The reasons advanced are that Namibian companies do not have capacity – 25 years and still no capacity? Is it not high time that our good Ministry sets up an institution or a Council that will deal with the Construction Industry skills development such as the ones found somewhere in India? That is how they developed their Construction Industries to enable their locals develop skills in construction as expected by the State.

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HON DIENDA

Comrade Minister, the other one is the element of Local Procurement. In the tender document you are asked to indicate how much you are sourcing from local suppliers/manufacturers - they also show with a letter, non-binding document (letter) which says – yes, I produce this and then attach it to the tender document assuming they are going to buy from those people. After they get the tender, they go and buy the products from South Africa or from another countries. These people with the letter which was in the tender document can no longer be accounted for because the letter was not binding. Is it not high time that we put up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place to ensure that products acquired through tenders are locally manufactured and support “*Growth at Home?*”

With that Comrade Minister, I submit to support the Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Dienda, yes Dienda.

HON DIENDA: No, it is fine, it is not your surname, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, it is okay.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, yesterday we were humbly asked to concentrate on the development part of the Budget. I cannot; 84% of the Budget goes for Operational Expenditure, 12% goes towards Development Expenditure.

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HON DIENDA**

I, therefore, need to focus on the 84% which, in my view, is very high. The 12% is very low, I am not saying that we must not talk about development. Development is, in my view, very important and we have to focus on the development part, thus I will say that the 12% is actually too low.

My first question; *Members' contribution to the Medical Aid*: His Excellency, the President Dr Hage Geingob, in his State of the Nation Address during question time said that the public children of pensioners must take responsibility of their parents; they must look after the parents. I agree. Now, I want to ask the question, why can we not be allowed to put our parents on our Medical Aid Scheme? My grandmother or my mother must go to Katutura Hospital where everybody is equal, whether you are 25 or 85 you will shift and move from 07:00 till 19:00 in the evening. This is unfair! This is really unfair towards our elderly. They are sitting there looking for medical treatment and yet the impatience and the way they are being treated there is not fair towards them. That is why I am asking. I will pay, it is not that it will be free of charge, I will contribute. I am asking the Honourable House to make a provision to bring in a Law because Social Security failed to do it while it is in the *Social Security Act* - that a National Medical Aid be made for the people of this country. Why can I not put my parents on my Medical Aid which I will pay for? That is my first question.

My second question is on understaffing in this Ministry which is a high concern, especially at Customs, Honourable Minister. I refer the Honourable Members to Page 11 of the *Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure* whereby a budgetary provision is only made for one person, which I hope is a copy and paste mistake, a Chief Administrator. This concern was also raised in the Auditor-General's Report of 2013, therefore, if this document is copy and paste, let us rectify it.

Honourable Chairperson, I will go further. In total we have an establishment of 1,598 vacancies in the Ministry of Finance while only 1,025 are filled. This, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is despite the fact that so many Namibians are unemployed.

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HON VENAANI**

What are the reasons for over 500 positions being vacant and what is being done to speed up the recruitment process?

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my last question is also on the Public Procurement system: I would like to ask, just like my President said, for inclusiveness as a means of combating corruption and in this regard my question is whether there is any specific reasons why NGOs, the business fraternity and members of Civic Organisations do not serve on the Tender Board? Why can they not serve there?

Furthermore, I will also advise and say the people must rotate. We cannot keep the same people on the board for so long, it is also a gateway to corruption. Can the Honourable Minister please look into a Rotation Policy in this regard? Honourable Minister of Finance, with all my questions asked, I support your Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any other further discussions? Yes, Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: It just skipped my mind, I had it here, but I am sure I am aging gracefully. It is something that I wanted to mention on procurement and Honourable Nekundi also touched on it. It is on this local participation. The Ministry of Poverty Reduction wants a new Ministry building. It is a N\$375,000,000.00 building, why do we not do segmentalisation. Of course, Chinese are the best builders in the country, one cannot even argue with that - they are fast, they are efficient and they can put up the structures; why do they not put up the structures but when it comes to simple things like tiles you say, okay local companies now in this Ministry must take each floor to tile that building so that we make sure that wealth is distributed amongst our people? However, by just giving one tender to one big company like Murray & Roberts or China Jiangsung International and they take everything, the cake goes away. I

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HON VENAANI

think we really need to bring a facet of compartmentalisation in the procurement.

Lastly, at our border post, I am very glad that the Ministry is going to fix Ariamsvlei. When you are a visitor, and many of you are globe trotters like myself, a visitor's first impression in a country is your relieving facilities – toilets. They sound so simple, even in your own home, a toilet is a simple place, but it is where you get an impression of a place. The other day I travelled through Ariamsvlei en route to South Africa, it might sound very simple (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Comfort house.

HON VENAANI: That comfort house, that Foreign Affairs Office (*laughter*) The other day I was travelling through Ariamsvlei to South Africa (*interjection*) Stop disturbing me. We have that old building there and the toilets there are not working, then you go to South Africa and you think; *yes, now I am in a country* - while you are coming from your own country. Our border posts must really be a reflection of the jewel of our country and I support that Programme.

Lastly, Honourable Minister, during my tenure as a Member of Parliament for a number of years, I have been very consistent on this matter and perhaps all the Ministers must take this; the entrance to the Fiscus Building of our Republic – cleanliness is important. Cleanliness. You walk into a Ministry, the Minister's office is maroon-tabled, maroon-carpeted but where you walk is the image of Government. Government cannot be relegated to be just a business; it is a people's business and it must be reflective. Sometimes you will find our cleaners there playing cards. The first thing you notice when you walk into the Fiscus Building are the windows because you have a number of windows there - I do not know when last they were washed. I do not know whether they cleaned

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them last week. It sounds like a very petty issue, but it is important because that is where Government starts. The reflection of Government, even when you go to a hospital you should not walk into a hospital and say, “*I know it is a public hospital.*” It should not look public; it should look like a hospital. The standards must be the same. With these few remarks, I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

With this, I give the Floor to the Honourable Minister to respond.
Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much. I just want to say, yes, my Comrade Deputy Minister introduced the Vote because I think it will be a little bit unfair for him to stand up to very important questions, he knows many of them. I am not saying he does not but I think I will take the first shot at them.

First, *Honourable Witbooi* asked whether taxis, *shebeens* and the like, are exempted from tax because they are not registered. The answer is that no they are not, they should pay tax. Taxis, for instance, are registered in terms of the *Transport Act*. There are a number of requirements in the *Transport Act* and one requirement is that they must register as tax payers, and, therefore, must have a Tax Registration Number. If they do not pay tax, then it is a completely irregular approach but it is not the Government’s intention not to have them pay tax.

The same with *shebeens*; they are registered in terms of the Act, and again one requirement is that they must show that they are registered as tax payers. Those are the linkages that we develop in other legislations to have surety that dues to the Receiver are in fact paid and that they are linked to licences being issued. There are grey areas and we are aware that the Informal Sector of our economy is rather large, more than 30%,

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HON SCHLETTWEIN

that is the estimate. So there are a number of businesses and enterprises that are operating parallel to the Receiver of Revenue. That is one of the main objectives to improve upon to make the Informal Sector mature into the Formal Sector so that they also have the benefits of instruments that the Formal Sector has on offer. That is the answer.

You asked whether farmers and crop farmers in either subsistence areas or in communal areas do pay tax. I think the answer is yes, they should. However, I think we are obviously aware that that is one of the areas where many activities are happening that are not captured by the Receiver. And again, I agree it is a matter that needs to be attended to.

Ongombe Flower Farm: Maybe the right Minister to answer that question is the Minister of Land Reform because that farm became a resettlement farm. The history that I have is that there were people resettled on that farm, so whether it is a profitable operation, I do not know, to be honest. I will try to find out and give you the answer when I have contacted my Colleagues to find out what has happened on that farm.

Capital Projects: I am happy that you found in your Standing Committee, that we are improving the implementation rate of Capital Projects and I think I made a statement in my Budget Statement namely that execution rates for Capital Projects have increased quite significantly. We are now in the order of 94%. Equally, thank you very much for your positive comments on the ASYCUDA System at the border posts. We are now migrating into the newer version of ASYCUDA, that is the ASYCUDA World, which again improves the system's abilities to link to other systems like the Tax System and the National Statistics System. Thank you very much for your comments.

You also asked why the Ministry of Finance at border posts is well equipped while others are not. Then you made an interesting statement when you said the reason is because the Ministry of Finance cuts these other Ministries. I think I have an issue there; In the Ministry of Finance we just do one thing and that is, we determine the ceiling for a Vote. How Line Ministries prioritise their expenditure within that ceiling is left with

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HON SCHLETTWEIN

the Line Ministry and if the Line Ministry, therefore, decides it is not a priority to buy computers at the border posts while the Ministry of Finance decides it is an important tool to have, that is perhaps where the problem is. However, I think the sentiment is correct, I believe that our border posts and our regional offices must at least be equally equipped with Head Offices, otherwise we will not be able to bring in those services to the people.

Honourable Venaani had a question about PSEMAS. There were a number of others who also talked about PSEMAS. Maybe I can start with explaining how PSEMAS works: PSEMAS is not a Medical Aid Fund, it is a *pay as you go* condition of service for Civil Servants and their dependants. Civil Servants contribute to the costs. At the moment we recover about 20% to 22% of the total costs from such contributions. We are trying to improve that but I think there is a distinct difference between a fund that pays claims out of proceeds from contributions compared to a *pay as you go* condition of service system like we have in PSEMAS.

PSEMAS in some aspects acts and behaves just like a Medical Aid Fund and where it does that it also has a tariff book. So each service, each medication that is registered that is claimable has a fixed tariff and that tariff is the same across the whole country. There should not be a case where service providers can ask for more, but the claim that is paid by PSEMAS is always the same for the said service as per that tariff. The Rule is that for the patient, PSEMAS pays 95% of all the costs that are claimable. So access should not vary. You only need to pay 5% out of your own pocket and that 5% is measured against the tariff that PSEMAS decides or agreed to pay for the service. Some private doctors and Specialists and other service providers, of course, ask much higher fees for a service than the PSEMAS tariffs and I think there is a little bit of confusion that that higher asking from the Medical Doctor is translated as if it is an own access payment.

PSEMAS only pays its tariffs. All the medical doctors and other service providers that are contracted to PSEMAS know what these tariffs are and they know that PSEMAS will pay no more than that tariff minus 5%,

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which is the patient's own contribution. That is basically the rule how PSEMAS works.

There are some of those who milk the system, I think that is true. We have, therefore, agreed in principle to rollout a re-registration process attached to the issuance of Smart Cards that have biometric features in the cards. Principal members and dependants will be captured on that card; that would eliminate the aspect worth noting and that is where you buy medication with your card for someone who is not registered as a beneficiary or as a dependant.

There are also other mechanisms that are used to milk the system, over subscription is one. If you wake up in the morning with a headache because you had too much red wine the night before, instead of going to Spar and buying 50 Panados, you decide you want to go to your doctor because PSEMAS pays and the doctor prescribes you those Panados but also vitamins and a cough medicine, gives you three days off and asks you to come back after three days to make sure your headache is okay.

We have introduced a system where visits to doctors are capped. You may only visit so many times and thereafter if you have exceeded your number of visits, the system turns around, and you pay first and then claim back instead of PSEMAS paying. It is true that there are inefficiencies in the system which can be looked at and we are working on them.

What is the high option? The high option was intended to supplement or make it unnecessary for you to take a top-up to compliment the system for hospitalisation. With the high option you have more visits to doctors, you have a guarantee that PSEMAS will pay hospitalisation in private hospitals, which is not in the lower system. I think that is basically the difference between the high and the low option and it is a good thing. Your contributions also increases if you opt for the high option than it is the case with the low options.

The reason for the high option was also that you do not have to have two different insurances and to avoid the possibility of double claims between

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different medical aid service providers. We can improve and make it better, but of course it all comes with a cost and that is one issue that I think we have to look at.

PSEMAS, you are right, it is coming close to N\$1,500,000,000 and it caters for about 250,000 citizens who are now principal members plus dependants. We have a large portion of citizens that are catered for by PSEMAS, it is not only Civil Servants, it is much larger.

The other benefit that PSEMAS brought about is that Medical Practitioners and Pharmacies and Medical Services found it viable to set up business in the Regions where there is a large number of Civil Servants who can use their services and make it viable for them. If it was not for PSEMAS, I am sure that the medical service provision in the Regions would be much poorer and I think there are these reciprocates where we can show that PSEMAS relieved the public health system to a certain extent.

Transfer Pricing, Honourable Venaani, is a hugely complicated matter. Even the most sophisticated tax systems and economies struggle to effectively curb transfer pricing. A specific statistic tells a telling story and that is the fact that intra-company trade - trade that companies do within themselves, has overtaken inter-country trade - trade between countries and economies. You will see if a company sells to itself - if a company determines prices to buy services or goods from itself, that is the big problem of transfer pricing. The Report that was tabled at the African Union the other day by His Excellency President Mbeki tells a telling story about that transfer pricing is a reality. The Continent loses billions every year because of transfer pricing.

Of course, you want to know what we are doing. We have proposed some legislation that will help us in improving some of the elements. I will be soon in the House with an amendment of the *Income Tax Act* where we will introduce withholding tax on loan repayments across the border, that is one way of transfer pricing is happening. We will also introduce a liability to shareholders for tax arrears where companies or Close

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Corporations have been absolved with outstanding tax liability.

We visited taxes on royalties and dividends for non-resident shareholders and I think instead of letting them erode together with the corporate tax paid, we introduced a flat rate of 10%. We will also consider tax restraints on trade and commensurate payouts to these people, so there are a number of facets that we are trying to introduce which will enable us to curb some of the transfer pricing practices. I have also announced that we want to have an overall review of the tax system and transfer pricing and how we deal with. It is one of the important aspects that will be dealt with our large tax payers' office quite specifically.

The question on EPZ Status for Mining. To get the facts straight, there is no mine that has EPZ Status. What happened in the Abstractive Industries is that the element that processes the ore, therefore adding value, is the one that attracted EPZ Status. What went wrong or what could have gone wrong is the transfer pricing between the mine and the processing companies. When you are not paying tax in one entity of your operation you can offload all the costs or all the profits that the other one made into the non-profit entity. I think it is not so much a matter of the EPZ Regime being ineffective, but it was the inter-company arrangement of these concerns that made it inefficient.

I am aware that the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development is reviewing the EPZ regime and I think soon you will see new legislation that tries to close all those loopholes. Overall, I think there are about 20 EPZ companies in the country. The most successful one is a manufacturing company in Walvis Bay that manufactures motor car and washing machine components. It is a press and tool company. The EPZ companies that by volume or by value has the largest transactions are Dandy Natural Processors and Scorpion Zinc, but it is not Scorpion Zinc Mine, it is the Refinery in Scorpion Zinc. That shows you how things work. The Refinery is an entity of itself, the mine is an entity of itself, they transact prices between each other and of course profits are shifted into the EPZ company. The other 14 companies that are having EPZ statuses are Diamond Cutting and Polishing Companies which are

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processors and I think their EPZ status helped add value to the important raw material that we have.

Procurement is another topic, and of course everyone knows that we had the *Procurement Bill* in the House. It was referred back because there were some issues that had to be reviewed. Honourable Venaani, another point you have raised was on the layer of the Committees and the problems to improve the checks and balances. We need to address these issues so that those that implement are not the ones that draft specifications, adjudicate the tender and implement projects. We have to separate those entities in order to have the necessary checks and balances in place. The *Procurement Bill* also tries to include much higher professionalism in the procurement system where we have experts in procurement, but also technical experts that assist in adjudication and assist in scrutinising the specifications so that things like fronting cannot happen and things like tailor-making specifications for a specific service provider is avoided. Those matters are covered to a certain extent in the Bill and I am looking forward to the discussions when we table the Bill.

There is another aspect that I want to raise here and that is that at the moment our State-Owned Enterprises have their own procurement rules and large projects like power plants, harbours, are not subject to the Tender Board's adjudication, but they are subject to the procurement rules and the adjudication of those State-Owned Enterprises Boards. The new *Procurement Bill* suggests that we have one set of procurement rules that are applicable for the whole Public Sector; whether Public Enterprises, Local Authority or Regional Authority, rules are applicable to all and I think with that we will solve the problem to a certain extent.

I agree with you, of course, that an open and transparent bidding process has the best chance to get the best deals for the State. If we have a system where deals are clinched in dark rooms before they are published, I agree that something serious is wrong and we have to address it.

Honourable Shikongo asked about PSEMAS and why claims are not processed in good time. Well, I can have a look at that. There may be

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some claims that are not processed in good time. The information that I got is that close to 90% of all the claims are paid within the first 30 days. There are some claimants that submit wrong information or there are queries which may take longer. There are other claims where specialists in countries were involved and that also sometimes prolongs the processing, but I think I will look at it and give you the right information. Overall, yes, I think we are paying 90% of the claims within 30 days which is the commitment that we have towards service providers that we deal with.

You proposed the abolishment of the system of the scheme. Maybe in a year's time when you have benefited from the system you can come to me and we can discuss it again (*laughter*). But I think abolishing the system would be, in my mind, not a very wise thing to do. I think the system functions - maybe not perfectly but - pretty well. As I said, there are 250,000 people who are benefitting from the system and if we abolish it they will all fall into a hole. Now, just to give you a comparison; if you are a member of PSEMAS at the high option your monthly contribution, depending on your dependants, is round about N\$300.00 to N\$400.00. If you want to have the equivalent in a private medical aid fund, your monthly contribution would be anything between N\$5,000 and N\$6,000.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Per what? Per month?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: We can abolish it, but then that is your choice. I do not know whether the tariffs of the local industries are that much (*laughter*) cheaper.

HON MEMBER: I am a Sangoma, you can come to me.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think your point that the system must be an efficient one for everyone who wants to benefit, is of course taken.

Comrade Nekundi suggested a progressive tax for corporates. Many people have thought about it, but what will happen? I can give you a simple example: Progressive Tax Systems work such that you have certain thresholds, beyond which threshold another higher tax rate is applicable. Now, you can imagine you have got Calle Schlettwein (Pty) Limited and the lowest tax rate is applicable up to a profit of N\$500,000.00. When Calle Schlettwein (Pty) Limited reaches that threshold, to avoid the next higher tax rate I will create two subsidiaries, Calle CC I and Schlettwein CC II. I drop my tax rate into those two corporates and I avoid tax so progressive tax rates in corporations do not work and I think that is the simple answer to it.

