

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEES

Mrs D Sioka

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

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

Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

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

ACTING SECRETARY

Ms I Wellmann

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura	<i>(Leader of the Opposition)</i>
Mr J De Waal	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr P Moongo	
Mr M Venaani	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
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NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA

Mr A Mbai	
Mr K Riruako	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr A Tjihuiko	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA

Mr H Mudge	<i>(Party Leader and Chief Whip)</i>
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SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr L Amathila	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Rev W Konjore	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Amathila	<i>(Government Chief Whip)</i>
Mr H Booyis	<i>(Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee)</i>
Mr R Dinyando	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	
Ms L Basson	
Ms H Christiaan	
Dr H Geingob (Mr)	
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr M Amweelo	
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr S Ankama (Mr)	
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr H Hamutenya	
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>

Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Nambinga	
Mr T Nambahu	
Ms E !Nawases	
Mr A G !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr E N Tjiriang (Mr)	<i>(Minister without Portfolio)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr A P Tsheehama	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

UNITED DEMORATIC FRONT

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

NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
20 MARCH 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

SECRETARY: The Assembly is called to order. Good morning everybody. Honourable Members-elect to the National Assembly, Your Honour the Chief Justice, welcome to this morning's proceedings. We are meeting pursuant to the following legal instruments: Articles 51(1) and 55 of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 7.

Our purpose this morning is to swear in the Members-elect and also to elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker. The Chief Justice will preside over the swearing in of the Members. It is not my intention to abuse the honour bestowed by the Constitution on the Office of the Secretary by presiding over this Assembly and I, therefore, will proceed to the swearing in of the Members. The procedure will be as follows: The Members are divided into groups of ten in alphabetic order. Your name will be called and the Members will proceed to this table. You will be issued with your certificates, the Chief Justice will then swear you in and the Members will sign here in front of the Chief Justice.

When the Chief Justice reads the certificates, those who are not taking oath will say, "I affirm" and the others will say "I swear" and then we proceed and you will be repeating after the Chief Justice.

OATH/AFFIRMATION BY MEMBERS

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Honourable Ben Amathila
Honourable Libertine Amathila
Honourable Moses Amweelo
Honourable Nahas Angula
Honourable Samuel Ankama

20 March 2005

**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY MEMBERS
HON CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

Honourable Lucia Basson
Honourable Hans Booys
Honourable H Christian
Honourable Johan De Waal
Honourable Elma Dienda

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Honourable Raphael Dinyando
Honourable Jerry Ekandjo
Honourable Bernard Esau
Honourable Justus //Garoëb
Honourable Hage Geingob
Honourable Reinhard K Gertze
Honourable Michael Goreseb
Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab
Honourable Tsudao Gurirab
Honourable Petrina Haingura

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Honourable Marco Hausiku
Honourable Petrus Ilonga
Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana
Honourable Abraham Iyambo
Honourable Nickey Iyambo
Honourable Leon Jooste
Honourable Joël Kaapanda
Honourable Elia Kaiyamo
Honourable Richard Kamwi
Honourable Paulus Kapia

20 March 2005

**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY MEMBERS
HON CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Honourable Loide Kasingo
Honourable Isak Katali
Honourable Katuutire Kaura
Honourable Albert Kawana
Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo
Honourable Mburumba Kerina
Honourable Willem Konjore
Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila
Honourable Lempy Lucas
Honourable Philemon Malima

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Honourable Nangolo Mbumba
Honourable Philemon Moongo
Honourable Henry F Mudge
Honourable Angelika Muharukua
Honourable Marlene Mungunda
Honourable Peya Mushelenga
Honourable Theopoline Mushelenga
Honourable John Mutorwa
Honourable Tommy Nambahu
Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb
Honourable Eveline !Nawases
Honourable Immanuel Ngatjizeko
Honourable Rosalia Nghidinwa
Honourable Erkki Nghimtina
Honourable Utoni Nujoma

20 March 2005

**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY MEMBERS
HON CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

Honourable John A Pandeni
Honourable Kuaima Riruako
Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase
Honourable Pohamba Shifeta

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Honourable Gabriel Shihapo
Honourable Victor Simunja
Honourable Doreen Sioka
Honourable Arnold Tjiuiko
Honourable Ngarikutuke Tjiriange
Honourable Gustafine Tjombe
Honourable Peter Tshirumbu
Honourable Tjekero Tweya
Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo
Honourable Ben Ulenga
Honourable McHenry Venaani
Honourable Jurie J Viljoen

HON CHIEF JUSTICE: I would like to congratulate all the Members that have taken the oath today. Congratulations to all of you.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

SECRETARY: We will now proceed to the second phase of these proceedings and I shall forthwith call on nominations for the position of the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia. Honourable Nahas Angula.

20 March 2005

**NOMINATION OF SPEAKER
HON N ANGULA / HON DR L AMATHILA**

HON N ANGULA: Thank you, Chairperson. Let me also congratulate all the Colleagues who have joined us in this august House and to say that the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia should be led by a person who is experienced, who is mature, who is wise, who is considerate and who is consistent and above all, who is firm. The person who characterises these qualities is no other than Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab. I, therefore, present to you Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab for your consideration of the Speaker of the Fourth Parliament. I thank you.

SECRETARY: It is moved that Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab takes the Chair. Who seconds? Honourable Libertine Amathila.

HON DR L AMATHILA: I second the nomination of Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab as the next Speaker. Thank you.

SECRETARY: Are there any other nominations for this position? There being no further nominations, I hereby declare the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab as duly elected Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia for the Fourth Parliament.

