



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**BUDGET MOTIVATION SPEECH
BY THE HONOURABLE DEREK KLAZEN
MP, MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND
MARINE RESOURCES - VOTE 22
FOR THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR**

27 APRIL 2021

**WINDHOEK
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House
Committee,**

At the outset, please allow me to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency President Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia for placing me at the helm of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to the service of the people of this great Republic

By the same token, I would like to applaud both the Minister of Finance and the Director General of the National Planning Commission for a well thought out and balanced budget.

Having said that, I am delighted to stand before this Honorable House to present the Budget for **Vote 22:** Fisheries and Marine Resources and subsequently seek approval from this august House.

The amount which I seek approval from the House totals to One hundred and Ninety-One Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Six thousand Namibia Dollars (**N\$ 191,426,000.00**) for the 2021/2022 financial year of which One hundred and seventy-three million Nine Hundred and Ninety-five thousand Namibia Dollars (**N\$ 173,995,000**) is operational budget and Seventeen Million four hundred and thirty one thousand Namibia Dollars (**N\$ 17,431,000**) is Development budget.

This allocation will enable my Ministry to deliver quality services and sustainably manage the living aquatic resources and promote the aquaculture sector.

As a Ministry we remain acutely cognizant of the economic down turn that intensifies the challenges faced by many countries around the world including Namibia as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. As such, the Ministry is conscious that more than ever before it should do more with less financial resources to executing its mandate.

In the same breath I am glad to report to this august house that despite the multi-sectoral impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fishing industry remains resilient and vibrant and will continue to flourish and adopt to the new normal.

Honorable Chairperson, Hon. Members,

The Ministry is at an advance stages to developing the Blue Economy Policy and its governance framework in line with the targets and goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With this the Ministry aims to contribute to the realization of SDG 14 on life below water, and also contributes to the realization of SDG 1 and 2 which finds majestic form in Article 95(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, which provides for the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future.

In line with these objectives, the Ministry in conjunction with other line ministries responsible for developing the policy for the Blue Economy will conduct nation-wide consultations in all 14 regions in order to gather inputs from the regions to enable their incorporation into the draft policy.

Honorable Chairperson and Honorable Members,

The Ministry has 6 (six) programmes that requires funding during the 2021/2022 financial year, I now present these programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Survey and Stock Assessment

This programme conducts research in order to assess the status of the commercially exploited marine resources and provide scientific advice on the sustainable harvest levels and the required relevant management measures. Accordingly, in order to strive towards this objective, the Ministry requires funding to enable the collecting of the research data for the commercially harvested species and to maintain research infrastructure.

Additionally, routine scientific surveys and field activities will again be conducted during the 2021/2022 financial year to ensure continuity of the time series trends.

This is aimed at collecting the necessary data and parameters for determining the population dynamics and abundance of our commercially important stocks, such as hake, monk, horse mackerel, pilchard, deep-sea red crab, rock lobster, seals as well as those of the marine environment.

The continuation of time series trend is crucial for the proper assessment of the stocks and marine environment and consequently for providing the best scientific advice and the setting of the annual Total Allowable Catches (TAC) for the sustainable utilisation of these species, as prescribed by international standards.

Moreover, the Ministry will also conduct an orange roughy biomass survey in 2021 to assess the status of the resource and decide whether the stock has recovered adequately to resume commercial exploitation of this species.

Furthermore, the three-year moratorium of sardine has lapsed and a biomass survey is planned for 2021 to establish the status of this important stock and advice on the way forward.

As such, the Ministry plans to use its two research vessels to conduct these surveys and so funds need to be availed for the running, maintenance and repairs, as well as for other operational costs associated with the operations of these vessels.

It is delightful news to note that during 2020/2021 financial year the hake fishery has been conditionally certified by the Marine Stewardship Council as sustainable, a status that is expected to lead to access of our products into lucrative markets. However, in order to attain a full certification, the Ministry is required to improve its understanding of the marine ecosystem and to do so, increased research on ecosystem aspects needs to be done.

Honourable Chairperson, Hon. Members

The Programme will only be able to fulfil its responsibilities with the allocated **Thirty-Eight Million, Five Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 38, 557,000)** for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Programme 2: Human Resources Development

The purpose of this programme is to provide administrative support services such as finance, human resources, information technology and procurement to support the development and execution of assigned functions and programs.

During the 2021/2022 financial year, the programme shall continue to provide support services by maintaining ICT equipment and network infrastructure, conduct prudent financial management, fulfil staffing needs and continue to create a conducive working environment and equipping staff members with different and needed skills.

During the 2021/2022 financial year, the Ministry funded capacity building interventions including induction and trainings in order to ensure that the Ministry achieves its mandate.