Of course, what is true is that our tax-base is skew and the burden on the individual tax payer is heavier than on the corporate. That is what I had announced must be the focus of our review to balance out that skewness.

VAT Refunds: Yes, that is a problem. The delay in VAT Refunds is unfortunate and we are working very hard to work it away. The reason why we do VAT audits is because there is a lot of fraud in the refund system. What people do is, you create a Close Corporation where you transact or you do not transact, you put a VAT claim in, you get your refund but then you do not wait for the next cycle where you have to pay VAT, instead you create a new Closed Corporation. So it is CC hopping and we must make sure. If the CC submits significant claims, we must check whether the same owner does not have another CC - sometimes in the past. There are, of course, also fictitious claims where people just create tax invoices that are fraudulent and that are not existent but hand them in as if they were invoices that are legitimate. Therefore, they must be audited and I think that is the problem.

What we are now investigating is whether we can move towards a risk-

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based tax system where we have a track record of tax payers. If a tax payer has promptly and accurately paid VAT and where the claims were audited a number of times and were found to be correct, then we have trust in that business and we say; well, you do not have to be audited before you get a claim. We pay out the claim and audit you later and the rule is that you are audited once a year at least. With that, the good customers are getting a better service than the ones that had audits that generated questions. Overall, we must improve the turnaround time. Whether it is a wise idea to punish the State for late processing is debatable because what you in fact do is punish those people for whom we make money available for development - they are deprived of the money that we now have to pay in penalties. It is also a question of whether other tax payers must now dock up for penalties.

If the State pays penalties and those penalties come out of the same pot that is financing development, is that a good measure? I am of the opinion that it is not a good measure. I think the better measure is to have tax refund turnaround times improved. We talked about Tender Board, the large projects go to multinationals – if we implement what we have proposed in *“Growth at Home”* I think the system will also be changed and what will change is that when large projects are put out for bidding we will put up conditions up front. We will say, *“Here is a rail project that needs to be implemented, those who want to bid for these projects must fulfil a number of conditions”* and these conditions will speak to local sourcing, local ownership, local capacity building, linkages into the economy on Project that lead them to this approach. I think with that we will make sure that even if it goes to a large foreign entity, we will have the optimal benefit into our own economy by making sure that these linkages are created. I think we have to accept that we are living in a global village that is integrating more and more. We have to accept that we cannot perpetually live off protectionist policies; some protectionist policies need to be there, but they must always be time bound and targeted.

We are members of the World Trade Organisation, which has a very strict

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rule base when it comes to protectionist issues and I again think that we should go forward, become more competitive and make sure that we optimise the local effects into the economy if we have large projects such as Mass Housing or large infrastructure development Programmes. Instead of trying to be anti-foreign or anti-Foreign Direct Investment, let us involve them on our terms.

I am almost at the last point and it was the question on how well the Tender Board is equipped to follow up projects for which it awarded tenders. The current system is that the Tender Board scrutinises the specifications and adjudicates the bids and then it awards the tender, but the implementation of the tender is passed on to the Line Ministry. The responsibility to make sure that the project is implemented as per the contract is mainly with the Line Ministry. We think that when reviewing the Procurement Act that should be changed, and the Tender Board must have a capacity to follow up on projects and see whether contracts or tender provisions were in fact complied with. So it is a correct point that we also agree with.

Honourable Dienda - contributions to PSEMAS and why extended families cannot also be covered. Well, I think I explained that. It is a condition of service to Civil Servants or to Public Servants and a condition of service is that it is the principle member - the one that is a Public Servant and its dependants. The dependants are defined as your children and your spouse, that is by Law. For now that is the framework within which we are working and if we expand it, of course, it attracts a new cost and for now it cannot be entertained.

Understaffing of Customs: I have to check the figures whether we have 500 vacancies or not, but I think there may be a printing error or whatever, I will check that out. I am aware that there are a number of vacancies in the Inland Revenue Department but also in Customs, and we are trying to fill them. They are specialised expertise and it is not very easy to find the right people, especially in the tax office and I think that is where the main problem is.

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We talked about the vacancies at the border posts and local procurement. Honourable Venaani, I think I discussed that. Border posts are the face of the country, yes, I agree. We went through one round of renovating all the border posts and I think it is time that we do that again. We are fixing Ariamsvlei, we are building Noordoewer, and Wenela has been upgraded. Ngoma does not look too bad and even Buitepos is in reasonable shape. So yes, we are trying to improve that face of the country. I agree with you if we do well there then whoever visits our country will have a complete different attitude towards Namibia.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
And the office, your office?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think I am done.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Your office, he also mentioned your office?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: My office is okay.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No, the building of the Ministry of Finance?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, it does not look very nice at the moment but I can give you a reason why: We have built a new block next

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to it. The next phase of that project is to renovate the building where we are in now, so you will see a more appropriate entrance soon. The vendors have been moved to the other side of the street, but I think I am in total agreement with you that that entrance does not look appropriate for the Ministry of Finance. I think I am done. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any objection to Vote 09? Agreed to.

Vote 23 – “**DEPARTMENT OF WORKS**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise, Honourable Uutoni Erastus.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution to this Vote is on Page 5 under Programme o4. Honourable Minister, under this Programme you are talking about the provision of office accommodation and the budgetary provision of staff housing. My question is; why did you not consider the budgetary provision for Parliamentarians’ accommodation?

Comrade Minister, the most disturbing thing for a new Member of Parliament, coming to the city to join Parliament, is a place to stay. As a new Member elected from a Region you want to be assured that you have a place to stay. However, when you get here one gets stressed with the current situation. There is no place to stay. You are forced to (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Squat in a garage.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: You are forced to go and squat (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Sorry, Honourable Member, I am being instructed here. What are we saying now? Maybe there is a serious thing I have to pay attention to?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Chairperson, I am sorry to interrupt my Comrade Minister here, but I thought that should be under the Vote of the National Assembly and the National Council for accommodation of the Members of Parliament.

HON MEMBER: I thought so too.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It also falls within the Vote of Works. Please, clarify maybe I am wrong.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: It also falls under this Programme and the Ministry of Works is the Ministry responsible for Government housing. (*Interjection*) Yes, he is talking about staff accommodation here.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think it is fine, I will explain. Yes, proceed.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Let me just proceed. Yes, what I was saying is that when a Member is elected to Parliament, coming to Windhoek he or she wants to be assured that they have got a place where they can stay comfortably. However, when you come here, there is nothing and you end up being stressed.

What I am trying to say is that the Honourable Minister of Works should make a budgetary provision for flat accommodation for Members of Parliament. Sometimes it happens that when the landlords hear that new Members of Parliament are coming to Windhoek they push the prices up and you are now charged N\$15,000.00 (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: No, it is more.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: It is more than that, right?

HON MEMBER: Yes, it is more.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, they are saying it is more than that.

It is a pity. Some of them happen to be appointed by the President. You are allocated a vehicle and the owner of the place where you are accommodated already has a car, therefore, he/she is using the garage. Your two cars, a sedan and off-load, are parked in the sun (*interjection*) It is not secret (*interjections*), no two, the sedan and the off-load, it is not a

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secret (*interjections*)

Honourable Minister, you should not expect a new Member of Parliament to buy a house within five years, frankly speaking, no! Monthly instalments for a house of N\$3,000,000.00 in Windhoek will be something like plus/minus N\$30,000.00? How much do you get? People are saying that we are getting lots of money – it is not true.

HON VENAANI: How much are you getting?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: If you are being charged N\$30,000 for a monthly instalment, it is a lot of money. I remember, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, during 1990/1991 our Colleagues who joined Parliament were assisted. They were given accommodation, at least they did not have many problems as we have today. (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes?

HON DIENDA: You are complaining about N\$30,000.00 rent that you have to pay; I assume it is in Academia. Did you try to find accommodation in Katutura, for N\$2,000.00 (*interjections*)

HON MEMBER: Where?

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HON DIENDA: Goreangab Dam, Evelyn Street? (*Laughter*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The rentals are the same.

HON DIENDA: That is where the people are.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, thank you. It is a good question. My Dear Honourable Members, in my own case, I have been searching for houses all over Windhoek, even Otjomuise and Goreangab Dam. The prices today have gone up. If they hear that you are a Member of Parliament, I am telling you, the prices are pushed up deliberately – do not play. Previously, the Honourable Members who joined Parliament, about 99% were given houses, if not all of them. They were allocated houses or Government houses. In your Programme here you are selling 87 houses (*intervention*)

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

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: On a Point of Correction, Honourable Speaker. Up to now,

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no Members of Parliament were given houses from day one. Members of Parliament never got houses.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Ministers were allocated houses.

HON MEMBER: We cannot hear.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Ministers were given houses because during at that time, there were many empty Government Houses; but not Members of Parliament, only Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I will explain the reason why the Honourable Member has been given the go ahead to talk on this point. I will explain. Yes, proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, maybe the houses were given to Ministers and Deputy Ministers, but what we are saying now is that, as Members of Parliament, we are Leaders of this Government.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is a cross cutting issue.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, that is very important.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, just proceed, I will explain to the Honourable Senior Members.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: That is very, very important, maybe we should seriously look into that. We are talking about flats – when you come from the Regions, you would be allocated a flat and you pay for it. Nowadays it has become very competitive for people coming to Parliament and it is likely that you will only spend five years here then you go back and somebody else who replaces you will go into the flat.

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

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Member, I rise on a Point of Information. Since I joined this Parliament more than ten years ago we have been discussing this issue of Parliamentarian's houses or the Parliament Village. We did this ten years ago when I joined (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
It is policy of Government as a whole, just proceed.

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HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I think sometimes we waste most of our time on topics we have discussed now and then. What is needed is commitment to do this. For example, I lived in Angola as an Ambassador and Parliamentarians there have what they call Parliamentary Houses. This is a Government house; it is not yours and whether you are married or not, you may live there with your family. However, in our case we do not commit ourselves to what we are saying. People are suffering in earnest.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you round up?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much for your support. We are *(intervention)*

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you round up so that *(intervention)*

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: We are always talking about this, but we are not committing ourselves. Let us start, let us remind ourselves and commit ourselves. With this, I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I have to explain this issue before I give the Floor to another person. The reason I allowed him to proceed is that, although I know 70% falls within the ambit of the Vote of Parliament, up to now both the National

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Assembly and National Council are dependent on the Ministry of Works and Transport for flats and flats are being sold. (*Interjections*) It is true. I am talking about (*interjections*) No, no just listen. The Speaker will motivate the Vote tomorrow and you remember, those Members who were here last year, I was one of those people who defended the new Parliament and in the new plan we also envisage to have a Parliamentary Village, just as Major General said. I thank those Members of Parliament who supported me when I was attacked. They even made a cartoon of myself. Some people did not support me. I wonder whether all of us (*interjections*) No, I am just talking and I take note of your concern. Please repeat it when the Speaker is motivating the Vote of the National Assembly, it will feature there. Yes, Honourable Minister of Justice, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Deputy Speaker, do you recall – I think it was last year – when I contributed to the Debate here? I was the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General then and I said; *particularly our Colleagues who are not in the Executive keep us here up to after midnight because they come from Okuryangava where they are squatting*, do you recall that? It was under the Vote of the National Assembly. In other countries – I was one of those who were in support, and in fact it was unanimous in this House, if I can recall, but the only problem is that we are discussing this issue under a wrong Vote.

What we call Parliamentary Village is in a number of countries - like Zambia, they have Parliament Villages, but within the Budget of the National Assembly and the National Council. I think us, from the Executive, are very sympathetic and supportive of this. What needs to be done here is for the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Chairperson to request the money so that that village is constructed. These are our Leaders and they cannot suffer like that.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes, we will revisit the question tomorrow when the Speaker is here. I recognise Honourable Nghipondoka.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Order!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: The opportunity offered to me to make my voice heard for the first time in this august House, is highly appreciated. I humbly request that you allow me to weave into this Budget contribution Vote 23, some crucial aspects of my Maiden Speech. I will be indebted if I made this first contribution without sincerely thanking the former President, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba in concurrence with the current President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, for including me among the ten nominees to the Party List and to the Parliament.

I am specifically grateful and humbled that His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob appointed me as Deputy Minister in the field of Education where I spent my whole professional life and that is where my passion lies. I acknowledge that this trust vested in me comes with the expectations for responsibility and accountability towards effective and efficient service delivery, and I pledge to live up to that expectation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, my contribution to this Budget is done in full understanding of the context under which this Parliament serves, marked by high

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expectations for this House, to make decisions aiming at adding value and to consolidate - as per the Manifesto of the Ruling Party SWAPO of 2015 - what our forefathers and mothers worked so hard to establish and sustain. The fact that this Parliament and the MTEF under consideration marks the entry of a new era where internationally ratified commitments are reaching a point of being reviewed, and a new target set, for example, the Millennium Development Goals and the Education For All goals, with the resultant Post-2015 Development Agenda and the fact that, nationally, we are at the mid-point of implementing our Vision 2030, implies that we are expected to, through all planning tools like this MTEF, create impetus for achieving the remaining targets.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, my contribution on Vote 23 will concentrate on Programme 03 which is Maintenance and Programme 05 on Pages 4 and 6 of the Motivation Document, respectively. Maintenance of Government Property: Although it is a cross-Ministerial function where every Ministry needs to take care of the maintenance of their buildings under their use, it is an aspect that is expected to be spearheaded by the Ministry of Works and Transport under the Department of Works, being the custodian of all Government immovable properties.

The dilapidating state of many Government buildings is unsettling, ladies and gentlemen. Many a times the working and living environment is not conducive to the effective and efficient delivery of Government Services. Refreshing our minds on what maintenance is all about will bring to life the fact that neglecting this function is very expensive to this Government. Within the context of the Maintenance Management Framework, maintenance involves the following to list but some:

- 1) Assessing buildings for maintenance requirements;
- 2) Reinstating physical conditions to a specific standard;
- 3) Preventing further deterioration or failure;
- 4) Replacing components at the end of their useful or economic life; and
- 5) Making temporary repairs for immediate health safety and security reasons.

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The Budget Allocation to Offices, Ministries and Agencies for maintenance is usually a very small amount. As a result we are observing a serious backlog on the continuous rehabilitation of Government buildings with a result of abandonment of still usable facilities or continuous desperate use of buildings that pose safety dangers to the occupants.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I recommend that under the leadership of the Department of Works the Maintenance Management Framework which compels every Office, Ministry and Agency to come up with a Maintenance Policy needs to be implemented with urgency. I believe that the maintenance framework will only be effectively and efficiently implemented when a well listed Fixed Asset Register is finalised. This will enhance an evidence based budget planning which mitigates under or over budgeting for this very important function. The Ministry of Works is applauded for initiating the Maintenance Management Framework which compels every Ministry to have a consistent approach to the management, planning and delivery of buildings maintenance by having a Maintenance Policy.

My reaction on the allocation to this Programme Number 03 is that it needs to be increased in the future. The likelihood is that the allocation of N\$347,513,000 will flow more into new construction as listed as new projects leaving less money for maintenance.

On Programme Number 05, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, my main concern is the unavailability of skills in the areas of building and construction coordination and supervision. Appointing expatriates without successful understudy is counterproductive. The MTEF document of this current period on its Page 413 indicates non-competitive remuneration packages in the Public Service to be pushing our graduates in this profession to the Private Sector.

I have a strong conviction, though not based on empirical evidence, that it might be cheaper for us to rather give reasonable remuneration packages

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to the aspiring national professionals in this field of study and thus sustain the skills internally rather than investing expensively but unsustainably. This should be coupled with prioritising the funding of studies in this field through the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund until such time it is felt that the field is properly saturated with relevant skills and the continuation of the temporary arrangements of successful understudy programmes to sustainably develop internal capacity. With those few inputs, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I support the Vote and thank you very much for listening to me.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Before I give the Floor to the next Member I would like to announce that Honourable Minister of Basic Education, Comrade Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, has lost her cell phone. I announce this because people are leaving one by one. She has lost her cell phone, a smart one – a Samsung Fog. If anyone has picked it up, please give it to her. I have to say that the Police Officers here in this premises are very honest and they pick up things. Honourable Himarwa, if you fail to get it back you can open a case of theft here, we will arrange that. Next is Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, I rise to make a single comment on Vote 23 - **Department of Works**; Programme 04, ***Provision of Office Accommodation Requirement***: Honourable Minister, mine is on unassigned Government houses. First of all, thank you very much for the positive progress and achievement made so far with regard to the alienation of unassigned Government houses countrywide, since the scheme was introduced in 1998. Unfortunately, some of these houses are still awaiting prompt and utmost reaction from the Ministry as some of these houses in towns such as Okakarara, Otjinene, Opuwo and elsewhere, are basically falling apart. I, therefore, would like to request the Honourable Minister to speedily continue with the scheme during the term

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under review, not only for the purposes of generating revenue, but also to combat further dilapidation of these valuable properties. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The next Member is Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, not the *half house* but the *whole house*.

(*Interjections*) Yes, it has been a long while.

HON MEMBER: Are you lost?

HON VENAANI: I am not lost. Maintenance of Government Property: Let me start with Page 4 by saying that Government does not know what it owns and I will substantiate it. There are Government properties that are lying around this country – for 25 years, besides the dilapidation, the Government does not know its own properties. Let me tell you, Honourable Mutorwa, just for the sake of interest and to prove my point; just opposite the old State House there are Government barracks that are used by the Police at the time and there are four hammer-mills, since 1995 that are just being rained on there. They have not even gone to auction, they are just lying there.

Let me come to Government properties; there is a system run by our own people living in Government houses everywhere to dilapidate these houses deliberately so that they can score on the price. It is done deliberately. There were two or three houses close to the State House that were totally,

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absolutely and deliberately run down for a certain purpose. You can also look at these flats in Auspanplatz (*interjections*) – they are not for sale?

Even if they were not for sale take a look at what they look like. How are they maintained?