Before I invite the Speaker elect to take the Chair, this is the first time in the history of the National Assembly that the baton of authority is passing from one Speaker to the other. We shall, therefore, have a small ceremony. The first Speaker will be invited to come from the dressing room and will come here in front of the table and robe the second Speaker and pass on the gavel and thereafter the Speaker elect will take the Chair. We are awaiting the first Speaker for those symbols to be handed over to the Speaker elect.

The Sergeant-of-Arms will now escort the first Speaker and the Chief Justice to the lounge. Mr Speaker, please do take the Chair.

20 March 2005

**NOMINATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER
HON HAUSIKU**

NOMINATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

HON SPEAKER: We continue with the business of the House. Next is the election of the Deputy Speaker. I now invite nominations. Honourable Hausiku.

HON HAUSIKU: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Allow me to welcome you to that very important Chair. I believe that what Comrade Nahas Angola has indicated in terms of your capabilities in leading this House for the next five years is the truth and nothing else, but the truth. We pledge our support, Comrade Speaker, in this Honourable House.

Comrade Speaker, I took the Floor to make a proposal for the position of the Deputy Speaker and I want to indicate that, indeed, this Government in general and Parliament in particular have done very well, but there is one thing that Comrade Netumbo will agree with me and that is the issue of gender. We have been lagging behind in the Region, we have been lagging behind continentally and, indeed, this is the most opportune time to start addressing that issue.

For the last five years, Comrade Speaker, we have been led by a number of female comrades and one of the female comrades who have done outstanding work in leading this House at times is known to all of us. I think it is important to give her more exposure, which will definitely enable her and the other female Members of Parliament to advance to that very honourable and important Chair.

Comrade Speaker, I am presenting the name of Comrade Doreen Sioka for Deputy Speaker and I am proposing her name with the confidence that the Honourable Members will support my proposal and elect her to the Office of the Deputy Speaker. I so Move.

20 March 2005

**ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

HON SPEAKER: The name of Honourable Doreen Sioka has been proposed for the post of Deputy Speaker. Do I hear any secondment?

HON MUTORWA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Sir, I would like to join the others by congratulating you on your deserved election as the Speaker. I do hereby second the nomination of Honourable Doreen Sioka as the Deputy Speaker of our National Assembly for the next five years. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Doreen Sioka has been nominated and seconded. Any other nominations? Hearing none, I now declare Honourable Doreen Sioka duly elected as Deputy Speaker of the Fourth Assembly of the Republic of Namibia.

Interim presiding officer, Chief Justice in his absence, dear Colleagues, compatriots and friends, bless your souls. Thank you very much indeed. I begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude and high degree of indebtedness to the SWAPO Party for nominating me as Speaker of the Fourth Assembly, especially of the National Assembly and I immensely express my gratitude to Honourable Nahas Angula for generously nominating my candidature for this high level National office.

In the same vein, I am happy that my long-time friend and collaborator, Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila, has proudly seconded the nomination. At the end of the day I bow in front of one and all, my esteemed Colleagues, for approving my candidature. Now I am the servant of you all in this august House, guided by our Constitution and the laws of the Republic, the Standing Rules and Orders of Parliament as well as, no doubt, the accumulated collective institutional memory generated by legislators over the past fifteen years of our Parliamentary democracy.

I have never been a Speaker before, save for the year-long sojourn I undertook at the United Nations as President of a historic General Assembly session from 1999 to 2000, but that was a rather familiar turf for me, as everybody knows. This one, however, is about the real nitty-gritty challenges of bread and butter,

20 March 2005

**ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

human security and social development - the challenges, in fact, of democracy, the rule of law, transparency and accountable governance.

One interesting difference is this: At the United Nations the Presiding Officer speaks at will on any subject at any time, but here apparently the Speaker's list is hostile towards the Speaker. That aside, where I now sit a great and gifted patriot sat and majestically managed the business of the House with such skilful disposition, professionalism and impartiality for a very productive, formative period of fifteen years. Dr Mosé Tjitendero set such high standards of performance and excellence as our first Speaker and in so doing he has entrenched a serious risk for his successors to emulate.

Once again, I warmly reiterate our Nation's pride in him and appreciation for his telling qualities of a true trailblazer. I shall, nevertheless, dare try my level best with his tutoring. From now on I will and at all times think, see, hear and speak from the perspective of the centre. Initially, for predictable reasons, it could be disorienting to me. In any case, I have no choice but to fast-track my mental transformation and move forward. In this I am well-served in having a veteran hand in these matters on my side. Comrade Doreen Sioka is that person. We will plan and act as a balanced team to deliver. Honourable Sioka has worked very closely with her eminent predecessor, Honourable Willem Konjore, outgoing Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. That will happily put us in good stead. We are happy to have him nearby.

To the returning and new Members alike of the Fourth Parliament, I extend sincere felicitations and best wishes and pledge my goodwill and open-door policy towards each and every one of you. Life is going to be different in various ways, but let us make it comfortable and mutually helpful for us all. The voters' choices have created this visible configuration as well as the know-how that we see in this House. We must respect their verdict as is. By the way, punctuality is a sacred dictum in the House, I want you to remember that at all times.

To staff members, the Sergeant-at-Arms and technical backup operators, all business continues as usual. The Nation expects uninterrupted management performance rhythm. That we must not shun.

20 March 2005

ADJOURNMENT

For political office-bearers, the risk of non-performance is a zero sum game. The ballot box is the final epitaph. The Political Parties know that only too well.

Lastly, the theme of the Fifteenth Independence Celebrations is, “*Celebrating a Legacy – Continuing with Nation-building.*” We must act in tandem with it. The legacy is the legacy of the all three branches of the State. I thank you.