For the 2021/2022 financial year, the programme requests for an allocation of Thirty-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand Namibia Dollars. **(N\$ 37,844,000)**

Programme 3: Marine and Inland Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

The Ministry carries out the function of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), to ensure that the living aquatic resources are protected. This is done through the combating of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities within Namibia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as well as on the inland water bodies.

Under the MCS programme, our law enforcement officers, the Fisheries Inspectors, carry out activities such as; Air, sea and river patrols, to monitor whether fishing activities are carried out within the ambit of our laws. The MCS Programme includes monitoring of all landings at land-based fish processing plant/facilities, ports and off port limits, as well as to conduct coastal and land patrols and inspections.

The financial resources being requested for this programme is for the maintenance and repairs of the patrol vessels, aircrafts and vehicles.

Thus, an amount of Sixty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty Thousand Namibia Dollars (**N\$ 66,820,000**) is requested for this programme.

Programme 4: Promotion of Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries

The purpose of this programme is to ensure responsible development of aquaculture and sustainable utilization of inland fisheries resources, to increase income generation, enhance food security, reduce poverty, create employment, improve rural livelihoods at household levels, and increase sector investment.

Under this programme, 8 (eight) fish farms are producing fingerlings and/or market – size fish for distribution across the country.

The fish farms are:

- Hardap Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Centre in the Hardap Region;
- Leonardville Fish Farm in Omaheke Region
- Fonteintjie Fish Farm in Karas Region
- Onavivi Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Centre in the Omusati Region;
- Ongwediva Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Centre in the Oshana Region;
- Mpungu Demonstration Fish Farm in Kavango West Region

- Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute in the Kavango East Region; and
- Zambezi Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Centre in the Zambezi Region.

During the 2020/2021 financial year, funds allocated to the centres were utilised for various activities such as research on aquaculture and inland fisheries resulting in nine **(9)** peer reviewed scientific publications. Seed production also continued with a distribution of seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-three **(728 963)** fingerlings to seventy-seven **(77)** small scale fish farmers and government fish farms. Extension outreach and advisory services were provided as well as training of one hundred and fifteen **(115)** fish farmers and students. A total of 36.32 tonnes of fish was produced from freshwater aquaculture with a value of 1.8 million Namibian Dollars. Despite, the difficult financial circumstances the Mariculture industry produced 149.5 tonnes of oysters with a total value of 11.36 million Namibian Dollars.

Wild capture inland fisheries landings from our rivers in the North were around 2000 tonnes with a value of 120 million Namibian Dollars. This high protein resource contributes greatly to regional and household food security/nutrition and income for riparian communities. A large sector of our rural people engages in subsistence inland fisheries activities. In this regard, my Ministry continuously assess the sustainable commercialization of inland fisheries in order to safeguard the resource base for those who are dependent thereon. To this end my ministry Gazetted an additional 5 fish protected areas (Fisheries Reserves) in the Kwando/Chobe system for sustainable management directly by the communities themselves to prevent external unsustainable exploitation.

Honourable Speaker, Hon. Members

In order to carry out the activities under this programme, an amount of Thirty-Four Million, Three Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (**N\$ 34,316,000**) is requested.

Programme 5: Policy and Economic Advice

The main purpose of this Programme is to advise the Ministry on the impact of fisheries policies on the performance of the sector, and report on socio-economic performance of the sector. This includes coordination of implementation of NDP5, HPP II, and finalization of the Blue Economy policy and the framework in the fisheries sector.

The management of fishing rights, analysis of socioeconomic impact of gazetted Total Allowable Catches (TAC's), Pro rata criteria evaluation and allocation of fishing quotas are coordinated through this Programme. The Programme also advises on setting of resource rent such as levies and fees payable in terms of Section 44 of Marine Resources Act, 2000, economic beneficiation and inclusivity.

Honourable Chairperson

In order to carry out activities under this programme during the 2021/2022 financial year, an amount of Eleven Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars **N\$ 11, 132,000.00** is sought for support.

Programme 6: Coordination and Support Services

The main purpose of this programme is to oversee all government policies and operation with regard to fisheries management; ensure that the objectives of the ministry are achieved and polices are properly implemented.

Honourable Chairperson and Honourable members,

In order to carry out this programme, an amount of Two Million, Seven Hundred and twenty-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars **N\$ (2,727,000.00)** required.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members

The Ministry is allocated Seventeen Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars **(N\$ 17, 431,000.00)** for the implementation of six (6) developmental projects for the Ministry. These projects produce fingerlings for the farmers in the country.

In conclusion, allow me to submit to this August House, Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resource for 2021/2022 for your consideration and approval for an amount of One Hundred and Ninety-One Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars **(N\$ 191, 426,000.00)**

I thank you