You were in exile those years, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo would know, he was in the country. (*Interjections*) Yes, you were in exile, you were not here, you would not know what we know and what happened in Namibia. The old compound (*intervention*)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE AND SPORT: But you were also young (*laughter*)

HON VENAANI: *Ayee Mukuru we Yuru!* I am a Windhoek, I will tell you tales of Windhoek that you do not know. Yes, I was born and raised here.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE AND SPORT: Are you a born-free?

HON VENAANI: No, I am not a born-free. I am too old to be a born-free, be that as it may, I am a born-free.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE AND SPORT: Almost born-free.

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HON VENAANI: No, not even almost.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Stick to the Vote, please.

HON VENAANI: If you look at these flats they tell a story. They are Government flats, you do not even know them, those brown flats there. Every building that is dilapidated in any part of the country is Government property. Every dilapidated property in Namibia is Government property and I would really want us to address the question of, first and foremost, to audit what we have so that we would know what we have. What is the asset base of Government? What does Government own? I remember after Independence there was an incident in Omaruru where the colleagues that were running Omaruru as Mayor changed the streets just to try to alienate Government property - I think probably two/three streets were alienated. The names of the streets were changed, the *ervens* were changed but that was pure theft. I do not want to say that but it was just pure theft that happened there. One thing that is worrisome is that we own what we do not know and everything that we own is falling apart.

N\$354,000,000.00 going this way could be a good investment, but what are we doing to maintain what we have? Perhaps the Honourable Minister can answer this question; how much is needed, in total, for us to upkeep what we have? Maybe you have asked for a billion dollars to upkeep what we have and you received N\$354,000,000.00 for it. What is the correct amount that we need for the upkeep of Government property?

Secondly, I want to address the issue of office accommodation. Some Ministries are renting office accommodation and there is speculative business going around with Government. Everywhere where Government is renting, the cost is three-fold because one or two Directors has an interest - hence prices are fixed. If you take a normal company which

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wants to lease the First Floor in Frans Indongo Gardens, they would be charged N\$110,000.00 a month. If a certain Ministry wants to go to the same floor, they would be charged N\$300,000.00. We must, therefore, have a much more robust audit where we are renting. Every time when a person says it is the Government buying, even farmers, the price must go up. We must buy what is on the market, we cannot allow the process where prices are inflated just because it is Government. I want to know from the Minister; those Ministries that are renting offices, are you doing proper audit to make sure that what Ministries are renting are within market-related prices?

I want to address myself to the question of the Green Economy. We are building and constructing very beautiful buildings in this country. If you look at the sky sight of Windhoek you would see the proliferation of new buildings and one of the best buildings that I have seen that Government has received is the Ministry of Land Reform. You have one of the best (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Ministry of?

HON VENAANI: The new Headquarters of the Ministry of Land Reform – beautiful, but these buildings have no element of the green economy because modern buildings must include plantations in it; solar energy, you know, that green economic aspect is not addressed in our new buildings - like the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the old Nictus *Gebou*, it is very beautiful, but when you walk through the whole building it is just concrete everywhere. The way people are building should also conform to the new international standards of building to entail that green economic aspect in our buildings.

I think Honourable Cousin, Nangolo Mbumba might know this,

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(*interjections*) yes, he is a cousin. How do you know how we are related?

HON MEMBER: How are you related?

HON VENAANI: Why are you questioning our relationship? What is wrong with it? How can these people tell us whether we are related or not? (*Interjections*) No, we are, but a person of his age and experience will know it. Honourable Kaura said this to me many years back while we were en route to Kenya via Tanzania (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Is he around?

HON VENAANI: Oh yes, he is around. He is a retired Member of Parliament just like all the rest of the *Tanganyikas* out here. He said something through experience and it always carried me everywhere we went; we passed Tanzania and then we went to Kenya and he said to me when we arrived at Dar es Salaam, "*When we arrived here from Namibia, my son, this place was like a model; the flowers on the streets, everything, the lawns, Dar es Salaam was a different city. Now that I am coming back here after many years, the same in Nairobi...*" And he was narrating this whole story. It comes back to us and in this country, we need to do introspection about ourselves. A few years back, in the late 90s, I happened to be in an aircraft that had an emergency landing in Mangaung, Bloemfontein. The Aeroflot, aeroplane had an engine problem from Congo Brazzaville and we landed in Bloemfontein, we could not land in (*intervention*)

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HON MEMBER: Aeroflot?

HON VENAANI: Aeroflot, yes. I came from Togo. We landed in Mangaung in 1997/1998. A few weeks ago I went back to visit my people (*interjection*) do not worry, this General is very naughty (laughter). I want to bring home, what Honourable Kaura told me then and I visited Bloemfontein, and it was like Grootfontein; trees and lawns everywhere and now the place is just full of *Jacarandas*. Bloemfontein was a place when, we arrived and now (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: That is what I want to say.

HON VENAANI: I want to come back home - Mutorwa would know, Tweya would know – the Windhoekers, the people who have been here for a long time. The lawn at the Katutura Central Hospital in 1981/1982 was beautiful and if you go to Katutura Central Hospital now there is no lawn anymore. I am seeing the Programme here, what do you call the Programme?

HON MEMBER: Horticulture.

HON VENAANI: Horticulture – it does not end with Katutura State Hospital. It goes to us farm owners. At my farm you would know that it is a new man who has bought this farm.

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HON MEMBER: He is an African.

HON VENAANI: It is an African farm. We should fix this problem. Two nights ago I went to Katutura Central Hospital to visit a friend – I am talking about the lawn and I am talking about the plantation. Just a day ago the President was here and the Ministry of Works was around Parliament trying to take out weed. Why should we wait for the President to come in order for us take out the weed at Parliament? The culture is so bad! Even in African countries, when the President is going to visit Kumasi then you would find soldiers cleaning; why do you not ask the soldiers before the President comes to clean every week? Why is it that only when one person is coming to visit is when we start cleaning?

The point that I want to make and to drive home is that we have these Departments, but Windhoek has also changed in a negative way; progressively, economically and otherwise! The nitty-gritty thing and the one thing that we have maintained consistently is the Parliament Garden. I think the Speaker should credit himself, I do not know who is fixing it, but the garden here is looking perfectly well. The Windhoek that I saw then and now is the same. It is because it is the highest office in the land where the President comes, but where the President does not visit every time, the lawns, and everybody is just messing up. So I really want the Ministry to improve that. Take the lawn back to Katutura Central Hospital, let us make sure that we maintain what we have because this is the country that we have. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo, you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:
Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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HON /UI/O/OO

Why are people laughing? When it comes to /Ui/o/oo people are so happy. What is the problem? (*Laughter*)

HON MEMBER: We love you.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:**

Yes, I rise to register my support to Vote 23 of my Senior Brother, Honourable Minister of Works. Today, I have a problem and this problem is not mine, but for the communities of which some I am representing here, not Tsumkwe this time around. This time around I am in the Kunene Region and my problem is about the maintenance of the roads. It is where I have got (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: This is another road there.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:**

No, I was reading here (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Maybe under Transport.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:**

Is it Transport?

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HON MEMBER: Next week is Transport.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:

Thank you, my Younger Brother here for that correction. I am very hot this time around. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Next is Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Minister. I just have a comment and also maybe a question to the Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister, in Programme 05 we are talking about *Monitoring, Coordinating and Supervision of Construction Projects by Government*. We would really like to see better supervision before we sign off Projects of Government. For example, the Omuthiya Clinic was upgraded to a Health Centre and we know that for some time that place was closed because of construction work that was not up to standard. We also know about some schools in Kavango West with the same problem as well as other facilities. Therefore, we would really like to see that our officials, when signing off these Projects, make sure that things are up to standard.

Honourable Minister, does this supervision and coordination also include Projects spearheaded by communities, because I know about ten years ago a place, I cannot recall the name now, but it is north/east from Okangolo, the community actually generated some money to build a clinic and a donor also came and supported the Project. When we visited the clinic afterwards we found a block of well-equipped toilets and a small

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consulting room smaller than the toilets with a little pharmacy and we were informed that the document or the (*intervention*)

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

HON MEMBER: I would like to establish from the Honourable Member as to when the Omuthiya Clinic was closed?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you come again? Put your question again.

HON MEMBER: When was the Omuthiya Clinic closed?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, the question is from the other Honourable Member asking when Omuthiya - is it a clinic or a hospital?

HON VAN WYK: It is a Health Centre now.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
When was it closed?

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HON VAN WYK: It was some time last year, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Sometime last year. On the point of the clinic; during the time we were there, there were about twenty people sitting outside this small clinic that was built by donors' money. We would really like to see that the Ministry of Works also monitors and signs off projects spearheaded by communities. With these, few words I would like to support the Vote. I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to register my support for this very important Vote, Vote 23. I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for this initiative of making horticulture services available. Obviously, time and again the entrances of our buildings – even when you are in Japan, you can see how this is really an issue and if it starts at the entrance of our buildings, it can also be extended to the border posts and at the entrance of our towns as a welcoming gesture. Even if you are to put some small gardens for self-sustenance at your own houses, it will be a game changer in our mind-sets towards these kinds of things. It will also encourage people to get trained not just to take a machete and start chopping grass left and right without any kind of aesthetic - you know this kind of thing (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Aesthetic?

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HON NAMBAHU

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Yes, exactly. That is one. However, the point that I really wanted to make is on Page 12; *The Condition of Flats or Complexes*. I think when houses or flats are being allocated, they must also be allocated with conditions. The waiting list is long and those that are in the houses, if they are not there for the upkeep, they must be taken out and the houses should be given to those that are able to care for Government properties because it is an expression of patriotism. What you would not want to happen to your house you, should not do to Government property? As a result, I would want to see something happening to those that are neglecting the upkeep of Government houses.

Comrade Minister, I have full confidence that you will be able to also look into the Activities of the Housing Committee in your Ministry. The Activities of these Colleagues or Civil Servants leave much to be desired. There are those on the waiting list that get houses allocated to them and would abuse you to go and look, identify and allocate empty flats just for you to come and report it, then tomorrow you will find that it has been allocated to another person. If there is any, and I want to be on record, because when I joined the Public Service I was subjected to the same treatment – this is the treatment I see my drivers and everybody that is looking for housing in Government flats being subjected to up to this date. There are those who do not qualify to be in those flats; you are sent to identify this and you can even write a recommendation, but it falls on deaf ears. No one takes what you are recommending into cognisance.

If there was a Government Suggestion Box, I tell you, this box would be full of complaints. I know, I expect this Parliament, yes, this time people are new but next year when people are more comfortable, I expect the voices to be heard in this respect, because literally there are people who are occupying two or three flats and then renting out the other. If we cannot root this out you can complain to whoever, it does not get anywhere. One of the things maybe also goes to the status of the recommendation, the legal status, the legal standing of the recommendation that emanates from this House to some people they are non-recommendations and inconsequential, you can talk, *‘what is it, they*

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just talk? You can talk for the ten or twenty years that you will be here, your recommendations have no legal standing on some of these members. That is something that we need to research on. We have said it time and again, but it is time that we have really gone into this; interrogate it seriously so that whatever is said here is taken seriously and becomes actionable and it becomes programmable and a certain allocation is made to it or somebody as an Accounting Officer for the relevant Sector that is being recommended to be obliged to respond and give feedback as to what has come or what he has done on the recommendation that herein emanated. With those many remarks, I thank you and I congratulate you on this of vision.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my first question is on the Maintenance of Government Properties: Honourable Minister, I think the Government has decided to put the maintenance under one Ministry with good intentions, but it is not working. I would suggest that we go back to decentralisation - let us put it back under the different Line Ministers and I will explain why I am saying this:

Honourable Minister, if you go to Katutura Central Hospital just for them to change a bulb because it is dark in the room, they have to complete a form and that form will take up to two months to get to your Ministry, while the people in the hospital are sleeping in the dark until somebody from the Ministry of Works arrives to replace a bulb after three years and then (*intervention*)

Yes, Honourable Minister, I am the Chairperson of the Gammams Primary School. This school was declared a health risk by the Minister of Health

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because our toilet facilities have been out of order and broken for three years. We wrote letters which I signed, until today our kids cannot use those toilets. We are prepared, as parents, and are doing maintenance at those schools. That school is older than 50 years. I came through that school, my children came through that school and now my grandchildren. There is no maintenance done at that school and it is not only Gammams, even the toilets at Augustinium look terrible - you cannot think that children are being taught at those schools. Therefore, I am asking you to decentralise maintenance – just that part and give it back to the different Ministries, maybe they will act faster. However, the current situation might be impossible for our children to be taught in.

My next question Honourable Minister, is that I want to support what Honourable Nambahu was saying about fixed asset management; the sub-letting of Government properties, Honourable Minister. It can also be a matter of people leaving their houses of which they are getting a subsidy from Government and then they stay in Government flats. This is the reason why Members of Parliament are complaining about not being able to find accommodation. They are staying in the flats of the Government while they are renting out their houses. It is a loss of income for the State because those people are getting money from renting out these properties while the Government is losing because we also have to do maintenance on these buildings.

Honourable Minister, I want to ask you how far your investigations regarding the sub-letting is because when I was a member of Public Accounts Committee we brought this to the attention of the Minister and we asked them asking to follow up that issue. Honourable Minister, I support your Vote. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Next is Honourable Nauyoma.

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HON NAUYOMA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. It gives me an impression that nobody is in charge when we talk about Government properties. That is the impression that we are getting. We give our Executive the power, the accessories and the cars to move around this country to see what is happening on the ground I suppose, but to my surprise nothing is happening. When we talk about Government property in this country, I think this is the culture that has come from that time of the *Boers* and it has not changed because during that time when people talked about Government nobody cared much about Government property – it must be destroyed. I think that culture has continued to this day. Nobody takes Government property seriously. It looks like when we talk about Government in this country it is somebody somewhere who does not care about these things; nobody cares! When we reprimand somebody doing something to the Government he says, “*It is Government property*” it is what they will tell you. It is like nobody is taking charge of the situation. I think it is about time that we really get serious on these things.

We have people that are employed in offices and are paid monthly to do this kind of work that we are talking about here. I do not know why we should pay them if they are not doing the job that they are employed to do. Other people, Members of Parliament should complain about these things, but there are officials on the payroll of this Nation just to do maintenance, for instance, and nobody is following up on them to see that these things are done. We come here, at this level, and complain about technical stuff – toilets – at this level which could have been handled at the Ministry level. What are the Ministers doing?

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, what are the Permanent Secretaries doing? You feel sorry when you move around this country and see how the infrastructure is falling apart while our people move around the world – you go out on trips and I do not know what you learn from other people and how they are doing it. You come back and nothing improves, I thought you go and (*intervention*)

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

HON MEMBER: Yes, can I ask a question to Honourable?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Are you prepared to be asked a question?

HON NAUYOMA: Yes.

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

HON MMINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Honourable Member, for the past 25 years, can you tell me or this Honourable House, besides things that has fallen apart, is there anything good that the SWAPO Government did?

HON NAUYOMA: Repeat.

HON MEMBER: Since you compared the Namibia of 25 years ago to

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Namibia now, is there anything visible or what positive contribution did the Government make? Be honest.

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

HON NAUYOMA: No, I did not say Government is not doing anything. We cannot build and destroy at the same time. For the last 25 years we have been trying to build and we cannot afford to let things fall apart when we are building new things while others are falling apart. What are we doing? (*Interjection*) This thing (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you interpret?

HON VENAANI: Is it Parliamentary for a Member to swear in a House or can he translate?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Did he swear? Translate.

HON NAUYOMA: No, it is not swearing, Honourable Member. It is just an idiom in our language; it is like *you are building while at the same time you are destroying*. You do not go anywhere; you fly up, you land at

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the same place - you are not doing anything. That is the problem. We want the country to go forward and be of use to every Namibian, but we cannot afford; today you are building, you are destroying, we are building this and you allow the old infrastructure to be destroyed by people who have no heart to protect and see this country move forward. That is what we are saying. I think it is about time that those who are in charge - honestly we cannot just continue approving Votes and the money that is being requested to go and do things whilst nobody takes care of what is already there. That is very crucial.

Another thing is the challenges on the professionals on the same Vote. If we are not paying these people, the understudies, as we are complaining to the Vote that people are not really willing to apply and to be part of these Programmes that Government is trying to do. Nowadays, you cannot pay people peanuts and they continue to be there; if they see that the market is greener somewhere else - we must move with time. My worry now is at this level; if at the level of the Parliament we are still complaining of no benefits accorded to Members of Parliament, for instance, what about people down the ladder, what do we expect from them? They have a choice (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

What are you trying to say in relation to the Vote?

HON NAUYOMA: I am trying to say if people want to retain the challenges that we are talking about (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Page 13.

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HON NAUYOMA: Page 13, Skills Deficit.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Skills Deficit, yes.

HON MEMBER: They were groomed and they retained the skills.

HON NAUYOMA: They retained these skills because people go to the Private Sector where they are properly paid. We must make a commitment if we are really serious with what we want. We know these skills that we are talking about are expensive expertise, we have to go an extra mile and out of our way to find out exactly what people are paid in other places. We must find a way to pay our people so that we retain them until such a day we have created a big pool. That is when we can relax and say, no if you do not do it then – it is a demand and supply scenario and nobody can run away from this reality, we must just be really careful about this.

This thing of dilapidated property, Comrade Minister who is responsible, we are very serious about this; a building that burnt in Ondangwa maybe more than fifteen years ago is still standing there among the people. A burnt complex stands there for more than ten years and we are not even shameful when people drive around that *thing* and see it among the people - and we say we are serious. This is really serious! We have to act now. Last year I saw them removing rubbish that has been there - you look at this thing and you say, “*What is our Government doing?*” We cannot not afford this. People must be held responsible. If people are not ready, as our President has said, let those who are not ready to take responsibility resign. It is a simple honest request from the Head of State that if you are not ready to do this thing, step aside and other people can go on. If

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SWAPO, the Ruling Party is not ready step aside we are ready to take over (*laughter*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you round up?

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The next is Honourable Shikongo.

HON MEMBER: APP should take over (*laughter*)

HON SHIKONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only want to bring one issue under the attention of the Honourable Minister. There are two schools in the Erongo Region – one of them is in Okombahe, known as Dibasen. In 1987 the school burnt down and only one hostel block has been renovated since then. Therefore, I would like to request the Honourable Minister to visit the school and to help the community there.