I have some announcements to make before we adjourn. An official portrait of Members of the Fourth Parliament will be taken at the entrance to the building. I also want to leave you with this thought: Given the change that we are here to affirm in Parliament, there is an outstanding matter that we must address as soon as possible and that is the election or re-election of the Members of the Pan-African Parliament from our Parliament. We had five members and changes have taken place and, therefore, we need to decide to re-elect or elect new Members to the Pan-African Parliament, representing our Parliament.

The House stands adjourned until 5th of April 2005 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:15 UNTIL 2005.04.05 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
05 APRIL 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEW MEMBERS

HON SPEAKER: Your Lordship Chief Justice, Honourable Members, this is a special occasion to accord the Chief Justice an opportunity to carry out his responsibility by swearing in the new Members.

HON CHIEF JUSTICE: I would like to call on the following Members to come forward and to take the Oath as Members of the National Assembly: Ida M M Hoffman, Alexia Manombe-Ncube, Charles N D P Namoloh, Becky Ndjoze-Ojo and Paul Smit.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE ADMINISTERS
THE OATH TO THE NEW MEMBERS**

HON CHIEF JUSTICE: Congratulations, Honourable Members, you are now duly sworn-in Members of this National Assembly. You may take your seats.

HON SPEAKER: I have the happy duty now to thank the Chief Justice for coming, and more importantly, for having sworn in the new Members as Members of Parliament and I want to inform you that the first serious business of Parliament will commence this afternoon at 14:30. As new Members you will be expected to be here before anybody else. Congratulate again.

05 April 2005

**WELCOMING SPEECH
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 11:25
HOUSE RESUMES AT 14:30 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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

WELCOMING SPEECH

HON SPEAKER: I now suspend business for the Official Opening of Parliament by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia. Members, please rise and remain standing until we return.

Honourable Members, it is a distinct honour and pleasure for me to announce that in terms of Rule 5(2) of our Standing Rules and Orders, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba, will now open the First Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. But before I give the Floor to His Excellency, may I kindly ask Your Excellency, First Lady, invited guests and fellow Members of Parliament to kindly rise to join me in observance of a minute of silence in solemn tribute to the late Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was an extraordinary shepherd for cultural and religious reconciliation, peaceful co-existence and for a just world for all. May his soul rest in peace.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and Mrs Pohamba, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and other eminent members of the Judiciary, Honourable Members of

05 April 2005

**WELCOMING SPEECH
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

Parliament, Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, sisters and brothers.

We old-timers in Parliament, and I believe the newcomers as well feel honoured and elated on this historic occasion of the new beginning. One thinks on an occasion like this of what good fortune and longevity in public service can do for a deserving person. This is the first time ever that we have an erstwhile fellow member, lawmaker and Cabinet Minister as our Head of State and Government. One of the founding and longest serving Members of Parliament has triumphantly returned to the House today, however not as a Member of Parliament, but as the second President of the Republic of Namibia.

His Excellency, the President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba stands on a proud record of devotion of service to our people's liberty, social well-being and economic prosperity before Namibia's Independence and during the past fifteen years he served in Parliament. Your contributions, Comrade President, to social change and human dignity as freedom fighter, prolific Cabinet Minister and Executive of the SWAPO Party, the Governing party, are indelibly recorded and they will inspire Namibia's present and future generations. Our elation and sense of linkage to you, President Pohamba, are therefore well-meant. We fully cherish this moment with you and renew to you our warmest congratulations.

Both old and new Members of the two Houses of Parliament welcome this opportunity of mutual affirmation and constructive interaction. We collectively embrace the timely and promising opportunities that this new day offers. Consolidation of national unity, stability, progressive growth and systematic transformation in Namibia require upbeat mindset and smart partnerships. Institutions, laws, development strategies and capacity-building must go forward hand-in-hand and in this spirit. Authority of a duly elected Government cannot be hamstrung, but also the sanctity of the Constitution should never be compromised. Parliament is our Nation's heartbeat.

It follows from this that the doctrine of separation of powers or, alternatively, of checks and balances in our Constitution are not meant to preclude exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing among the three Branches of State. That is why we faithfully hold on to the practice of bringing the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary together on special occasions like this one. They

05 April 2005

OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA

are inseparable national institutions but they are inter-dependent according to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution.

Comrade President, your inaugural address was an enlightening *tour-de-force* of what Namibia can become and where it must be in the 21st century. When issuing your marching orders to the first Cabinet, you have strongly stressed the imperatives of restructuring, realignment and redeployment to ensuring enhanced performance and efficient service delivery. Today the Parliament is all ears to hear from you our Government's policy and legislative indicators and priorities.

It is now my distinct honour and pleasure, Excellency, on behalf of all my Colleagues present here, eminent guests and the public to welcome you once again and to invite you to deliver your maiden address to the Nation and the world.

OPENING ADDRESS

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA: Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Your Honour, the Chief Justice, Your Honour, the Judge President, Honourable Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen.

I stand here before you with a deep sense of gratitude. In recent weeks our country has witnessed momentous and historic events. The joyful celebration of our fifteenth Independence birthday has once again demonstrated to the world that the people of Namibia continue to hold dearly the values that inspired our struggle for freedom, Independence and Nationhood. Democracy in our country has grown deep roots, as demonstrated throughout the years by the holding of regular free and fair elections. These, of course, include the landmark Presidential and National Assembly elections in November, which culminated in the inauguration of our Fourth Parliament on the 19th of March 2005 and the smooth transition of power following my inauguration as the second President of the Republic of Namibia. It is, therefore, my honour and privilege to officially open the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia today.

05 April 2005

OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA

The prime role of the Legislature in our system of Government, is well-known and cannot be over-emphasised. Lawmakers are elected to articulate the people's needs, aspirations and hopes. They have a duty to turn those hopes into workable pieces of legislation as demanded by the mandate given to them by the electorate. This is a duty that our lawmakers must take to heart.

The Namibian people are looking up to you with great anticipation and high expectations to live up to the understandings and promises that were made by all Political Parties during the election campaign. Therefore, I call upon all parliamentarians to work together and put the interests of all our citizens first. Today we can look back at a proud record of achievements that we have scored in the face of formidable challenges and constraints over the last fifteen years. I view our first decade of nationhood as a period of consolidation of our institutions of Government and legal framework that underpin our multi-party democratic system of governance.

Over the years we have adopted and implemented far-reaching policies, thereby positively transforming our society and our economy. Thanks to the hard work of our Legislature, oppressive and discriminatory laws that were on our statute books were repealed and in their place, fair and human laws were enacted. These laws reflect the democratic nature of Namibia, they are also demonstrative of our determination to attain social and economic development and social justice.

In addition to the implementation of socio-economic measures to address poverty, unemployment, lack of housing and other challenges, we have also been well-served by our policy of National Reconciliation, our policy which was put in place in order to heal the wounds of the past and unite our people after decades of repressive apartheid policies of divide-and-rule.

Our Nation is founded on three strong pillars of constitutional governance, namely the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive Branches of Government. In turn, these branches are vested with distinctive as well as complementary roles which regulate their respective duties and functions in the process of governance. By bringing the three pillars of the State together, as they are present in this Chamber today, the tenacity of our democratic tradition is re-invigorated.

Namibians can be proud that for the past fifteen years we have maintained and

05 April 2005

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA**

further strengthened our constitutional order. The rights and freedoms of all our citizens are respected and our country's stature as a haven for democracy has grown in the southern African sub-continent and beyond. It is the duty of all of us in the different branches of the State to promote and enrich democracy and entrench democracy in our country, not only as a system of governance, but as a way of life. Participatory democracy and the increased involvement of our citizens are vital ingredients for the attainment of Namibia's political and socio-economic development.

If we are to attain these important objectives, we must urgently empower all our people economically. No section of our population should be left out. We should, all of us, become active participants in the development of our country. No citizen of our Republic should remain passive spectators in this process. I believe that our country is moving in the right direction. There is ample evidence in this regard.

The national elections in November last year did not only produce a higher turnout of voters, but also resulted in an increased number of young people and women being elected into office at local authority, Regional Council and at national level. In fact, the National Assembly has seen an increased number of Political Parties represented in this august Assembly. By any standard this is democracy at work.

Comrade Speaker, Comrade Chairperson of the National Council, I would like to emphasise the fact that being elected to Parliament or any other elected office, for that matter, should not be seen as an end in itself. Rather it is the beginning of hard work that demands self-sacrifice and dedication. To our new lawmakers I wish to say this: Hard work is just about to begin. I know this because I am no stranger to this House. I have spent slightly more than fifteen years as a legislator, starting as a Member of the historic Constituent Assembly in 1989 until the end of the Third Parliament. In the spirit of hard work and dedication we must jointly tackle the challenges facing us, we must build on the momentum of implementation and service-delivery created during the post-Independence period.

Our socio-economic development framework, based on national development plans, has already been developed. Thus far we have implemented the Transitional National Development Plan and the First National Development Plan. We must complete the implementation of the Second National

05 April 2005

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA**

Development Plan. The people of Namibia with great anticipation and justifiable expectations are looking up to this Parliament to find solutions aimed at alleviating their social and economic plight. Our citizens are entitled to receive services, economic benefits and social amenities as outlined in the respective National Development Plans. It is our collective duty to meet the expectations of our people. It is our duty not to fail them.

The Second National Development Plan which covers the period from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006 Financial Years will come to an end during the lifespan of the Fourth Parliament. The question that we must ask ourselves is, therefore, this: How far have we succeeded in the implementation of NDP2 and others before it? This introspection is necessary because we have an obligation to gauge the extent of progress that we have made over the years. In the same breath, therefore, our parliamentarians must start to consult their constituencies so that their views and inputs can be used to enrich the implementation of the Third National Development Plan which would start in the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

I do believe that we must always think and plan ahead if we want to achieve our development goals. The broader framework, such as the National Development Plans and Vision 2030, are already in place. However, we must continually review them with creative dynamism so that our country can effectively adapt to the ever-changing socio-economic, technological and geopolitical circumstances. There is no doubt that the assumptions that we made during the planning stage and the variables that we take into consideration do change with the passing of time. This calls for flexibility and dynamism on our part and necessitates dealing with any changes. Our policies are not cast in stone, thus we must accept the realities of continuous change in all that we do in addressing the challenges of socio-economic development in our country.

However, the winds of change should not force us to veer off our chosen path, the socio-economic challenges that we have identified in NDP1 through NDP7, that is in 2030, must be addressed head-on. Resources must be mobilised and the political will must be brought to bear in order to realise our national targets as espoused in Vision 2030. All Namibians in different spheres of our society must heed this national call to duty.

In the short-term the Government has identified immediate priorities that require urgent attention. These include the disparity in socio-economic

05 April 2005

OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBIA

development, unemployment, poverty and provision of social amenities, such as safe drinking water, electricity, housing, health services and education. To this end, I urge the Nation to support our SWAPO-Party Government's efforts aimed at revamping our educational system. This process was started under the presidency of my predecessor, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma and we must work harder to take it to its logical conclusion.

The provision of high quality of education relevant to our socio-economic development priorities is central to the success of our collective efforts in nation-building and national development.

We are committed to pursue sound macro-economic policies in order to achieve higher levels of economic growth with a view to stimulate the creation of employment opportunities for more Namibians who are now unemployed. We will, therefore, not relent in the pursuit of efficiency and abolishing of duplication of efforts and waste of scarce public resources.