The other school is also Petrus Ganeb of which the classrooms and the hostels are in a bad shape (*intervention*)

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Maybe she is intervening on the renovation of buildings.

HON SHIKONGO: Yes, Page (*interjections*) Yes, it is renovation.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we listen to the Honourable Member? Yes, you have the Floor.

HON SHIKONGO: Yes, I am right because it is under the Ministry of Works.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, it is fine. Can you proceed to the next point?

HON SHIKONGO: No, that is all I wanted to say. I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister of Safety and Security.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stood up because, I think, Honourable Venaani was saying something which

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translates into; *when Africans take over, we do not improve we just break down, deliberately.* The mind-set in us, as Africans, is such that when you look at the setup we are trying to build, it is a replica of Katutura, which was built by the former colonial system. You can see this in towns like Walvis Bay, Kuisebmond, and other places. During the constructing of the Mass Housing Project houses, I called these people and told them that I wanted us to change and build houses in an integrated manner. We should build urban houses so that we can change this *Katutura* to *Matutura*.

I had a problem with the City of Windhoek because they came to me and said, “*No, we want to build the same houses at Otjomuise.*” The reason why Otjomuise did not take off was because we wanted to build houses that are exactly similar to the old NHE Houses. Also, looking at the offices where I am operating from now, when I sit in my office everybody who sits within a stretch of 50 metres can hear me talking in my office because our offices are not sound proof. They are just like *kambashus* – you can compare it to that.

I wonder if there are experts within the Ministry of Works to supervise, design and build offices for Government which can last longer. *(Interjections)* No, it is not Chinese. Have you been to China? No, please, Chinese have very good quality, you just have an attitude against the Chinese. *(Interjections)*

Comrade Minister, I think we need to look at our architects and the engineers ourselves because every building you look at you would say; *yes, this is for the Namolohs only.* I think we must change that.

During the construction of Mass Housing we were telling everybody who was building these houses to also plant trees for every house they were building. We just want to live in a desert everywhere, I think we need to change that.

Safety in the Offices: As we are now building tall buildings, I wonder what will happen to people in these offices if something happens one day

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because there are no measures for safety. When I started at the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing and Rural Development, I once looked at the fire extinguishers that have become dust bins. People were putting all their trash in the fire extinguishers, so we had to remove them. These are safety equipment; we need to train people how to use them. They are not maintained while they have a date when they should be maintained, but nobody does that. If these offices catch fire at the ground level we will experience disasters. Comrade Minister, we need to look at the security of our people in these offices.

The quality, as I said earlier on, is also a problem. I think we need to look at the quality of the things we build so that we live in them for many years to come.

When we travel - somebody said when you travel you do not get the experience. Even the thickness of an office is as if I built an *okambashu* at home; it is the same thickness as the big buildings. The thickness of the wall of a big building must be so big so that in cases of crises people may still be protected - but a bullet from a pistol will easily pierce through walls.

HON MEMBER: No pistol shooting in there.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: No, who knows maybe it will come. Who knows whether it will come or not. I think we put too many people in these Committees who do not know anything about construction. We need to have experts. We only put our Civil Servants who say; *okay, now we are building this and that*. They sit on the Committee and so forth and we only get rubbish – nothing.

Therefore, Comrade Minister, I want you to look at the security and safety in these buildings, the maintenance of fire extinguishers in the buildings

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where we work and the quality of the walls of our offices. The maintenance of lifts is also pathetic. They are on and off every day. I think you sent us to these Ministries to exercise, they are always off. I think they are too old for maintenance. With these few words, Comrade Minister, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Venaani, you have the Floor again, briefly.

HON MEMBER: Speak as long as you want, it is allowed, you are an old Member of this House.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Members, a person, during the Committee Stage, can intervene very shortly. You can talk.

HON VENAANI: Very short?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes, very short.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Sankwasa and Honourable Minister, I want to (*intervention*)

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The time is now (*intervention*)

HON VENAANI: No, the time does not matter, that is what we are paid for. Do not worry about time.

HON MEMBER: But time is very important for some.

HON VENAANI: The Parliament starts half day. Honourable Speaker, can the Honourable Member stop disturbing me?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to address myself on one point that the Ministers – how many are you now? Three Ministers and Deputy Ministers. There is what is called *insider trading* in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication – *insider trading*. They are using information from inside to trade against the same Ministry. I am speaking from experience; I am very lucky that I do not need to declare a conflict of interest - I used to have shares in an engineering company that used to do procurement with some services, but because of public life, I decided to stop all procurement with Government. I am out of those businesses.

However, what I am trying to say is this; on Capital Projects - paper work,

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Quantity Surveyors, Architects and Engineers, you would find that it is the same companies that would get the jobs with a capping of N\$100 million. They are the same companies in that league. There is a lease system in the Ministry of Works; you allot companies – suppose there are 40 engineering companies in Namibia and you have 40 Projects then you allot those projects to all those companies that are doing engineering – or architects or quantity surveyors, but the big jobs go to the friends of those that are inside the company. You would see that your company is only getting a Project that would give you N\$40,000.00 - just to keep you quiet, you got the job. However, the N\$200 million Projects will go to the league companies even if your company has more capacity than other companies. It has been consistent in the Ministry. Ministers revisit the lease system and check companies that got work for the last five years, consistently. I do not want to mention them but they are the same companies that are getting all these projects and they have representatives inside the Ministry. (*Interjections*) Of course, I know what I am talking about.

The other issue is that we have brought expatriates from Zimbabwe, which is a good thing to come and help the Ministry, but one thing that we are not doing and I think some Members have addressed it at length, is the question of our own capacity. Previously disadvantaged Namibians can start an engineering company, for example, or a quantity surveying company, but the kind of jobs that they are getting would not make them even just to be able to survive. They are forced to go out and work for other people instead of having their own companies. It is a matter that needs to be relooked. If there is a crisis point, your Ministry is to go and look at the allotment of deals because people are benefiting directly and indirectly from *insider trading* in that Ministry.

The very last point is the Building of Government Houses: Sometimes we think that Government is wasting money on a lot of Projects but sometimes we do not look at how other countries that we compare ourselves with are doing things. For example, you can argue that - *no, ours is too big a Parliament* while Germany has 400 Members of Parliament. They have more than 100 Members of Parliament with a

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Prime Minister at the level of our Prime Minister in every State. If you go around the world and see political systems and how they are working, you would find that our system is very light because South Africa, for example, its Province called Gauteng has a Legislature of this size, of less than this size, where you have Members of Parliament and MECs - what do you call it, MEC?

HON MEMBER: Yes, MEC.

HON VENAANI: MECs. You have a Governor that receives a salary close to the Prime Minister of our Republic and all those things. What am I trying to say? We should also not stock with colonial houses - now we are grabbing them all, to buy them and so forth. Government must continue building houses.

HON MEMBER: The new Parliament?

HON VENAANI: Yes, the new Parliament I have no problem with. Do you know what is the problem with the new Parliament? Look, I did not want to address this issue; we are building a Parliament around here - do you know the excavation, because you must be in the Industry to understand this? The excavation cost behind here will cost us N\$100 million just to level the ground for us to build the building.

HON MEMBER: What is wrong with it?

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HON VENAANI: What is wrong with it? We are wasting money. *(Interjections)* Yes, that is wasting - if you are spending N\$100 million on excavation costs, you are wasting money. Yes, but that is not it, we will talk about it. *(Interjections)* It will come we will talk about it. There is everything - you are a new Member, sit down.

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

HON VENAANI: Sit down, you have not made your Maiden Speech. Sit down!

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

HON VENAANI: No, sit down, you will speak now. For example, we should also look *(intervention)*

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Will you allow him to intervene? Yes?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is a maiden question *(laughter)* Honourable Member, if I may, let me educate you; there is

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what we call a geological survey in this country under the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Cost is related to where you choose to build. If you have a flat place you are suggesting to move the facilities around the seat of Parliament then perhaps you can make that discussion, but if you are building in a place - look at where the building is, it is a rocky place. Geologically speaking, that excavation cost is related to what you are going to put in that building unless you put it in Okotjituuo or Aminuis where you can simply rake sand away with your hands. I think you must relate that.

Before I sit down, Honourable Member, I also want to say the following: I think you can use your own institution, the Geological Survey, to do research around the engineering geology part of even safety to these buildings and health issues around geology. I am a geologist by profession, I am, therefore, inviting you Honourable Member, so that you can acquaint yourself. Perhaps you have not been inside the building and that is one of those big contributors to the revenue we are trying to appropriate correctly here and send to the people to use. I think before you make these costs, there are other elements that I think you know and you are very well experienced in terms of what we have been saying. Why do you not talk about the ability of the Industry to cleverly account in the cost and put those costs in a quotation? Talk about that. Thank you very much.

HON VENAANI: Well, I will debate with you when the Vote of Parliament comes because I know what you are saying. I am done, but I am saying we should build - we should not stop from the old colonial houses that we are fighting about. There is nothing wrong with Government building new office spaces and new Government houses for people to be able to occupy because we are fighting randomly about old premises that were here. We can still make new premises too.

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HON KASHIKOLA / HON DR KANDJOZE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Next is Honourable Kashikola.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote 23. While I am supporting Vote 23, I would also like to ask the Honourable Minister; having been privileged to be once a technocrat and having attended a number of Budget Hearings, you hear most Ministries complaining and blaming the Ministry of Works for the low execution of their own Projects because the design, the professional services and the documentation are supposed to be done by the Ministry responsible for that, which is the Ministry of Works and that it takes a considerably long time - to such an extent that the Ministries will not be able to spend all its money.

My question now is: What is the Ministry intending to do in order to improve the systems so that we do not have the same blame targeted to the Ministry of Works come end of the Financial Year? It is just a question to alert the Minister that that is what is happening; the Ministry is being blamed left, right and centre for delaying implementations of other Ministries' Projects. What are we doing on that, just to fast track the implementation of the Development Projects? Otherwise, I fully support the allocation to Vote 23.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The last is Honourable Kandjoze Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, I rise to fully support my Colleague, but with a comment. In the Oil Industry, one of the first issues when you enter a building of the size of any type, but especially

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high rise buildings, there is usually a standard little bible that talks about safety in case of a fire or any eventuality how the occupants of that building are to vacate the building. You are shown the fire exits and you are alerted the way from the lifts and the list goes on. You are told where to actually meet in the Master Plan - sort of arrangements as procedures of those events happens. Now, I think that is standard to any high rise building. Those that have the opportunity, like Honourable Venaani, who has been narrating about cities in other countries and would find that very standard.

I am surprised at some of the state of Government properties that cost a lot of money and I want to raise my voice in support to those earlier comments. I am not going to be talking about something else that I do not know, but I will be talking about the Ministry of Mines and Energy's building. That building was completed in 1997, if I remember correctly, and that is not much of a time in the lifespan of a building, but the worrying thing is the general state of dilapidation, if there is a Ministry tasked with maintenance. It is true and it is a fact that some of these buildings are going under because of lack of some action.

In the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the offices at the top are occupied by the Executives, the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the Permanent Secretary and that is where the powers are and the rest are distributed around the different functions, but this is a concerning experience. Usually, I get to the building around 06:00 to try and start working, but then I accord myself the pleasure; I do not know this building, let me just go around the building and see what it is inside/outside, and I find this phenomenon: In the fire exits of this building you would find whole shelves - stacks of books and all sorts of materials. Now that is a hazard to the fire exit and we say the highest form of living is the homo sapiens - human beings, while the intention is clear; please do not put anything as an impediment to endanger the lives of the people. As if that is not enough, when the workers collect and clean for the day you will find that in those very stair cases, they stack up refuse bags. Chairs are packed there and now just imagine the number of people going up and down that building is plenty; this is the experience I found.

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Take Floors 1 and 2 in that transitioning, during an emergency as a person trying to escape a fire on the top levels; there's a whole floor packed with boxes preventing anybody from leaving. I mean, I could only walk sideways to get through those boxes. In the process of escaping or leaving a building you are taught not to panic; you must be walking briskly and avoid running, so this is a serious danger hazard to persons.

Finally, the cleaning processes: If our workers who are the cleaners take the brunt of this, it is a seven-floor building and then there is a sprawling part of the state Geological Survey and everything else - you have only got these many people; some of them are now in the twilight of their lives, you know. Back-breaking work for people like that - cleaning cannot be proper, so imagine the state of offices. In some cases you have three people in an office designed to only have one person. Now, you can see that the electrical supply systems must cater for three people. There is a fire hazard because if you overload that plug it will draw so much power and will start heating up and then fire starts. When that fire starts the exit places are all blocked, mostly. Honourable Ministers and Honourable Members, this is the state of cleanliness that has to be spoken about and we are talking about Foreign Direct Investment.

The first thing that investors would impress upon is when you enter a building from the security colleagues who sit there, to just the state of the entrance itself to the lift, that sometimes struggles to take these people up. I am sure they would say, "*Are we going to get out of this building in case of a fire?*" Now, if you take them on a tour and they see these boxes that I have been talking about, we are actually a threat to our own objectives of increasing Foreign Direct Investment, and some people will go and stay there and not come back.

Honourable Minister, although I am in full support, I think this function called *Maintenance* is a big issue. For a building that was only constructed in about 1997, you can see the cracks; you can see dilapidation from paint to the state of stuff, I think it is really not encouraging. Thank you very much.

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HON ITHETE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The last is Honourable Ithete.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. On the *Maintenance of Buildings*, I personally think that this is something we, collectively, should take responsibility for and maintain our buildings, even though we know there is a Ministry responsible for that. As citizens of this country, people living in Government flats, buildings and houses and so on, should take a responsibility to clean those buildings. For example, certain Ministries were equipped - of course they are old and need to be renovated and so on - with all equipment in terms of extinguishing fires and so on. However, the Colleagues were giving reports here saying that some people are dumping rubbish at these fire extinguishers, my Minister there was talking about packing boxes on them and so on. The Honourable Minister of Works and Transport will not be able to come and monitor some of these things. We are now in charge, we are the Executives and we are the ones supervising those buildings. Let us make sure that those buildings are maintained and kept clean, that is what we must do. We cannot complain about every little thing to the Ministry of Works; that is impossible. If we are not picking up papers in front of our Ministries, for example, to have a clean face, it cannot be the responsibility of the Ministry of Works, no - it should be the responsibility of those that are in charge and all of us are in charge. Every citizen in this country is in charge of maintaining Government properties – all of us. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The last is Honourable Kapofi, the Presidential Affairs Minister. You have provoked everybody to talk.

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HON KAPOFI / HON HANSE-HIMARWA

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson, I have listened attentively to the Debate. It is true what most of the Honourable Members have said. We have problems, we cannot deny that there are problems. I just want to make one point clear; Government has made its policy decision to say *everyone for himself*. If you are in a Ministry of *so* and *so* there are specific responsibilities you are given as a Ministry. The exception could be much bigger Projects, bigger renovations/undertakings, then solicit the work of the Ministry of Works, but the mandate or the policy decision was taken to say you cannot wait for the Ministry of Works to come and remove and repair a bulb or a leaking tap. It is very clear - it is there; the decision was communicated, it is very clear and everyone knows. There must be no issues here about this or that, shifting blame is not what we are here for.

The Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy is talking about something he has found - there were many of us in those facilities but we have not seen it. You cannot expect the Ministry of Works to come and find this rubbish on the stairs. Thank you, Comrade Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The last speaker is the Honourable Minister of Basic Education. You have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:
Comrade Deputy Speaker, this is not long. Of course, I am automatically supporting the Vote but just a point of clarification on why the Ministry of Works is held responsible, for example, for fixing a bulb or fixing a leaking tap, there is a provision from where Ministry of Works Offices - wherever they are, especially, in the Regions are procuring bulbs and all doors, taps, you name them, and they are keeping them at their stores. That is known to the masses; to the public. That is why they are demanding the Ministry of Works to come and fix the bulbs, otherwise we

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HON !NARUSEB

do away with that financial provision at the regional levels for the Ministry under maintenance and nobody would be asking the Ministry of Works to fix bulbs and leaking taps, thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

With that, Honourable Minister, we hope with your experience you will be brief.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I will give you the sum total of those Honourable Members who participated through their valuable contributions. I think it was 18 Members of Parliament.

Colleagues, I will start with *Honourable Erastus Utoni - Provision of Office Accommodation*: Why not consider accommodation for Members of Parliament? Well, we discussed that point at length and I think the input from Honourable Kawana and many others really explained the situation of what is happening there and, mind you, in terms of the Public Service Act, I think it is of 1995, there is a very clear definition for staff members that are referred to as Civil Servants and we as Members of Parliament are not staff members, we are not Civil Servants so we cannot equate our existence to staff members and then expect that the same benefits accruing to staff members could come our way. That would be fundamentally misplaced. Be that as it may, if there would be a collective decision of the Government, that is the Executive, and there is the enabling legal framework created and directives are given to the Ministry of Works and Transport, we will be willing to implement such a decision in terms of providing accommodation, but until such time that such directives are given, we shall have to function under the existing legal and regulatory framework.

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HON !NARUSEB

Honourable Nghipondoka, thank you for having chosen Vote 23 to very eloquently deliver your Maiden Speech. I can recall before my time that at several occasions Members of Parliament referred to probing the existence of a Fixed Asset Register. I believe it exists, but probably not updated at the level that we all would want it to be. What probably needs to happen now is that, you know, new brooms sweep clean, and without debating on the very sterling Activities carried out by my predecessors, mindful of the issues that were raised during this Debate, maybe I can ask your indulgence to accord me that courtesy of expecting better in terms of input and in terms of explicitly responding to the existence of the Fixed Asset Registers and the likes when I would next time, God willing, ask you to allocate funds to Vote 23. Can we accept that? Thank you.

Yes, it is a given, there is a skills deficit, we cannot deny that. In practically almost all the Sectors we had a skills deficit, which is why we are relying on expatriates, probably in the case of the Ministry of Works and Transport nationals who so kindly, through the mediation of their Government in the spirit of *Ubuntu*, in the spirit of existing Bilateral Agreements between Zimbabwe and Namibia, have come to Namibia to assist us to deal with the lack of competencies that we are experiencing in our Sector, and mind you they have gone a long way in particularly addressing the slow pace of implementation of Capital Projects that *Comrade Kashikola* alluded to. I am told that with the advent of the Zimbabweans coming to our shores, we have been able to deal with that question.

Honourable Mbai, yes, that is also known about houses and you know that what you observed is also what so many of us have observed, including myself. I have always asked myself the question, long before my time of having been deployed at the Ministry of Works and Transport, “*What is it that is lacking?*” Maybe we cannot just sort of say it is a mind-set that needs to change, I think something drastically is wrong with us as Namibians. This approach of – *Ohoromente, is die Regering, ek was bevoorreg om onder ’n baie bekwame jong Minister as ’n Adjunk Minister te werk* - Oh, now I am speaking Afrikaans! I was privileged to serve under a very competent Minister, a young man, as a Deputy Minister at

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HON !NARUSEB

the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, who, being very innovative, has coined a phrase as you know, it is GRN, *Gaan Ry Net!* “*Just Go and Drive*” - that is the attitude! GRN is Government property, it is a free for all, we can do as we wish without probably realising that at the end of the day there is no other person; the former administrators, he said the *Boers*, I do not want to say that, but the former administrators of this country, Namibia - South West Africa then, it was so convenient to point a finger at their attitude of depriving us of taking responsibility but now that we are in a position to take responsibility, we are not acting responsibly. We come here as representatives of our people out there and yet we are complaining. I am actually sometimes wondering, whom do we complain to? We are the ones that can undo the things that we do not want happening within the Government setup. We are the ones who are the Leaders of those who commit these unwanted things but we conveniently wait for a Budget Debate of the Ministry of Works and Transport and come here and clear, as it were, our frustrations. Now, my take on the subject matter is that (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Sorry, proceed please.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: My understanding is that maybe we need to put more effort in taking our people with for them to develop an understanding in that whatever we do, where you think nobody is seeing you doing it, will eventually have an effect on the overall output in terms of maintaining what we have already done as a Nation. It is true that we have observed so many things, and it is not that I am trying to justify the existence of the past that we come from of 25 years ago.

However, if you look at the hospitals, Katutura Hospital, Nurses Home, I was dating someone who was a nursing student, my wife now, but I never

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HON VENAANI

set foot in her room all those years, but now people are residents at the Nurses Home. What does it tell us? Lack of control; lack of supervision; and it is us that allow it to happen - we should just be able to exercise our responsibility and manage it. That is really the sub total of so many things that were said this evening and practically with your indulgence, Comrade is it Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee now?

HON MEMBER: Chairperson.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Deputy Chairperson of The Whole House Committee, so many issues were raised, but they were practically just centring around the same topics. If you allow me, I really just want to appeal to the House to grant me the money so that I can go and do what you have expressed yourselves so eloquently on and next year, God willing, take me to task. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister for that brief response. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 29 – “**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Information and Communication Technology is the future as we always, eloquently, speak about Vision 2030 – a knowledge-based society and taking the country to the moon. This is the Ministry that must take us there. I only want to raise one issue with Information

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and Communication Technology: I would like to talk about Wi-Fi availability in rural areas. The female Members of Parliament who went to Gross Barman for the Induction Workshop were struggling to (*intervention*)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Were you there?

HON VENAANI: I was consulting with the majority of our society, I was there. There can be no meaningful development without access to technological advancement; Google, Facebook, companies now are transacting in Okatjoruu - you are now able to sell your cattle in Grootfontein. You do not need to travel to Otjiwarongo or Grootfontein to settle your debts, you can pay using your phone. However, these areas do not have access to Wi-Fi and Internet. This also applies to some of our towns. I was just recently in Opuwo, Outapi, Kazongo (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Point of Order, Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask the Leader of the Official Opposition a question? Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I direct a question to the Leader of the Official Opposition?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes.

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HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

I see the Leader of the Opposition is very active, but I just wanted to establish something. Normally, the Official Opposition is the Government and you have what is called a set of Cabinet, am I right to understand that the Leader himself is the central Minister of all the Ministries?

HON VENAANI: You are right, the job of a Leader is to lead morally, therefore, as a Leader I lead morally. Wait until you become a leader then you understand. That was just an ice-breaker. That is the purpose of filibustering, but I will not succumb to that, the head is still fresh.

I was talking about Wi-Fi access and we really need to improve on that because the other day, as a Leader, I was talking about our manifesto and many of you on the other side of the isle were saying - *he is crazy, he is saying he wants to bring solar computers to students*. It is one Programme that your Ministry should envisage to help ICT development in our schools.

I visited Rwanda a few years back and 80% of Rwandese children have access to solar laptops. They have even designed the cheapest that they are buying from Norway. If you go to Kenya, 60% of the children in Kenya are computer literate and I think Honourable Minister of ICT should try to build synergies between Education and your Ministry because if this country is about to industrialise and to develop, the centre of industrialisation lies with your Ministry.

I want to address the Budget of New Era and I want to wholeheartedly put it on record that if there is one Government mouthpiece that has improved in quality and informative news, it is New Era. They must be credited. I support their Vote because fifteen years ago, New Era was a SWAPO Broadcasting mouthpiece, but nowadays New Era has become critical of Government and critical of all Sectors of our society. This is where we want to give money to promote our Press freedom.

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The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) must be addressed (*interjection*) No, NBC has not accessed areas such as Oranjemund and Epupa. Twenty five years after Independence that we are giving money, but you wonder how we can deny some citizens the right to information through basic services? I also want to commend the new Director-General for the digitisation and the modernisation that he has brought in our news because there is a new element in our news, it is not at *par* with International News Agencies yet but it is getting there. During elections NBC must be (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: It is a political statement.

HON VENAANI: No, it is not a political statement, it is reality, facts not fiction. *Feite!* NBC is one sided.

HON MEMBER: No!

HON VENAANI: Hear the minority so that the majority can have their way. Hear because one day you will also be in minority. I was there when Arab Moi lost power in Kenya, when the Electoral Commission announced the results, he asked his Minister; “*You mean we lost? What?*” Answer; “*Yes, we lost the elections.*” “*How?*” I was there.

You must be careful, even the mighty can fall. *Tjevera muatje wa tate.* (*Interjections*) It does not matter, some of you will live in the future Opposition in this country, it is a fact. (*Interjections*) Where was Hidipo Hamutenya? You will be surprised where life can take you to, but that is not the issue (*interjections*)

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Member (*intervention*)

HON VENAANI: Muyongo was also with you, he started with you - so never say never, work hard so that it does not happen, but it could happen.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Sorry, do not disturb a person please so that he will control himself to remain within the discussion of the Vote.

HON VENAANI: NBC must really improve, especially when it comes to election coverage. During last year's elections, NBC said all Political Parties will get coverage. It used to give coverage at rallies but for Parties to present their Manifestos through the slots, they would go through the backdoor and say, no Cousin Nangolo Mbumba is paying for his own advertisements, therefore, all of you must pay. That is wrong in a country to ask Political actors that are acting with communities to tell them that I must go and pay for my advertisements in order for me to sell my message to the people. It was never the practise. During the last elections I was surprised to see that a Party could only get two slots.

Even during the 1994 elections we used to have 16 slots at the NBC. That needs to be improved, you cannot have democracy where you perpetually muscle the weak. Compete on a fair ground and the NBC's record on political campaigns is shameful. You cannot let democracy depend on those that are wealthy. Democracy must depend on the choices that the electorates must make, you do not need to pay, you must be able to get that service free of charge. That is the essence of democracy. Do not try to muscle me out because you have Chinese that are conglomerating N\$8,000,000.00 over a weekend, therefore, you can afford to pay, and

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because I do not have Chinese that are giving me N\$8,000,000.00 come on (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Please come to the point (*intervention*)

HON VENAANI: We should address this issue. NBC is improving.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
NBC?

HON VENAANI: There is an improvement now compared to where the Broadcaster was before and where it is now, but we should also improve the element of fairness at the NBC.

I shall further go the last issue that I want to bring to your attention. That is the attention of the Parastatal that falls under your ambit, our former employer, you and I, Telecom Namibia. Telecom is in dire straits because of N\$500,000,000.00 that was invested in Angola, South Africa and now it borrows money from NPTH to sustain itself. Can you just in one or two sentences tell us (*intervention*)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: After you talk for so long you are asking for one to respond in one or two sentences?

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HON VENAANI: Okay, talk in ten sentences. (*Laughter*)

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
Can I ask the Honourable Member a small question ?

HON VENAANI: Yes, Honourable Member, go on.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
Honourable Venaani, you are doing well but you have learnt that Namibia is venturing into manufacturing, surely Namibia is not venturing into the manufacturing of stories (*laughter*) Does it mean that anyone who speaks a language you do not understand, like the other Honourable Member there, you deem him to be Chinese?

HON VENAANI: You will have to talk about it, it is an international phenomena to talk about financiers who are giving us money and why they are financing us, so do not just think that when you talk about these things - people are also having motives why they give you certain things and we all know that. However, that is not the issue. I was talking about our former employer, Telecom Namibia (*interjection*)

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HON MEMBER: It is fundraising.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Please, please.

HON VENAANI: What fundraising? You are bringing Chinese here to push wheelbarrows in Namibia and give them work permits. They come here because they are paying money, but that is not the issue, the issue is Telecom. Our former employer, Telecom Namibia is going the route that no one has ever imagined, perhaps because of telecommunications - MTC that has taken over, people are moving away from landlines, etcetera.

However, will you, as new the Minister, also my Neighbour and a former employee of the same company like myself, consider putting up, in the Nation's interest, a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the missing N\$500,000,000.00 to Angola? With these, remarks *okunene okuhepa* (thank you very much).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise, Honourable Dienda. You have the Floor.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, my questions are on Page 531 – *Medium Term Expenditure Framework*. Honourable Minister, we have a comprehensive policy governing the granting of bursaries to staff members. I have noticed that 21 bursaries were allocated to staff members, how is the repayment going on? I am asking this question because after you have trained them, these people left the Ministry to look for greener pastures. Do we, therefore, have a policy in place to curb that

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for, at least, some years in order to make use of their services?

Question Number 2: On Page 358 – *Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure*, I have noticed that you have made a provision for Social Grants. Can you please clarify what exactly is meant by Social Grants? I thought the Social Grants will be with the Minister of Health for pensioners and vulnerable people, but now I find it here in your Budget. Just clarify it to me, what does it mean?

Question Number 3 is on New Era. Honourable Minister, as much as I agree with my President, Honourable Venaani on the quality of New Era, I would like to know why New Era does not make any profit? It is still operating at a loss. Can we really afford pumping money into New Era every time? While its quality had increased it does not make any profit. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Van Der Heever.

HON VAN DER HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. Through the Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to address the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

Dear Honourable Tweya, according to the Budget under Vote 29, Item 1.2 – *Main Strategic Activities on Programmes to Enhance Performance of the SOEs and Institutionalised Bodies* as well as the Activities and status of NamZim are reported as in progress. Whilst I necessarily commend any efforts pertaining to performance enhancement I, however, cannot ignore that NamZim is a loss making entity and in this regard, I refer the Honourable Minister to an Article published on 21 February 2013 in the Namibian, of which I am having an extract here: Based on information

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gathered from the Auditor-General's Report for the Financial Year 2009/2010, what is evident from this report is that NamZim is bankrupt and relies heavily, if not solely, on Government bail outs and annual subsidies to keep it going.

From the Auditor-General's Report it is evident that NamZim, at the time, was jointly indebted to New Era Publications and Zimbabwean Newspapers to an amount of N\$70,000,000.00. If that is not confirming enough, whilst in the midst of this financial crisis the Board Members of NamZim proposed increases to themselves that cost close to N\$200,000.00 per year. The cost which I am talking about I cited from *the Namibian* article. They are saying here that - *in terms of the proposal, the annual salary for the Chairperson will be N\$136,000.00 per year up from N\$98,000.00. His deputy will receive N\$132,000.00 annually, etcetera.* My question, thus, to the Honourable Minister is, before we can even begin to consider approving the proposed N\$13,000,000.00 intended for operational expenses as per your Programme under NamZim, may Honourable Tweya please first advise this august House as to the exact current financial status of the joint venture?

Number 2: Additionally, what plans, budgetary or otherwise, have been made to clear this mounting debt? My last question, were the proposed increases to the remuneration for the Board Members approved and in the event that the answer is in the affirmative, by what percentage and what was the rationale behind such an increase, given the obvious financial difficulties in which the organisation finds itself? I thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable /Ui/o/oo, you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES: I

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think I might be on the right track this time around. Thank you, Honourable Madam Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have got a few concerns to raise to my Senior, the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology. Allow me to quote from your Statement on Page 5 because we are very happy for the very short statement that says; *no Namibian must feel left out*. Your statement says and I quote - *“However, we must ensure that inclusivity so that all the Namibian must have access to network coverage as this will help us in disseminating information that will assist our people to fight poverty and diseases and also to make decisions and right choices on issues affecting their lives”*.

Honourable Minister, I think I have got a problem with the !Ha radio service. !Ha radio service (*interjections*) you people here want to trouble me and if you do not know it is our station – let me tell you. !Ha radio service’s intention was to help bring the !Ha communities to the level where the other communities are. However, I think there is a problem because for the past 15 years that I have been living in Windhoek, I can hear or access the other channels like Otjiherero, Tirelo yaSetswana, Damara/Nama, Silozi and other languages and I am failing to understand why the NBC is reluctant to train five or ten San people to present like others. What is the problem there, Honourable Minister? That is my concern and I think it is not only my concern, it is the concern of all Namibians, but as I speak none of you who have spoken here made mention of San issues (*interjection*) Yes, it is only you, thank you. Let me not say only you but also other Honourable Members here.

I once received some visitors from our neighbouring countries, South Africa and Botswana and immediately when they entered, they tuned into all these channels and were happy while we were not happy because our language was forgotten. That is concern number one.

Number 2: I came back to this august House with other Members of Parliament and I am sure my kids will be happy seeing me on TV as I am standing here today. I also have a problem with the cameramen or women; were they told not to direct their cameras to Honourable RJK

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Chief /Ui/o/oo during the Session? Those are my concerns. Thank you very much (*laughter*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. The next Member I have on my list is Honourable Shikongo.

HON SHIKONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a concern on Page 11, Honourable Tweya, your Ministry is requesting N\$341,742,000.00 for the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation and your Ministry has motivated that the NBC needs this money to inform, educate and entertain the Nation via diverse platforms. However, Honourable Tweya, I fail to understand why the following Programmes on the NBC TV and the National Radio have been removed? *The Week that Was; Inside Politics; Prime Minister's Question Time*; and the *Chat Show*. I want to know the reason for removing all these Programmes and I will be happy if these Programmes are reintroduced. With that, I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Members. I now give the Floor to the Honourable Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 29, but I will repeat what I always say here most of the time. We are only

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looking at what is happening in Windhoek and not the whole of Namibia. Let us avail money to acquire cameras for all the fourteen Regions so that our news team can bring us news from all the Regions for at least one hour on a daily basis in order for our kids to know as well.

Why should we spend money while we are not getting what is good for us and our future generation? The future generation needs to know what is happening in Zambezi and Omaheke for themselves, not only strikes or other issues, but also developmental issues. They will learn about things to be seen in other Regions, for example, crocodiles, fish, etcetera, instead of only showing little news everyday - let us know what is in Kunene, what is in Omaheke and not only in Windhoek, that way you will automatically be educating and informing the Nation. I support the Vote, but improve. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Minister, I give the Floor to the Minister to reply.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Members for your support, those that have also given their silent support.

Honourable Venaani, it is true Wi-Fi or internet must also be available everywhere in Namibia. I cannot agree with you more just as the Honourable Minister of Labour just concluded. That is exactly what I said in my Statement here. I said I directed MTC and Telecom to review their business plans and not to come and say - *yes but this is our business plan* and we say - *oh yes, this is a nice business plan* and yet these business plans continue to exclude other parts of Namibia and those other parts of Namibia are being inhabited by Namibians who are, rightfully, entitled to the same information as any Namibian.

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We must be clear with this, the trends that the Private Sector like the banks would put forth because of money is irrelevant and I will deal with New Era in a moment, there was a Colleague who was talking about profit, etcetera.

Thank you very much for at least acknowledging New Era because this helps them to do more, but if we continue condemning them they may never know that there is something that they are doing right. Therefore, if there is an improvement, we should tell them.

The same with NBC, I will still talk about Wi-Fi and Internet. When I met the senior management in the Ministry and the senior management of all nine SOEs under the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, this is what I told them - *our mandate is to inform all Namibians, not only some.*

Let me share this with you - two of these SOEs, in the business plans that they have shared with me, are intending to cover only 90% of Namibia by 2020. I asked them, - *what about the other 10%, are they not Namibians?* Their response was - *no, it is about money, we do not have money to invest in the infrastructure, etcetera.* For the sake of the Honourable Members here, because I will still get back here - in the current *Communication Act* there is a fund created called Universal Service Fund and this Fund has not been activated for the past, a little bit more than five years. The idea is that the stakeholders should contribute to this Fund and this Fund should, therefore, be used to bring the infrastructure where the Private Sector and even these SOEs cannot invest. Those funds will be activated and implemented during this Financial Year. I want to believe that, come next year, I do not want to hear that 10% or 20% of Namibians are deprived from the information of their own country. That will be done.

The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation - You gave them compliments for improving, but you were very particular about elections. Let me say the following: During the elections campaign, apart from them following you when you were a visitor down there at the shacks, they covered you excellently. (*Interjections*) No, just give me a chance so that I can

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respond. I am giving you just one example; they covered you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Minister is replying, please.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: On some examples during the elections campaign, we must also be fair in our own judgments. We have witnessed more than five times - I cannot remember this other Party where one member launched his so-called election campaign alone. He was covered launching an election campaign talking to himself.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: He is replying Honourable Member, you are an old Member, you know the Rules – you cannot interrupt him.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I am responding. The same person went to a supermarket in Katutura, alone talking to himself, but the NBC followed him. It was the same person in the Zambezi Region under a tree, perhaps talking to his mother and his aunt at a rally and he was covered. In Usakos that Party was not even registered, but as the President, he was covered. We have seen so-called Parties arranging so-called rallies and the NBC would dispatch a team there and because nobody attended that so-called rally, it was cancelled. Even though there was only one member, they did cover it, therefore, we must be fair in our judgements. We must look at the NBC for what they are and their capacity, but really

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in terms of the election campaign, last year, they did not try, they did their best.