The Government is fully committed to the implementation of the land reform programmes as provided for in our Constitution and the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act of 1995, as amended. This is being done through the willing seller, willing buyer approach as well as through the expropriation methods. All these is provided for under Article 16 of the Namibian Constitution. I, therefore, wish to assure the Nation that our land reform programme will be carried out according to the established constitutional and legislative procedures and guidelines.

Honourable Members, in your constituency outreach activities parliamentarians have a duty to sensitise and educate communities about these Government initiatives.

We must work together to uproot corruption, embezzlement of public funds and assets with the same resilience. Equally important, the contribution and involvement of our Legislature in these efforts is of paramount importance. Our commitment to the attainment of our goals must be total and our political will must be harder than steel.

Honourable Members, the HIV/AIDS pandemic is no longer a health problem, it has developed into a socio-economic problem with devastating results. The sad reality of funeral processions has become a common sight in many

05 April 2005

OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA

communities. Our Nation must, therefore, rise together to stop the deadly march of this disease across our land. Lawmakers, as representatives of our people, must take the lead and spearhead the information and education campaigns to sensitise our communities, particularly our youth, against the dangers of the pandemic. There cannot be any exception. Civil societies, churches, the private sector and traditional leaders must all join hands to reverse the destructive impact of HIV/AIDS on our society. The Government will continue with the implementation of the National AIDS Control Programme, while at the same time mobilising support from our development cooperation partners.

I urge our lawmakers to not only concentrate on new pieces of legislation that will be tabled, but also to study existing laws with a view to plugging any loopholes and removing bottlenecks through amendments and other legislative measures. In this manner we can strengthen our laws and serve our people better, for we govern on their behalf and it is their mandate that legitimise the very existence of this august Chamber.

It is a source of pride that our Parliament has gained a commendable reputation within the Region and internationally over the years. I, therefore, urge you to continue to strengthen the positive interactions and cooperation with the SADC Parliament Forum, the Pan-African Parliament, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the International Parliamentary Union. Our country subscribes to the principles of these institutions in the promotion of democracy and good governance.

I am informed that the Fourth Parliament will have a very hectic legislative agenda. There are about twenty-two Bills that the First Session alone will consider. These include:

- State-Owned Enterprise Bill;
- Magistrate Courts Bill;
- Small Claims Courts Bill;
- Auditor-General Bill;
- State Finance Bill;
- Drugs and Abuse Control Bill;
- Children's Status Bill; and
- Tender Board Bill.

05 April 2005

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you a successful term as Namibia's lawmakers for the next five years. The people of Namibia are looking up at you and expect you to live up to the mandate that they have given you. I trust that you will carry out your noble national duties diligently in the interest of our country and all her people.

With these many words, I now have the honour and the pleasure to declare the First Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia officially open and I thank you all.

HON SPEAKER: We have heard you loud and clear, Your Excellency. A rain giver President can indeed be the best champion for reforms in Namibia and you have spelled them out. You have also stressed that our political will must be harder than ever. I give the Floor to my Colleague, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, to express a Vote of Thanks on behalf of all of us.

VOTE OF THANKS

HON CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: Your Excellency, Comrade President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members of Parliament, allow me to express a word of gratitude at this historic occasion; historic in the sense that it symbolises the transition from the Founding President to the incumbent in the person of His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba. It is, therefore, my distinct honour and privilege to thank you, Your Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia, for your inspiring, educational and motivating speech.

Your Excellency, we parliamentarians are grateful for your inspiring and encouraging words and will do our utmost to perform our duties in the interest of the Namibian people.

05 April 2005

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERER**

Let me further make use of this opportunity to thank His Lordship the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary. I want to thank you for your continuous support and services to Parliament. The Republic of Namibia is established on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. These sound principles have enriched our lives as a Nation and continue to strengthen our democratic tradition. For our country and democracy to flourish, we as lawmakers need to continue making good laws to jealously govern the business of the public and private institutions as well as individuals. Corruption is a deadly evil which is gradually eroding our moral values, but we need to fight and eradicate it with water-tight laws before it becomes chronic in our system.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have always known His Excellency Comrade Pohamba as a dedicated cadre who adds value to the processes that underpin our aspirations as a Nation. This is evident from his brave and selfless contribution throughout the liberation struggle. He further illustrated the same quality of character during his fifteen years as Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister. I am, therefore, strongly convinced that Namibia will prosper under his leadership as Head of State.

Your Excellency, Comrade President, your call to the Nation, Parliamentarians and public institutions is loud and clear and we as parliamentarians pledge to support you in our quest to attain economic, social and political development as well as to fight against hunger, unemployment, corruption and other social evils facing our country.

My further vote of gratitude goes to you, Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps for having responded positively to our invitation and for making our day a success. I would not want to forget expressing our deep appreciation to the members of our Security Services, cultural groups and our Parliamentary service staff for all the wonderful services they have rendered today.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament the constitutional obligation placed on our shoulders requires vigorous and collective effort from us to advance the ideals expressed by His Excellency the President in his Opening Speech. These ideals should serve to strengthen our resolve to build a prosperous Namibia. Let us all translate this resolve into action and take Namibia to greater heights. I thank you.

05 April 2005

ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: I thank you, dear Colleague, for your very thoughtful Vote of Thanks. May I now ask the Honourable Members to rise and remain standing to allow me to escort His Excellency out of the Chamber.

Honourable Members, I wish to announce the following: Members of Parliament and the Judiciary are invited to a photo session in front of the building. The induction programme will start tomorrow in this Chamber and will end on Thursday. Programmes are distributed. Before I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the Assembly, I wish to extend an invitation to all Members and invited guests to attend a reception in the Parliament Gardens. I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until 10 May 2005.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am proposing an adjournment until the 10th of May 2005.

HOUSE ADJOURNS UNTIL 2005.05.10 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
13 APRIL 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEW MEMBER

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in terms of Article 32(5)(c) of the Namibian Constitution, the President has nominated Mr Raymond Reginald Diergaardt as a sixth Member of the National Assembly. I call on the Member to escort Mr Diergaardt in. I now call upon the Judge President to administer the Oath to Mr Diergaardt.

HON JUDGE PRESIDENT administers the Oath/Affirmation to:

Mr Raymond Reginald Diergaardt

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Judge President. I hereby declare Mr Diergaardt as a duly elected Member of the National Assembly. Congratulations and welcome back to Parliament.

HOUSE ADJOURNS UNTIL 2005.05.10 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
10 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in terms of Article 49(2) of the Namibian Constitution, SWAPO has nominated Mr Jeremia Nambinga to fill the vacancy which occurred in the Assembly as a result of the resignation of Mr Malima. I now call upon the Honourable Chief Justice to administer the Oath or Affirmation to Mr Nambinga.

OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEW MEMBER

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE: I call upon Mr Nambinga to come forward and take the Oath as a Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia.

**CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE ADMINISTERS
THE OATH TO HON NAMBINGA**

HON SPEAKER: I hereby declare Mr Jeremia Nambinga as a duly elected Member of the National Assembly. Welcome back to the House. May I request the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Chief Justice out of the Chamber. Thank you very much, Chief Justice. I have the distinct honour, on behalf of the House, to recognise the presence of the Honourable Magango, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

10 May 2005

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SMIT**

Honourable Members, the seating arrangements you have is on a temporary basis. In the fullness of time, sooner than later, I trust I will come back with a final format in this regard. In addition, since we are at the beginning of our business of the Fourth Parliament, I want to stress punctuality at the beginning and full presence of all Members of the House until we have disposed of the business for the day. Elsewhere I succeeded in stressing punctuality, I want to succeed in doing so here at home.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Deputy Minister.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS OF MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development for the Years 2002/2003 as well as 2003/2004.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

10 May 2005

TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA

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

1. Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2003;
2. Regional Council for the Oshana Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 1999;
3. Regional Council for the Otjozondjupa Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 1999;
4. Regional Council for the Oshikoto Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 1999;
5. Ministry of Health and Social Services for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2002;

I also lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Bank of Namibia for the year 2004.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 19 May 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Education:

1. Is it true that NANCA Projects was granted the tender to renovate schools at Iiheke ya Nekela in 2003, Onyuulaye in 2004 and Ipumbu Secondary School 2003?

10 May 2005

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

2. Is the Minister aware that thirty workers of this project have not been paid and that the blame is directed to the Governor?
3. Was the contractor paid by the Government for the work done?
4. If the contractor was paid by the Government for the renovation, could the Minister inform this House what was done to ensure the funds were appropriated correctly?

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 19 May 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services:

1. Is it true that the switchboard operators and radiation operators in the Oshakati Hospital are paid similar salaries to that of the cleaners while operators in the same Region are paid better salaries?
2. What criteria are used to determine the salaries of the switchboard and radiation operators?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 12th of May 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

1. In view of the fragile labour market in our country, especially the Fishing Sector, what is our country's national unemployment rate in terms of percentage during the last Financial Year?
2. How many job losses are expected to be lost in the Fishing Sector in the short-term?

10 May 2005

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON NGATJIZEKO**

3. When would the Government organise a national job summit to address the current unemployment crisis in which our Nation finds itself?

HON VENAANI: I further give Notice that on Thursday, 12 May 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Finance the following:

1. What happened to the recommendations by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration on the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme which was adopted by the Third National Assembly late of last year?
2. The AgriBank's new board of directors has proposed new recommendations regarding the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme to Cabinet for perusal and adoption. When will these new recommendations be tabled before this House?
3. When will the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme moratorium be lifted for farmers to continue acquiring the needed commercial farms?

HON SPEAKER: Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 17 of May 2005, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to establish the Accreditation Board of Namibia; to provide for the accreditation on conformity assessment of certain bodies in Namibia; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

10 May 2005

NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON N ANGULA / HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion?
Any other Notice of Motions?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that
tomorrow, Wednesday, 11 May 2005, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

In terms of Article 114(2) of the Namibian Constitution recommends that
Honourable Loide Kasingo and Hans Booyes be members of the Security
Commission.

In terms of the same Article the National Assembly is required to recommend
these nominations to the President for appointment.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Honourable Amadhila.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on
Thursday, 12 May, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to appropriate amounts of money to
meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending
31 March 2006.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

10 May 2005

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON B AMATHILA**

HON B AMATHILA: Mr Speaker, I Move as an unopposed Motion –

That this Assembly expresses its heartfelt condolences with the family of Honourable Reverend Konjore whose mother passed away on the 5th of May 2005.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Message from the Head of State? Any Ministerial Statements? I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It is my honour to propose that this august House adjourns until tomorrow, Wednesday, the 11th of May 2005.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:00 UNTIL 2005.05.11 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
11 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON KAURA: I give Notice that on the 17th of May 2005, I shall Move-

That the following places be restored to their pre-colonial indigenous names:

Windhoek – Otjomuise; Tsumeb – Okavisume; Gobabis – Epako; Kamanjab – Okamanja; Karibib – Otjandjomboimwe; Usakos – Okanduu; Swakopmund – Otjozondjii; Walvis Bay – Ezorongondo; Grootfontein – Otjivanda.

The House is encouraged to add other names to the list. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The First Notice of Motion is by the Honourable Prime Minister.

Does the Honourable Prime Minister Move the Motion?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move the Motion.

11 May 2005

**NOMINATION TO SECURITY COMMISSION
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Prime Minister please motivate the Motion?