However, there is, of course, still room for improvement, there is no doubt about this, but if we check their history, they over stretched themselves. They did what they had to under the circumstances. As we speak, there are still areas that they cannot cover. When I met them, I reminded them that I do not want to see a situation where, in a particular area, you have a tower of MTC here, next door is a tower of Telecom and next door is a tower of NBC, this luxury of wasting limited resources cannot and will not be tolerated. We will have to think of consolidating our resources where all can have access and use the money to invest in further infrastructure in areas where they are not present, so that would be attended to. At the moment this is not the case.

On the issue of Telecom's N\$500,000,000.00, I cannot tell you whether I will institute an inquiry or not, I first need to establish whether it is N\$500,000,000.00 or N\$400,000,000.00 - exactly what the issues are. However, the preliminary information that I have is indeed that there have been bad investments in both Angola and South Africa. An investment is but just an investment, either you lose or you win. When you win you celebrate, but when you lose you should pause and ask yourself what went wrong. Therefore, this is still to be determined and this is why I cannot irresponsibly say exactly what will happen. We need to do that because this is not money that we can just brush away. That issue will still be with us for some time because we need to understand how this money got lost, if it got lost.

Honourable Dienda, the policy for bursaries, there I must disappoint you, even if it is within the Ministry, the Civil Servants are being governed by the Public Service Commission - whether they have unpaid or paid study leave, I only record that this money was from the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. Should they leave, however, I for one would not have problems with that because as long as those skills are in Namibia, whether they go to the Ministry of Labour or to a Parastatal, they are skills that we still need in those other Sectors. We cannot just

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retain them for one particular Ministry, we also need the skills in other Sectors, so I would not crack my head over that. (*Interjection*) We do have a policy as I just said, and that policy is with the Public Service Commission under the Office of the Prime Minister. As I said, it could have been through either paid or unpaid leave, but the policy is there.

Social Grants: I am really not sure about those Social Grants, allow me to inquire or research a little bit because I do not know about the Social Grants. I do not want to give you wrong information and confuse you. I will do more damage by giving you wrong information rather than to say I do not know as yet, but let me first establish that as part of a factual reporting so that you get the correct information to help you to make the right decision.

New Era or NBC, as I already said is to inform, educate and entertain the Nation. When you give factual information you cannot expect profit out of that. The profit is to the contrary and that is that you will have a knowledgeable society that is the profit, not the money that we record on paper here, but the ignorance (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order!

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I may be wrong, but ignorance is a dangerous game. The purpose of information is to equip them. Just imagine the times that they had to cover Honourable Venaani there, he did not pay them, but they had to do that to inform Honourable Venaani's Party that their President is doing this and that. That is the profit I am talking about. You benefited from that profit which is why you have now acquired the status of the legal Opposition Party – not the monetary profit.

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HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, the Minister is busy replying.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Profit is about a knowledgeable society, to enable the people to have information to make informed decisions and not because we are recording N\$1,000,000.00, etcetera. The profit is that you had knowledgeable voters to vote for you. You were not charged for that. The same with New Era, they are to inform, to educate and to entertain.

Honourable Van der Heever - not to make profit, the mandate is to inform, educate and entertain. Imagine if we had to switch off the whole NBC tomorrow; no radio, no news and you do not know what is happening out there, no music, nothing. What would happen? You will literally get sick. This is why that mandate is not about profit.

HON MEMBER: You will disappoint us.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Of course, you will be disappointed because you do not know whether you are safe or not - maybe you will be attacked. Why do you rush every morning to grab a newspaper? Because you want to know what is happening around you. Without that you feel lost. If MTC switches off your cell phone now, you will drive to Olympia and say "*What is wrong with you people, I cannot even get my child, I do not know what is happening with my child*" or not only child, maybe husband, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend or whoever. You would feel lost.

Honourable Van der Heever - NamZim; you quoted an Article on 21

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February 2013 stating that NamZim is bankrupt and they owed an amount of N\$17,000,000.00. You referred to the Board of Directors' costs to be increased - I must say that I do not have the 2013 Audited Financial Statements with me, but certainly, the Auditor will assist us to understand what happened or what did not happen. It is going to be very irresponsible for me to confuse you with the history that I do not have knowledge of because I am not an auditor. Let us allow the auditors, (*interjection*) thank you. Let us allow the auditors to assist us, maybe they will find out, if not we will Debate it here when that Annual Report comes. At that time we can then further engage what happened, however, as of now, we also do not want to be an island unto ourselves. There is an initiative at the moment to talk and convince other SADC Members to buy-in so that we have got SADC as a family to put in our resources so that we can grow closer as a SADC Family and not only Namibia and Zimbabwe alone but as SADC with all the successful stories to educate ourselves but also to inform ourselves about the Development Activities within the region. That history I will only get back to once we have the Auditor's Report, who knows maybe you will be a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and you can start scrutinising it from there before it gets here.

Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo, you are right, Tsumkwe is one area, it is not that I like it, you know very well that I am assigned to Tsumkwe and I have firsthand experience that the radio service there cannot be accepted as a norm. The residents of Tsumkwe, //Gam and all the surrounding areas are part of Namibians and they would want to see you, the representative. They also want to see Honourable Idah Kandji-Murangi, the President, whom they voted and all the Members here, including Honourable Venaani on the same Television like other Namibians in Windhoek, Otjiwarongo, Rundu or anywhere else. They should not feel less important than those in Windhoek.

When I speak of infrastructure countrywide that is exactly what I mean that no Namibian should feel less important because they are not in Windhoek. We are experiencing urbanisation because lives is in urban

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areas is, they do not want to be in rural areas because they feel they are left out. Therefore, we must give them the service that they are entitled to them. It should be a right to information about the development of this country to all Namibians and not a privilege because you must come to Windhoek to get the information. It is going to be attended to. It is my hope, therefore, that it would not take us the next 25 years, but it should take much shorter than where we are coming from.

You are right, why are you not on camera - let me share this with you Honourable Members. I mentioned it in my statement, Channel 1 is National. As we are talking now this whole Debate is live on Channel 2. This is why we have been insisting on DTT so that they can follow the Debate here and not wait for 08:00 or 12:00 to hear you. Of course, if you do not contribute, you will not be on the screen because it is a live Debate, therefore, the challenge is yours. Come prepared, contribute because you will be live on Channel 2 together with current affairs. This is part of the improvement of the NBC, while the other channels will take care of music and all the others to promote those expertise.

Honourable Shikongo, on Page 11, yes, this amount is to enable the NBC to execute just the mandate that I have alluded to earlier. On the programmes that you have listed, well, I will ask the NBC why they removed those programmes, but I do not think that it will be necessary - *The Week that Was* you have been watching it the whole week, you have been reading it in all the papers, to some of us this was really The Week that Was, so can we be a little bit innovative and maybe think of some new programmes instead of just be given the history that you have already read and watched on Television. Let us start thinking a little bit more constructive and innovatively. I am not sure whether we really want to get bogged down with history, I would rather encourage them to come up with new programmes, perhaps they could invite you here to talk on topical issues in order to provide the Nation or voters with more insight, understanding as well as an analysis on specific issues that we debate in Parliament, instead of just living in the history. Yes, the Week that Was

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HON TWEYA

and all the things, provides some perspective of the week but what about the future that we now live for?

Honourable Nghimtina, it is true, we need to have cameras in all the Regions. In my meeting with all the SOEs I said to them that in executing this mandate, I would love to see a situation where the print media, for example, New Era, could have a page dedicated to a Region up to the Constituency level. What I said here is exactly what is happening, even with our foreign missions, after being commissioned that is all you hear about them, the next time you will hear about them is when they have been recalled, we do not know what has been happening. That is exactly the idea with regional development. The Governors, as my Dear Sister there, the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development said, we would like to see and read about what is happening now, not only in Erongo, Windhoek and other places, we even forget that the Zambezi, //Karas, Kunene, Hardap and other Regions exist, we forget about them. We only hear about them when something sensational happens. We want, and I really want to see developmental reporting.

The Councillors need to be taken to task through accountability where we say, there is a Budget for a clinic at Omundaungilo and eight months after the Budget has been approved nothing is happening. We want Journalists to go there and say - "*Honourable Councillor, why is nothing happening in your Constituency?*" That is the type of reporting I am talking about. Obviously, this will only happen when we work together. I did not ask for more money here, I only wanted to establish what we have and how we can unleash the potential that we have.

What Honourable Shaningwa said here - if our public media, and I want to extend this to the private media, can take that and contextualise and summarise the Capital Projects for Otjozondjupa which will include Tsumkwe, //Gam (*interjection*) and Okakarara, Honourable Venaani. Yes, but in terms of the renovation of this *karoad* here, nothing is happening even the issue of the challenges that Honourable !Naruseb mentioned here, where you only have specific companies that must wait to get these

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big tenders from all the Regions, we can use that to fast track the development and implementation of Capital Projects. That is the role that I said that the media can play. The media can build or destroy.

Sensational reporting will not help us grow or develop. They must get the correct information and put it in context to help us, decision makers, to follow the developments and to inform the Voters that we are entitled to this Clinic and that they should not wait until after five years and then say - *five years ago construction for this clinic started, but it has not yet been completed*. Where was the media not to have picked that up? We only concentrate on the developments taking place in Windhoek.

To this effect, Honourable Members, I have asked Ministry officials, the Regional Officers, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation and all those within the Ministry to work together and share information among themselves as well as with the entire media houses because only then can we move together as *One Namibia One Nation*. Thank you very much for your attention and your support for this Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 26 – “**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**” put for Discussion. Any discussion? Honourable Dienda?

HON MEMBERS: D’ accord!

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HON DIENDA: I said d'accord. Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, Page 478, Activity Number 4 – *Civic Organisation Partnership:*

HON MEMBERS: There is no Minister!

HON DIENDA: Where is the Minister? Honourable Deputy Minister, what structures are being put in place in order to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government through the National Planning Commission and the Council of Churches? We signed (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: That is not for the Line Ministry.

HON DIENDA: Just stand up and take the Floor.

HON MEMBER: Okay fine.

HON DIENDA: We signed a Memorandum of Understanding, through the Council of Churches, when I was the alternate Vice President of the Council of Churches.

Number 2: If there are funds put in place, according to the Budget, for what purpose will these funds be utilised and will it ensure that the

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country as a whole benefits, including the people at the grassroots level and not only Pastors? I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, that was the only one that I have so far. May I ask the Deputy Minister to respond to that question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING: Thank you very much, Honourable Dienda for the question. Considering the fact that I just moved into this House and I also got this responsibility of which I should confirm that during my briefing, I did not pick up details related to this Memorandum of Understanding. I am going to find out and I will give you feedback in due course.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KASINGO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. With this, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow 09:00, sharp. So adjourned.

In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 21:45 until Friday, 24 April 2015.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:45 UNTIL 2015.04.24 AT 09:00

Department of Works Vote 23
TECHNICAL DOCUMENT (FINANCIAL YEAR
2015/2016)

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Works is a service rendering Department responsible for the implementation of capital building construction projects on the Development budget, management of state assets and maintenance of government buildings and related infrastructure.

MANDATE

The mandate of the Department of Works is to provide, manage and maintain government facilities and related infrastructure to enable O/M/A's to perform their functions, and to regulate professionals in the construction industry by administering legislation governing the Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Engineering Professionals Acts.

OBJECTIVES

- To complete capital building construction projects on the Development Budget in time, within budget and to acceptable standards according to the needs of the various users of the facilities.
- To manage, maintain and administer all movable and immovable assets within its mandate.
- To ensure that technical advice and services provided by the Department to achieve the above are efficient, economical and technically competitive to the Private Sector.

DEPARTMENTAL TARGETS

Target	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/18 Forecast
Achieve an implementation rate of ninety five percent (95%) on all capital projects under the mandate of the Department of Works on the Development budget by the end of the Financial Year 2017/2018.	85%	90%	95%
Having an action plan ready by the end of the Financial Year 2015/2016 for implementing the decentralization of the maintenance function under the Devolution Phase to the Regional Councils as from 2016/2017.	Plan ready	Implementation commences	Implementation continue
Having a reliable Fixed Asset Register database in place by the end of the Financial Year 2015/2016 that can be updated on a regular basis as new assets are procured/constructed.	Complete database in place	Updating database	Updating database
Having three (3) new Regional Offices constructed and operational for the decentralised function of the Department of Works in the Kunene, Ohangwena and Kavango West Regions by the end of the Financial Year 2017/2018.	1 Office Complete	2 Offices completed	3 Offices completed
Having thirteen (13) new sub-offices constructed and operational for the decentralized function of the Department of Works in the Regions by the end of the Financial Year 2017/2018.	4 Offices Completed	9 Offices Completed	13 Offices Completed

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMMES

Programme 01: Provision of Horticultural Services

Operational Budget - Main Division 08: N\$11,935,000.00

Development Budget: N\$ Nil

Purpose of this Programme:

- To render a gardening service to Government Office Buildings and service centres including planning, layout, planting, watering, fertilising, pruning, cleaning, general maintenance, supply and maintenance of pot plants and maintenance of swimming pools.
- To assist and provide advice for decorations during functions.

Main activities under this programme:

- Layout and provision of garden maintenance services
- Regular services, maintenance and general upkeep of swimming pool installations at VIP Residences

Achievements to date

The Department successfully operates an in-house nursery and succeeded to maintain gardens at different functional buildings and various Ministries, Offices and Agencies are supplied with decorative office plants of different kinds.

A feasibility study to upgrade the existing Government Nursery and Offices has been completed and documentation to call for tenders is currently being prepared.

Challenges:

A shortage of sufficient qualified horticulturists to give guidance to supporting staff when it comes to plant selection, method of cultivations, as well as the direction and method of cutting trees and grass, is currently hampering the operations.

In addition to this the Department is experiencing a shortage of sufficient funding to maintain the operations of the horticultural services at Swakopmund.

Programme 2: Provision of Stores and Printing Services

Operational Budget – Main Division 07: N\$31,117,000.00

Development Budget: N\$ 6,331,000.00

The Purpose of this Programme:

To economise and facilitate the provision of office furniture, equipment and other material and suppliers through purchases at Central Government Stores as well as the provision of printing services to Offices/Ministries/Agencies (O/M/A's)

Main Activities under the Programme:

- GRN Stores and Printing Services administration
- The procurement and delivery of standard stock supplies such as office furniture, equipment and materials through GRN Stores to O/M/A's
- This Programme also deals with the provision of printing services to all Government institutions and the administering of auctioneering services for Government.

Achievements to date:

Stores and Printing serves the O/M/A's with standard stock items as well as the making of photocopies on a daily basis or when required.

Auction services are also conducted country wide to collect revenue for the State. About 20 million to 25 million copies were reproduced for client Offices/Ministries/Agencies in the last three years.

Challenges:

The main challenge is the recovery of money owed to Stores Trade Account from O/M/A's. Some lease machines can be

out of order longer than it should be due to parts ordered from abroad which can delay the reproduction for the O/M/As.

The money that has been collected from the auctions is cash and poses a huge risk for the staff working with it as well as for the State.

Programme 03: Maintenance of GRN Properties

Operational Budget - Main Division 05:	N\$ 83,559,000.00
Development Budget:	N\$ 7,410,000.00

Purpose of this programme:

- To administer and maintain government buildings and related infrastructure to the best possible standard, to improve working conditions for staff members of O/M/A's of Government in order to operate more efficiently.
- To improve living conditions in both rural and urban areas in all thirteen regions by providing sound environment management to Government facilities at far off remote places where municipal services are not provided.
- To ensure sustainable and reliable maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standard according to the availability of funds and priorities set by the Government.

Main activities under this programme:

- To repair and maintain government properties to the best possible standard.

Achievements to date:

The Department successfully finalized the handing over of maintenance function in the Regions to the thirteen (13) Regional Councils as part of the decentralization process under the Delegation phase. The construction of new Regional

Offices at Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region, and Outapi in the Omusati Region has been completed, while the office at Opuwo is still under construction. The construction of two new sub-offices in Maltahohe and Aranos in Hardap Region, Talismanus in Omaheke Region, as well as Ngoma and Kongola in Caprivi Region has been completed. Two hundred and forty (240) Computers for the delegated maintenance function were purchased and delivered to the thirteen Regions covering 48 offices.

The Department developed and implemented a Maintenance Management Framework document that has been distributed to all Offices/Ministries/Agencies (O/M/A's) and Regional Councils to serve as a guideline on the maintenance of Government facilities and related infrastructure.

The Department also facilitated the creation of individual maintenance units in (O/M/A's) to take responsibility for preventative and routine maintenance activities. This enables the Department as custodian of all government buildings and infrastructure to properly budget and attend to real maintenance issues.

Challenges:

Insufficient funding due to budget constraints results in Regional Councils experiencing challenges to efficiently maintain Government buildings in the Regions.

Restructuring of the Department after Decentralisation under the Delegation Phase of the maintenance function to the Regions to set standards and oversee the maintenance policy (MMF), also poses a challenge. To successfully achieve Decentralisation, the buy-in from the relevant stakeholders is therefore required at all levels.

Programme 04: Provision of Office Accommodation Requirements

Operational Budget - Main Division 04: N\$134,482,000.00

Development Budget: N\$ 650,000.00

Purpose of this Programme:

- To study office accommodation requirements of all Line Ministries.
- To purchase or rent office buildings and land, and allocate them to the Line Ministries; to make rental payments, water and electricity charges and minor maintenance supplies.

Main Activities Under this Programme:

- Rendering an Asset Management services to O/M/A's.
- Administering a GRN property portfolio worth approximately N\$27 billion.
- Managing and catering for the rental costs of Government Offices for O/M/A's from Private Sector due to shortage of own facilities.

Achievements to date

The Department has successfully finalized the verification of data in the regions in its progress towards developing and commissioning of a reliable computerized Fixed Asset Management System towards the end of 2015/2016.