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
SECURITY COMMISSION**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Article 140 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia makes provision for the establishment of the Security Commission. It further stipulates that the Security Commission shall have the function of making recommendations to the President on the appointment of the Chief of the Defence Force, the Inspector General of Police and the Commissioner of Prisons and such other functions as may be assigned to it by Act of Parliament.

The Security Commission shall consist of six members who are the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, the Chief of the Defence Force, the Inspector General of Police, the Commissioner of Prisons and two Members of the National Assembly appointed by the President on the recommendation of the National Assembly.

Currently the Security Commission is not functional, hence only three members, the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission, the Chief of the Defence Force and the Commissioner of the Prisons, which do not form a quorum. Due to new developments within Government, which led to the appointment of the former Inspector General of the Police as Director General of the Namibia Central Intelligence Services, this position was left vacant. In addition the two Members of the National Assembly who were members to the Security Commission have also been affected by new developments in Government.

The Namibian Police is not functioning in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia due to the vacant position of the Inspector General. In order to appoint the Inspector General of the Police there is a need to properly constitute the Security Commission.

11 May 2005

**NOMINATION TO SECURITY COMMISSION
RT HON N ANGULA**

It is now my pleasure to table before this august House the names of Honourable Comrade Loide Kasingo and Honourable Comrade Hans Booy's for your recommendation to the President of the Republic of Namibia to appoint them as members of the Security Commission.

For your information, Comrade Loide Kasingo is suitable and is recommended to serve on the Security Commission due to her broad experience and know-how abilities. The position she held in the past makes her suitable to be recommended. In 1971 she passed her matriculation examination at Ongwediva High School and in 1974 to 1978 she obtained her B. Juris Law Degree at the University of the North in South Africa. In 1980 to 1981 she obtained a Certificate of Parent Effectiveness Training. In 1983 to 1984 she enrolled at the Institute of Marketing Management in South Africa and passed Statistics, Marketing, Economic Business Law, Consumer Behaviour and Business Communication Diploma. In 1987 she obtained an additional Diploma in Training Methodology for Trade Unions at the International Labour Organisation Centre in Italy and in 1990 obtained another Diploma in Development and Adaptation to Trade Union Training Material.

Comrade Loide Kasingo served on different committees as a trade union educationalist, Treasurer of NAPWU, Deputy Treasurer of National Union of Namibian Workers, attended conferences, seminars and workshops where she represented Namibia on many occasions. On 12 September 1996 she became a Member of Parliament and was appointed Deputy Minister of Regional, Local Government and Housing. In 1999 to 2004 she was re-elected as Member of Parliament and was appointed as Deputy Minister of Home Affairs. In 2005 she was elected as Member of Parliament, the position she currently holds.

Currently Comrade Kasingo is busy with her thesis on Criminal Justice in Namibia towards the completion of her Masters Degree in Law.

Comrade Hans Booy's, on the other hand, is suitable and is recommended to serve on the Security Commission due to his vast experience. The experience he possesses will add value to the decision-making process in the Security Commission.

In 1969 he completed his secondary school at Cornelius Goreseb. He applied for a bursary with the Department of Bantu Trust and successfully studied Electricity. He took up employment in Khorixas as a trainee electrician. In

11 May 2005

**NOMINATION TO SECURITY COMMISSION
HON ULENGA**

1974 he went to South Africa and attended Polokwane Trade School. On completion he worked for Khorixas Administration and as arrested in May 1979 in Gobabis until 1980. In 1982 he joined the non-Governmental organisation called Namibia Literacy Programme and covered the following places: Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Ongwediva, Tsumeb, Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo, Windhoek, Mariental and Keetmanshoop. From 1984 to 1988 he attended Namibia Independence Talks in Lusaka and Kabwe. In 1989 he headed Resolution 435 UN Elections Directorate for the north-western Regions for SWAPO with Khorixas as the centre. In 1993 he served on the Board of Telecom Namibia and Post Telecommunication Holding Companies, respectively. In 1993 until 2002 he served as SWAPO-Party member on the Central Committee. He served as a SWAPO-Party secretary for transport. As a Regional Commissioner he attended several workshops and seminars in and outside Namibia.

Comrade Hans Booys joined the National Assembly in 1999 and is still a Member. He served on the following Parliament Standing Committees: Legal and Constitutional Committee as the Chairperson; Standing Rules and Orders as a Member; Standing Committee on Public Accounts as a Member; Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security as a Member; the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as a Member. Currently he is a Member of Parliament and is serving as a Deputy Chief Whip and Deputy Chairman of the Whole House Committee.

It is against this background, Honourable Members that I submit to you to recommend these two Honourable Members to the President to be appointed as members of the Security Commission. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Prime Minister. Any further discussion? Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to say briefly, with regard to the Motion before the House, that the Security Commission is indeed a very important institution of State and we agree that it is high time that this function is carried out and we do our task as soon and quickly as possible.

11 May 2005

**NOMINATION TO SECURITY COMMISSION
RT HON N ANGULA**

We have looked at the two names provided and from the CoD's side these are people that we have known for a long time and had a chance of working with, especially here in the House but also people that we know from their past activities in society. Therefore, I am confident in saying that we do not have a problem with the two nominations.

I am also sure that the two names and the two persons whose names have been put before the House happen to be members of the SWAPO Party and the SWAPO Caucus, in this case just by coincidence. Or perhaps I can put it the other way around, the fact that they also happen to be SWAPO MPs is by mere coincidence, it is not because they have been nominated here and we support them just as such. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Does the Prime Minister wish to say anything?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I wish to thank *Honourable Ulenga* and other distinguished Honourable Members who have approved my proposal by consensus. Let us work on consensus all the time, no divisions. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. Any objections? Agreed to. The Motion is adopted. That being the business of the House for this afternoon, I call on the Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, it is now my distinguished honour and privilege to request the Speaker to adjourn the House until tomorrow, 14:30, to come here and listen to the Budget.