Virtually all (Approximately 90%) Government assets under the direct control and mandate of the Department of Works are captured on the Asset Register with verifications currently being done. The register is available in electronic format as well as in hard copy. It remains an ongoing process as new assets are added annually from projects completed on the development budget. There is a need for government assets on farmland as well as assets of Parastatals to be also reflected on the Asset Register. However, this exercise needs additional funding that could not be accommodated within the existing ceiling.

The sale of non-assigned Government houses is maintaining its momentum and since the implementation of the scheme in 1998 a total of 1,172 houses were sold countrywide with an amount of N\$207,155,288.00 generated. During the Financial Year 2014/2015 an amount of N\$4,019,124.00 was generated until 31 January 2015 from the sale of 50 houses.

A draft Terms of Reference to engage the services of a Consultant to call for an expression of interest on the outsourcing of government flats have been prepared and is currently under consideration.

In-house consultations at management level are still ongoing regarding the maintenance of assigned houses.

The condition of government flat complexes in Windhoek has been assessed and prioritised, and with the very limited resources available the renovation of the following Complexes has thus far been completed.

- Florence Court in Etna Street;
- Vrede Hoff in Outeniqua Street;
- Makalani Court in Etna Street;
- Sesman Huis in Rev. Michael Scott Street.

Cabinet approved the utilisation of funds generated from the alienation of Government pool houses for the renovation of a further four (4) flat complexes in Windhoek, and the Department is at the initial stage to prepare tender documents for the renovation of the said complexes.

The following Complexes will be attended to under this provision:

- Rocky hill in Promenanden Road;
- Eros Luna Court in Jan Jonker Road, Central;
- Burman Flats Vissagie Square at Baines Shopping Centre in Pionerspark;
- Tienman Huis in Dr. A.B. May Street.

The installation of separate meters to allow tenants to pay for their own water and electricity consumption forms part of the envisaged renovations.

Challenges:

A Shortage of sufficient government facilities to accommodate O/M/A's results in the Department concluding approximately 140 rental agreements with Estate Agents/Land Lords in Private Sector to provide the need for office accommodation, warehouses and store facilities.

Lack of funds to capture and incorporate government assets on farmland as well as assets of Parastatals renders the Asset Register not to be fully completed.

Programme 05: GRN Construction Building Regulation, Coordination and Supervision

Operational Budget - Main Division 03:	N\$317,631,000.00
Development Budget:	N\$ 29,882,000.00

Purpose of this Programme:

- The Programme is responsible for the implementation of all capital projects construction, renovation and maintaining of all functional and institutional buildings. The Programme is also responsible to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over completed capital construction projects; the programme is actively involved in regulating, coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards. This Programme administers and regulates the Acts on professional bodies involved in the construction industry (Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Engineers).

Main activities under this Programme:

- To supervise the design work for Government buildings including approving drawings and specifications.

- To monitor consulting firms on Construction work.

Achievements to date

The Directorate is implementing, administering and monitoring on average 400 to 500 individual projects annually on the Development Budget of the Government. Some larger projects (Exceeding N\$ 15 million in value) implemented and completed during the 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 MTEF period to mention but a few are as follows:

MINISTRY	REGION	LOCATION	PROJECT	VALUE - N\$	COMPLETED
MAWF	Kavango	Rundu	Construction of buildings at Ndonga Linena for the Irrigation Project in Rundu	26,471,870.00	12-July-12
MET	Otjozondjupa	Okaukuejo	Upgrading of internal roads at Etosha national park	16,650,000.00	01-April-12
MET	Otjozondjupa	Etosha National Park	Construction of Elephant Park and predator proof fence at Etosha National park	18,659,042.00	17-August-12
MGE	Khomas	Windhoek	Regional Office and Head Quarters - Juvenis building	86,312,625.00	15-March-13
MHSS	Oshana	Oshakati	Renovation and Upgrading of Oshakati General Wards	40,074,843.00	20-Sept-12
MHSS	Oshana	Oshakati	Construction of new nuclear medicine unit	25,531,625.00	21-April-12

During the 2012/2013 Financial Year a total number of **507** jobs were created that benefited Namibian nationals.

MINISTRY	REGION	LOCATION	PROJECT	VALUE - N\$	COMPLETED
ACC	Khomas	Windhoek	Construction of new Head Office for Anti Corruption Commission	59,222,040.00	02-July-13
MET	Khomas	Windhoek	Construction of new Head Office	33,888,128.00	26-Nov-13
MOD	Karas	Keetmanshoop	Military base Keetmanshoop (Phase 8)	19,213,190.00	23-May-13
MHSS	Oshana	Oshakati	Oshakati Hospital – new Maternity ward (phase 6)	55,742,024.00	25-July-13
MHSS	Omusati	Olupandu	New clinic and staff housing at Olupandu	45,698,000.00	31-May-13
MOE	Khomas	Cimbebasia	New primary school in Cimbebasia	30,578,618.00	14-July-13
MOJ	Khomas	Windhoek	New Head Office for the Auditor General	104,988,100.00	22-Nov-13

During the 2013/2014 Financial Year a total number of **556** jobs were created that benefited Namibian nationals.

MINISTRY	REGION	LOCATION	PROJECT	VALUE - N\$	COMPLETED
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MWT	Erongo	Walvis Bay	Construction of new Head Office for Maritime Affairs	18,214,973.00	04-March-14
OPM	Hardap	Mariental	Storage facilities for the Office of the Prime Minister	23,995,597.00	18-April-14
MGCW	Khomas	Windhoek	New Head Office for the Ministry of Gender, Child and Welfare	119,642,655.00	22-April-14
MSS	Omusati	Onandjaba	Class C Police Station and Single Quarters	34,093,458.00	04-March-14
MOE	Oshikoto	Omumtele	Senior Secondary School at Omuntele (Phase 2)	15,092,400.00	23-Sept-14
MAWF	Khomas	Windhoek	Extensions to the Central Veterinary Laboratory	27,188,587.00	01-Nov-14
MAWF	Otjizondjupa	Epukiro	New State Veterinary Office in Epukiro	18,666,663.00	28-Aug-14

During the 2014/2015 Financial Year a total number of **527** jobs were created that benefited Namibian nationals.

Some of the significant projects implemented, administered, monitored and completed recently on behalf of other Ministries/Offices/Agencies (O/M/A's) are the Independence Memorial Museum and Offices for the Ministry of Finance and Auditor-General.

The Department, on behalf of the Government of Namibia, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Works Department of the Government of Zimbabwe in seconding Ninety Seven (97) professionals to Namibia to assist the Department in the implementation and monitoring of Capital Construction Projects on the Development Budget.

Thus far Seventy Nine (79) professionals have been recruited on a Five (5) year contract to assist and in the same time train Namibian professionals as understudies. The Department has so far managed to deploy professionals to the regions to assist Offices/Ministries/Agencies with professional/technical advice, and to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of construction projects in the Regions.

Through the developed and implementation of timeframes stipulated in a Capital Project Cycle document that was consulted widely and distributed to Offices/Ministries/Agencies of Government, the Department managed an average implementation rate of 80% on construction projects under its mandate on the Development Budget during the last three years.

The Department revived its in-house Design Office where the planning and design of some projects will be dealt with by own professional and technical staff, reducing the cost of outsourcing all to the Private Sector.

The Department completed a study to address the low remuneration package of Professionals in Government. The study was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Department is currently awaiting a response.

Challenges:

Recruiting and retaining Namibian professionals to serve as understudies to the seconded Zimbabwean professionals remains a challenge. Despite several existing vacancies on the staff establishment, the Department is not in a position to attract and retain any candidates from the Private Sector due to a non-competitive remuneration package in the Public Service.

Residential accommodation remains a challenge in the regions for the Professional deployed to the regions since non-assigned houses have been alienated.

Programme 06: Supervision and Support Services

Operational Budget - Main Division 01:	N\$10,002,000.00
Operational Budget - Main Division 02:	N\$82,075,000.00
Operational Budget - Main Division 06:	N\$ 8,094,000.00
Development Budget:	N\$ 2,600,000.00

Purpose of this Programme:

- To provide administration support services, including budgeting, accounting of personnel affairs. The Programme is responsible to provide and manage a stable, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective ICT services and to establish and maintain a sustainable network infrastructure, the maintenance of computer software and hardware networking, maintenance and support.
- To implement a Ministerial Wellness programme to ensure that all staff members are well informed about diseases like HIV/AIDS and related sicknesses as well as the risks involved with the abuse of alcohol and risks associated with obesity, etc.

Main activities under this Programme:

- To oversee all Policies and Operations related to GRN building construction and maintenance, as well as transport infrastructure. To ensure that the objectives are achieved and policies are properly implemented. This activity is responsible for policy review and technical options and to suggest and/or approve and make public GRN Policies and Guidelines.
- To advise and assist the Minister of Works and Transport in the development of relevant policies in accordance with legislation requirements and national objectives.
- To coordinate activities and provide support services in the Ministry.
- To acquire, provide and maintain stable, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective computer related services to all staff members of the Ministry.

Achievements to Date

The management of trade accounts with regard to Government Garage, Government Air Transport Services and Government Stores has been approved to such an extent that it resulted in a turnaround in its operations from deficit to a surplus balances that was credited to the State Revenue Fund during 2014/2015.

Nineteen (19) labour related cases out of thirty one (31) were finalised. A Draft Sector Policy was developed to be approved.

During the year under review (2014/2015) the Department has achieved a 95% budget execution rate. Underneath in tabular form is a summary of Programmes, their budgeted amount, revised allocation, actual expenditure and execution rate.

Budget execution by Programme for 2014/2015

Programme	P-Code	Budget Allocation	Revised Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Execution Rate (%)
Provision of Horticultural Services to GRN Offices and service centers	1	11,559,000.00	11,609,000.00	11,053,306.00	95.2132
Provision of Stores and Printing Services	2	31,165,000.00	31,025,000.00	27,338,809.00	88.1186
Maintenance of GRN properties	3	312,358,000.00	314,110,000.00	299,778,750.00	95.4375
Provision of Office Accommodation	4	147,965,000.00	147,799,000.00	146,225,571.00	98.9354
GRN Construction Building Regulation, Coordination and Supervision	5	84,952,000.00	84,952,000.00	74,185,826.00	87.3268
Supervision and Support Services	6:01	12,160,000.00	8,279,000.00	6,347,656	76.6718
	6:02	68,725,000.00	72,038,000	68,639,093	95.2818
	6:03	6,477,000.00	5,549,000.00	4,692,895.00	84.5719
Total		675,361,000.00	675,361,000.00	638,261,906.00	94.5068

Challenges:

The Division Finance continues to face challenges with regard to clear policies and directives on financial management of State Resources, and need to improve technical skills in the fields of Accounting and Auditing.

The Division Human Resources experiences delays in the short listing of candidates for advertised positions by line departments resulting in the postponement of interviews. The Division also experiences difficulties in conducting disciplinary hearings as staff members are hesitant to chair meetings.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

QUESTIONS

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob first and foremost, I want to congratulate you on your ascendance to become the Leader of your Party.

Secondly, I want to wholeheartedly and with all sincerity congratulate you for the bold step that you have taken to raise the Old Age Pension from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00. As you might be aware, our Party has remained consistent on this matter and the fact that you have taken that bold step is worthy of congratulations. However, as you spoke very eloquently and very electrifying on the new economic trajectory of hope that we as a country must put together, I want to ask you these few questions pertinent to our economy and putting it back on a much faster trajectory.

Mr President, as a direct consequence of the provisions of the *Export Processing Zone Act, 1995* (Act 9 of 1995), our country is faced with a situation where tax revenue from individual income tax is double the revenue garnered from company tax, whereas the reverse should be true. Therefore my question:

1. Given the vast majority of companies that are granted Export Processing Zone status, particularly in the Mining Sector, in which your Government and your Administration continue to allow mining companies to extract our valuable natural resources without value addition. Will the President continue to grant this Export Processing Zone status to mining companies and thereby enable them to continue exploiting those valuable and cherish natural resources?
2. On the questions of capital outflows and again transfer pricing:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Of course, we are hearing and noticing that many international companies that are putting shop in our country are using transfer pricing as a means to avoid tax and not contribute enough to the State coffers. Since these companies are employing international tax experts to evade tax on our shores - will the President make sure that our revenue body will be equipped with tax experts to make sure that we can rake in from these needed resources that goes missing under transfer pricing?

On the question of capital outflows, Your Excellency, Mr President will your administration revisit Regulation 28 of the Pension to make sure that the billions of dollars that are leaving our country through capital outflows would be reinvested in our country for us to continue reaping benefits from the profits that are made in our Republic?

Your Excellency, I want to ask you a question on agriculture (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Can we then keep it to three because I see there are so many other hands? Just repeat the last one?

HON VENAANI: The question I want to ask Your Excellency, Mr President, has to do with the fact that farmers, not of the *redline*, are sitting with an amount of 1,600,000 herd of cattle and the reason why they are not getting fair prices for their animals is because we need to build a buffer zone between Namibia and Angola and the potential is so immense if we do that; will your administration during your tenure commit itself to building a buffer zone, to make sure that farmers north of the *redline* would receive fair and good prices for their cattle? Your Excellency, thank you very much.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Maamberua?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. Your Excellency Comrade President, I would also like to congratulate you on your election as the President of our country.

Comrade President, I have noted with appreciation, your in-depth, well informed, broad State of the Nation Address. Obviously, it covers various important issues that need to be internalised. Much as you have covered many areas, I am of the opinion that some specific issues need in-depth interrogation.

I would, therefore, in the context of your open door policy, and also if and when space and time permits, arrange to have some conversations with you, Comrade President, on the following national issues.

The first conversation is on the state of Public Financial Management but, especially on the Regional and Local Authorities. This is because of the perennial concerns, very serious concerns being highlighted in the Auditor-General Reports, particularly on the side of qualified audit opinions. Though to a less extend, this negative experience is also found at the Central Government level, I would suggest that the conversation should be around both levels - Local Government and also Central Government.

The second conversation, Comrade President, will be to deal with the issues around Genocide. Amongst other things, this could entail strategies on Reparation demands, the need for broad national discourse in an effort to conscientise Namibians in general on this important matter, and the relationship between Government and the communities affected.

Comrade President, you have touched on the land question and on that particular issue, we have actually converged ideologically speaking, and I thank you for that.

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However, the fourth conversation should actually be around the matter that seems to be illusive and that seems to have graduated to the level of what I call State Capture - and that is corruption. Over the years, the discourse around corruption has been about its manifestations but the conversations that are envisaged, Comrade President, should centre around the institution itself, whether we should resource it, the reporting channels, appointments and linkages with other accountability institutions. Those are the three conversations that I would want to pursue with yourself and your Office because in the past these conversations have yielded positive results in the spirit of broad consultations as initiated by your predecessor. It is, therefore, also my preferred approach with your administration. I, therefore, do not have a specific question today. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on to Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, my congratulations towards you and as well as to Madam Geingos for what you have achieved in your life. Thank you very much. (*Laughter*).

You have spoken very eloquently about the house and a house built on a rock. Let me take this opportunity to assure you that you have a partner in securing and ensuring that that house is functional for all its inhabitants. I pledge my full support to your Administration to achieving all the noble goals for this Nation.

I would also like to put in your head, not for an answer today, to think about the democracy aspect of our country. We have regular elections, we have good elections - and congratulations after the last elections to you and your organisation, but you must maybe improve it a bit more. Let us look into events, let us look at Governance, let us look at how we proceed

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further with regard to our democracy as a Nation. If that element comes with all the good things you have mentioned, we will have a very solid State on the African Continent.

I also think the President touched on it without spelling it out so clearly - we are a child of African Solidarity, all Africans are welcomed here and I want to use this opportunity to ask Namibians to desist and to refrain from what is happening currently in the other parts of the world, that we do not try and make other Africans victims of not feeling welcome here. They are welcome in Namibia and not try and break hands with them. Your Excellency, the question is centred around our democracy as well as the future of our elections. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to find out Honourable Speaker, if it is possible that I can speak in Nama? (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I state this very clearly? Anyone who would like to speak in any of our national languages is welcome. All that you need to do is to indicate so that we can make the necessary arrangements. You cannot just do it out of the blue. If you could have alerted me earlier, I could have made the necessary arrangements because I would like you to be understood. I am sure you are conversant in English, I am sure you can try, and I am now giving you the Floor to do that.

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you Honourable Speaker, it is not because I

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cannot speak English, I just feel confident when I speak in Nama and I accept the fact that I have not notified you of my intention early enough. Thank you very much.

I would like to ask our President, His Excellency Hage Geingob – Your Excellency, it is already 25 years after Independence and still the former TCL Workers’ Pension Fund as well as the former South West African Territorial Force (SWATF) members’ *(laughter)* Pension Fund is not yet given to them. I, therefore, wanted to find out from our President, since “*No one is supposed to be left out in Namibia,*” where are we after 25 years now? *(Laughter)* It looks like we are not Namibians.

I would like to ask His Excellency, President Geingob, so that he could take responsibility on this issue because I, and we accept that the President is Head of State and we are part and parcel of the Namibian State. Therefore, Your Excellency, I will await on you, to see what exactly you are going to do to restore these Pension Funds to the rightful owners in order to address the question of poverty in one way since, about more than 350,000 people are directly affected by that issue. Thank you very much President.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I knew you will be able to make your point and you have done it, thank you very much. I am now going to move on to Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Honourable Speaker, Your Excellency, thank you very much.

Since your Inaugural Statement at the Independence Celebration a month ago, many more interventions ever since, created a strong confidence and belief that in your hands, and able leadership, this great Nation is heading towards a new direction.

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My question, similarly to the question posed by Honourable Maamberua, is on the issue of Genocide. Your Excellency, the Motion on Genocide and Reparation demands tabled and adopted in this august House in 2006, experience a very slow progress.

Your Excellency, what is the advice and possible measures your High Office will consider in order to find an amicable solution in the best interests of the affected communities and Namibia as a whole? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Van Wyk, and thereafter, I would like to give the opportunity to the President to respond to the first round of questions and then we take up others so that we give him a bit of time. Thank you.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity to ask some questions.

Your Excellency, you have put emphasis on inclusiveness, which our country and our people really appreciate. Mr President, my question is:

In this country we have many people who were excluded by mistake, we have those who were excluded on purpose, and of course, those who excluded themselves. Now, Mr President, my question is - what measures will your Administration put in place to reach out to these people who are currently outside? (*Interjections*) I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am now going to ask His Excellency the President to respond to some of those first questions and

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then we will go for the second round, if time allows.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I used to be a Parliamentarian, and Maiden Speeches are never interrupted and you are not asked so many questions. You are welcome in a very friendly way but now I am being bombarded with so many questions (*laughter*)

I am sorry that I did not acknowledge you as the Leader of the Official Opposition Party, but I am told by the Speaker now and have it at the back of my mind. I did not say the Leader of Official Opposition, I said Leaders of the Opposition Parties - so I accept that I acknowledge you as a Leader of the Official Opposition but do not just oppose for the sake of opposing, the words must be changed.

On the tax revenue that we are losing on the EPZ status: When I was a Minister of Trade and Industry, I travelled around, initially there was some expectation that we are going to have so many EPZs and jobs will be created and so on, but when I went to Walvis Bay, there were very few EPZ companies. Some were working very well like the car manufacturing companies, but many of them closed down. Therefore, we are really losing revenue through that, because there are not so many EPZ companies since they closed down. In fact, there are less than maybe ten who are still there.

However, the EPZ status idea was started – like what middle eastern countries are doing, to allowing companies set up, manufacture and export products but creating jobs, of course, and in turn help develop our country. I must admit that that did perhaps not really work as expected because the companies are very few. When they manufacture, some of them manufacture and want to sell in Namibia, they are taxed. Automatically, they are told you will be taxed 30% because you are going to sell here. I think my Colleague, the Right Honourable Prime Minister has been there, it is not the fact that we are losing how much, but we must revisit the whole thing because it is not that effective, and therefore what we are

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losing cannot be that big too, since the companies are very few. They are actually closing down.

I must also thank you for wishing me well and claiming that you are going to challenge me and ask me questions, I heard you on Television, but you only asked very friendly questions (*laughter*).

The capital outflow and transfer pricing has been an old thing used by people all over but definitely, for instance, Stocks and Stocks used to be here, and they have a company in South Africa - I just mentioned this as an example, and they make some money here, they will definitely transfer it to their accounts in South Africa and they are not registering here.

However, again the practises so sophisticated, we now have the Stock Exchange here that ultimately links to that of South Africa electronically. We think that it is an achievement, is it not? They definitely do some transfers, how do you control that? You are, therefore, right that it is a problem but how do we solve it? It is a process that exists all over the world but our Tax Officers are definitely working very hard. There was a young man who was really working on this to show how people are cheating us, but the transferring funds out of the country is going to continue. We have to reinforced, we have to be awake. I am not saying we cannot stop it, but it is a process that is very difficult to stop because of the interrelatedness of our economy with others. We are not an island, as I said. We are connected to the international global village and South Africa is our closest ally, and we have similar things, it is very easy to take the money out. I, therefore, agree with you, something must be done.

On capital outflow I will say the same thing - in a free market economy, which we have in Namibia, capital outflow is going to continue. The Law we have right now is giving 100% foreign ownership and one of the attractions was to guarantee the movements of capital like the repatriations of dividends, and that is capital going out. Therefore, the capitalist system, that is the market oriented system that we have, is going to continue but again, we must make the facilities and opportunities available here, like create foreign investment opportunities at home here so that the people do not take their money out but invest. When you look around,

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walking around Windhoek and elsewhere, you will see Namibians Investing. Their own money is being invested, they are constructing buildings here as you will see everywhere. I thank you for making us aware that it is something we must look into, but I admit it is very difficult.

The redline is an old story. The Red line was meant for many other reasons but it was in our own interests after Independence, that we are exporting our beef to the European Union's (EU's) lucrative markets and there were diseases in that area, as they claimed. The Angolan Border was also very fluid so it was very difficult to open it up at that time because then our beef quota would be cancelled in one consideration. However, that is what I was saying when we were negotiating the EPAs, I hope you could have joined me. I was saying that the beef we are sending to the European Union is only from 2% of our population. I said rightly about millions of cattle and the populations in the north, that we are depriving them from selling or exporting their beef to where the majority of people are living. This is, therefore, something that the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is definitely seized with. Unless we also go to the Angolan side maybe that cannot work. So what you can do is to also to clean up the other side in a spirit of cooperation, that way you wipe out the diseases, and people are moving freely. Right now we are threatened by the drought, our people are already crossing over to Angola for grazing. We are neighbours and the only thing is to clean the whole mess so that we can move freely. I thank you very much.

SWANU Comrade, thank you very much for your welcome and what you have said in congratulating me. In fact, you did not ask too much but you are talking about a national dialogue. Yes, I announced that here. I talked about land but dialogue is dialogue, which can be on anything. Maybe we can have a pattern on how we do things. Let us have dialogues like that provided that we do not just oppose for the sake of opposing in the dialogue. However, when we are dialoguing as Namibian people, in a Namibian House, *One Namibia One Nation* and holding hands, I will welcome that dialogue. The open door policies is not a joke, it is a serious approach. We will pursue it with vigour and determination and you will definitely be welcome to come and discuss.

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On the question of Genocide; I was wondering whether I have to answer here or say let us have dialogue. Come and pay a visit so you can get my views because it is a sensitive matter and I would not like to be talking in public where I will be misunderstood. It is a very emotive thing, just like the land question so it will be good that we dialogue so that we can first find one another outside.

Yes, the question of our institutions that are corrupt - again I covered that, whether I talk about State National Institutions or Local and Regional, it is the same things. Auditors Reports are replete with some money not spent or returned to Treasury and some money missing but we must also be honest. I am not saying we are not honest, wherever there were cases of corruption, I keep on asking people to give me the cases - ODC, GIPF and Avid and Social Security are the three things they talk of but all of them are not swept under the carpet, they are with the Courts and they are being pursued. Therefore, we should not also over publicise ourselves as corrupt, people from outside listen to you and they mark that accordingly. I challenge them; where do we get the stigma from? This is from the Opposition and business people when they come and rate us, where we also see our President being honoured and that left some wondering - *how can he be honoured when the country is not number one*. We are saying - *we are number one* and they have seen it.

Again, I would like to have a dialogue and explain certain things to see how we can go from there. If we do not follow what we agreed outside they will open up here, but let us start it from a good position, as you have started. I will thank you there.

Honourable Bezuidenhout, thank you very much for the support that you have pledged here. Yes, I do not know where the scholars are in this country. Where are the scholars? These days, I see them, they were analysing my Speech before I delivered it, but there is no single book written about our Constitution after 25 years, analysing its shortcomings - there are shortcomings but there is no scholarly work on that. Our democracy; is providing the Party list system, is it providing proper accountability, who analyses that? Who kind of unpacks the *pros and cons*? Yes, in one instance, it is very good that some of you cannot sit

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here if we have a Constituency based election and as a small country, we want everybody to be here - I will come to the inclusion question. If we honestly did not have that, those smaller Parties would not be here, so it is a good system in the sense that we now have seven Parties sitting here. However, in a first-past-the-post voting system, the winner takes everything - we can analyse that, let us debate.

Equally, the question of many other things that I would have even raised if I was outside about our Constitution and our democracy; we cannot doubt that we have an electoral democracy and there is no question about it but it is one thing to have an electoral democracy or procedural democracy, however, it is another thing that democracy translates into basis liberties both political and civil. We do have that, but how far is it? We definitely have that, do we not have it? Let us analyse and then those who are socialist inclined, like you, would say where is the economic democracy I think we can interrogate this and see what is the best.

It is one thing, when the whole socialist system has collapsed to stand up and say you are a socialist. We will think that you are not serious because the world has changed. It is like somebody is telling me, when we have stopped the war, that the people have become serious revolutionaries and want to fight (*laughter*). Let us hold hands and move onto a new Africa.

Honourable Fleermuys, the official language in Namibia is English. I was proposing that we must declare all our languages as official, that way Parliamentarians can stand up and use any language. Now, you basically have to first give Notice, you must be prepared - bring someone to translate and say - *look I want to speak in Nama and he can translate*, that could have been much better preparation but now you lost out. You cannot ask me questions in Damara, not Damara but in Nama.

Now on the serious one question; who is actually excluded? I am saying we all belong in this House. You are in this House, you are not excluded. Here you are! So my Statement of inclusion is here. We are sitting here from different Parties, differed colours, we are inclusive, but we are not going to bring 2 million people here, therefore, let us not also take this literally and in a ridicule manner. Somebody wrote me a letter when I

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kind of thanked him for the services rendered. He was on a special contract and he wrote a letter to say - "*But you are always claiming about inclusivity, why do you let me go?*" (*Laughter*) I think we are taking it at different levels. You should, therefore, not feel excluded. As to the other Colleagues who were asking for their pension - who is asking for pension?

HON FLEERMUYS: It is me.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB: It is you, yes. Well, Honourable Fleermuys, was it the pension that your employer was deducting when you were working and, therefore, you are entitled to it? If you are talking about the time before Namibia's Independence, we as a State are supposed to inherit the State in succession, but when we did that, I think we are not accountable for what the South African Government was doing because they did many bad things. We were fighting the war against South Africans and some of the Namibians out of their own choice joined that war on the other side. Now the problem with defeat and winning is, you know what you get after the war is over, dictation comes from the victor, it will be the history of the victor – it is *his story* that is being told, so Koevoet and SWATF history is gone (*applause*). It is gone but you are sitting in this Parliament and you are not stigmatised as Koevoet or SWATF, you are accepted as a Namibian. However, to claim certain things that South Africa was supposed to give you, go to South Africa, we are not accountable for that. There is always that talk about the money and I know this issue of the N\$36,000,000 that people are talking about that was going to be given to SWATF and our President said we are creating reconciliation, why do we not share it with all those who were fighting and then Pik Botha and the Administrator General agreed to give N\$12,000,000 to PLAN Fighters and N\$12,000,000 to SWATF and kept N\$12,000,000. We never asked him whether he was going to give this to SWATF and the other things that were administered from the bank, the bank should have paid that out but to imply that we now have the money somewhere - we are not responsible for that. Maybe some people have

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just gone to South Africa to see whether South Africa can provide answers but even in South Africa, there is a new Government (*laughter*). Therefore, let us just remain as Namibians, we are Namibians. You are accepted and we are together. The pension that you are going to get from here is your pension. In fact, my pension was just paid out to me now and I was with you here (*laughter*). By serving here, you will be paid your pension.

Honourable Mbai, thank you very much for your comment. Again on the question of this Motion, if we understand properly, those who are concerned should come and see me and I will have my Colleagues so we can see where we can go. We started already, I do not want to start all over again from what I have said here last time, so let us discuss it outside, privately.

Honourable Van Wyk, I am a new comer here now, you guys are in the Parliament. Welcome to Parliament. Again, people are excluded, who are these people really? I would like to know because when I talk about inclusivity, I mean it. Perhaps you have to tell me who these people are who are outside or who are excluded? Who are they really, I would like to have a follow up question?

HON SPEAKER: Can I suggest something? Make use of the opportunity of having a private conversation like some of the Colleagues have indicated and maybe then you can elaborate on some of those issues.

Can I appeal to you? Thank you very much. I think we will have another platform where we will deal with some of those issues.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DR GEINGOB: Very good.

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HON SPEAKER: I am now going to move on because of time. Honourable !Auxab please.

HON !AUXAB: Your Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairman of the National Council, Honourable Members of both the National Council and the National Assembly, while congratulating His Excellency the President on the ascendance to the Presidency of our Republic, and having listened to the State of the Nation Address, I rise to pose three small questions to His Excellency, if I am given the consent.

Your Excellency, you have beyond all expectations increased the Old Age Pension from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00, which to me signifies the importance you attach to the poverty eradication and you went ahead and created a Ministry solely for the purpose of eradicating poverty. This is a very noble deed in our Namibian context.

My question, however, is; while the Old Age Pension has been increased to lighten the plight, the very same people are being charged rates and taxes by the Local Authority Councils and Municipalities. This in fact reverses the benefits through the increase - what is the likelihood of exempting the pensioners from paying rates and taxes or subsidising them for that matter?

Secondly, Your Excellency, you also suggested in the past week that all Ministers should not engage in any business practices, this is indeed laudable, however, could the same principle not be extended to the Members of the Parliament, all high ranking Public Servants like Permanent Secretaries, Governors, Regional and Local Councillors etcetera; to secure equal distribution of wealth to all Namibians?

Thirdly and finally, I am very concerned about the movements of most, if not, all the Government Offices from Khorixas Constituency to Opuwo

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Constituency. These institutions were providing employment to most people living in the Khorixas area. Their removal has increased the level of poverty in that area and has registered Khorixas in the stream of exclusivity. Your Excellency, are there any plans in arresting the levels of poverty caused through this act or how does your administration plan to arrest poverty, which is manmade in these specific areas? I thank you, Your Excellency.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable //Gowases please? Remove the card and then you put it back in. Okay.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, the President of Namibia, Dr Hage Gottfried Geingob, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I feel extremely honoured and privileged to be given an opportunity to make a humble contribution in the form of advice on national issues but I will withdraw all my questions in honour of your Maiden Speech (*laughter*).

However, I have only a comment to make. I bid you to accept our humble appreciation of your approach and declaration of work on poverty. As a first bold step, you started by increasing the Old Age Pension from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00. Our National Budget is aimed at eradication of poverty and the Ministry headed by Retired Bishop Kameeta speaks volumes.

Mr President, I am hopeful that you will continue the discussions with the citizens, appraising them of the progress made. You started on a right note. If your team collectively supports your vision and objectives without fear and with favour, you will make a huge contribution to ensure that our resources are better spent on improving the lives of our people.

On behalf of the Republican Party and the President, Mr Henk Mudge, kindly accept our genuine congratulations on your victory of 87% of votes

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from the people of Namibia during the Presidential Elections with high hopes and expectations. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This takes us to Honourable Shixwameni, you have the Floor.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you Mr Speaker. Your Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, I actually did not want to speak today because I thought it is the Maiden Speech since my Vice President asked me this morning, “*Are we going to ask questions?*” and I said “*no, let us give him the proverbial benefit of the doubt*” and I was not mistaken.

HON MEMBER: Can you withdraw the questions then?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was not mistaken, I think what I heard here is music to my ears and to the ears of many Namibians. All that we can do as Namibians is to stand firmly behind you and support that vision, without us negating from our responsibility as Members of the Opposition that – *yes, we shall keep a watch on you and your Administration*. I would, therefore, like to congratulate you for being elected as the President of the Republic and also for your assuming the position of Acting President of SWAPO. We shall make sure that we keep you monitored and that we evaluate all the projects. It is very important as you just explained, that we engage in a dialogue as a Nation.

We in the APP for today, promise you that you keep on holding the bull by its horns - the proverbial horns, and make sure that the bold decisions that you have announced so far are implemented. We shall be watching for the practical implementation of all the measures that you have

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announced and you have our support. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

ANSWERS

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That concludes the questions that I have taken note of. Now I call upon His Excellency the President to respond to some of those questions.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB: Thank you very much. They have now treated me as a person who has made his Maiden Speech. I expected that all of you will welcome me as a newcomer and, therefore, not put me to task of answering difficult questions but thank you very much.

Firstly, the easier way is that both the last speaker and the speaker before him did not ask questions but just made comments by way of welcoming me and giving me their support, if I do the right things. Yes, I hope we will be in touch. Whether it is the President or a Party, it is not one person that can solve all the problems, it is our House. We will live in that House, so I will welcome contributions without making you not to oppose, but there are things we have to hold hands on as Namibians. I, therefore, thank both of you very much.

Then I go to UDF, again you have welcomed me as a newcomer but you seem to be worried. You also welcomed the bold step we took to increase the pension, then you are saying, and this is not to be addressed to me only, you must address this question to all of us. We are Namibians and we have parents - where are the children of those people? Where are the family members? We are talking as if these old people are just dropped from heaven, where are their children, where are the families? In the past we did not have these kinds of pension systems, how were we maintaining our elders? Let us also interrogate that aspect. Let us start anew, including Churches and so on.

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Yes, we can maybe talk about the Government not taxing them but we have different types of Governments. We have a three tier Government, this is a national Government, there are Regional Governments where you were serving for such a long time and then now Local Authorities. The shops that may ask taxes are, if in Windhoek, in a Municipal area, so it is really an issue that we can discuss because we need the revenue too to build schools. When we are increasing the pension by such a margin, we need income from somewhere so it is a matter of *a catch 22* situation but we will make it a point to see that our old people are respected, are recognised for what they have done for us who are now running around and not helping them. All of us must also teach our children, our neighbours who do not treat their parents as old people, even going to the extent of stealing the money that they receive to go and consume alcohol with it. It is our duty, all of us, to see to it that this must be stopped.

Yes, as for taxes, I can definitely not tell you untruth, it cannot happen now because these are taxes that everybody has to pay when we are buying something. It is, therefore, difficult, it is not the Government's tax that the retailers add to their products even if we are going to take that later on, but that is how systems work, otherwise our system will collapse.

Yes, very a good question and suggestion that what we have announced must also translate to Parliamentarians. You are new here, but Parliamentarians also declare their assets. As I was saying, sometimes it is very interesting, not Comrade Shixwameni, but the socialists of these days want to remain poor forever and some of them have been working since 21st of March 1990, but they still want to pretend that they do not have anything. If that is a case then something is wrong with you. I think Parliamentarians are declaring their assets but do not declare that – *'I have nothing to declare.'* After 25 years, the form is just stating – *"nothing to declare,"* that is not declaring. Let us, therefore, declare honestly. Are you going to follow my bold example? I am living by example, I hired a company to do mine, why can we not all do it in public? Okay, I do not want to interfere with the Parliamentarians (*laughter*).

Permanent Secretaries are also supposed to get permission when they get something outside their own regular income, they declare it. However,

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what we are trying to do is, to see to it that we tighten this knot so that people do what they say they will do. We must see to it that the Permanent Secretaries and Civil Servants do not have two jobs because one will definitely suffer and mostly the Government will suffer. This thing of people sitting in their offices and running their business must stop and we mean it!

Thank you very much for the questions, I think you were very kind to me since I am a *new boy*. However, next time I will be ready to take all your tough questions. Comrade Speaker, thank you very much. (*Applause*)