11 May 2005

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon,
14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:00 UNTIL 2005.05.12 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
12 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: May I, on behalf of this august House, extend on this day our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Namibia's Founding Head of State and Government, Dr Sam Nujoma, on his 76th birthday. We wish President Nujoma good health, abundant happiness and all-round success in his brilliant academic pursuit that will serve the interests of the people of Namibia.

ANNOUNCEMENT: OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Presidential and National Assembly elections were held on 15 and 16 November 2004. On the 10th of March 2005 the High Court ordered the recount of the votes cast for the National Assembly in the November 2004 election. The Chairman of the Electoral Commission announced the results of the recount on 16 March 2005 with no changes to the allocation of seats as announced in the November 2004 elections. The results of the recount were as follows:

Party	No. Of Seats:
SWAPO	55
CoD	5
DTA	4
NUDO	3
UDF	3
MAG	1
Republicab	1

Against this background, I received a request in writing from the Congress of Democrats to be recognised as Official Opposition on the basis that they are

12 May 2005

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the largest Minority Party. I brought that request from the CoD to the attention of the Management Committee of this House, namely the Standing Rules and Orders Committee. The Committee considered the request and decided that it was in order and consistent with practice and convention of this Parliament as well as other Commonwealth Parliaments, that is that the Party with the largest minority of seats be recognised as the Official Opposition. I, therefore, declare the CoD as the Official Opposition of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. So decided.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of –

1. The Department of Works of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2002;
 2. Department of Transport of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2002;
 3. Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2002;
 4. Electoral Committee for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2003.
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12 May 2005

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Schimming-Chase.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 19 May 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions;

A few months ago Cabinet announced that it had received the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the DBC and Amcom and that the said Report will be tabled in the House.

1. When will the Report be tabled?
2. Can such tabling of the Report be seen as a precedent and that all outstanding Reports of Presidential Commissions of Inquiry will now be tabled in this House in due course?
3. Since we will be debating the Appropriation Bill within the next two weeks and Vote 01 being the Vote of the Presidency, will be discussed, will it be possible to provide the House with the said Report before then?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I further give Notice that on the 19th of May 2005 I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting the following questions:

Since Cabinet authorised the sum of N\$16 million to finance the making of the Film "*Where Others Wavered*", there has been continued speculation about the financial affairs of this project. In order for this House to have an accurate Report on this matter instead of paying attention to newspaper reports, the following questions arise:

12 May 2005

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
ULENGA**

1. Was the N\$16 million a once off amount or is it intended to make more money available from Cabinet?
2. If yes, how much more of the taxpayers' money will be appropriated for this project and will there be a limit or a ceiling and is a budget available?
3. Will the findings of the audit which has been conducted regarding the finances of the project be made available to this august House before we will be expected to authorise any further funding?
4. As is common practice in the Film Industry to receive financial backing from business community and others with agreements to share in the profits of such projects, is this being done with regard to this project or is the expectation that the taxpayer will continue to foot the total bill?
5. If the latter is the case, will the taxpayers or, indeed, their elected representatives in this august House, have the opportunity to debate and decide on whether this project should take priority over other issues, for example, health, education or old-age pensions, to name but a few.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?
Honourable Ulenka.

HON ULENGA: I give Notice that on Thursday, 19 May 2005, I shall ask the Prime Minister the following questions:

With reference to recent newspaper reports concerning allegations of security threats against certain specific Government or State officials, can the Prime Minister confirm or deny to this House that –

1. Investigations have recently been initiated concerning possible threats to the security of the President or that of any of the Government Ministers?

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

2. If so, at what level have the investigations been initiated?
3. Have such investigations been concluded or are they still ongoing?
4. What have been the results of such investigations?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION
AND FIRST READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

SECRETARY: *Introduction and First Reading: Appropriation Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to.
The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I rise in this Honourable House this afternoon in fulfilment of the statutory provision that requires me to present to this august House Estimates of Income and Expenditures for the Account of the State for the year ending March 31, 2006 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 Financial Years for your approval.

Honourable Speaker, this is the first Budget to be presented to the Fourth Parliament. Namibia witnessed major political events during 2004, namely the National Assembly and Regional Councils elections, as well as the smooth transfer of power from our Founding Father, Dr Sam Nujoma, to the current President, His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba. This is a remarkable achievement for our democratic system and our country. I therefore wish to congratulate Namibia for this achievement. Sincere congratulations also go to His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for receiving the honour of becoming the second President of our Republic.

In the same vein, I wish to express my profound gratitude to Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, our Founding President and the Father of the Namibian revolution for his selfless service to Namibia and its people and I believe in doing so, I speak for all Namibians. Namibia shall remain forever indebted to him for the selfless sacrifices that he has made for this country. I also wish to join other Namibians in expressing best wishes to Comrade Nujoma on his 76th birthday and to wish him good health and a very long and prosperous life.

In my Budget statement a year ago, I explained the hard choices to be made in the reform of the Budget process, from input-base to allocation-base on what we get for the value of our money and moving from how much each Ministry should get to the benefit that will accrue to our citizens. My speech will set out

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the fiscal and economic background of this Budget. I will then set out expenditure decisions in the Budget, using programme budgeting and the Medium Term Plan. I will then lastly set the fiscal consequences of those decisions and how we intend to further improve financial management.

Fiscal Policy as a Tool for Economic Management:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, fiscal policy is an important tool for economic management. It is a known fact that there exists a mutual dependence between fiscal policy and economic performance. Tax revenue, which is the main pillar of Government revenue sources, is directly linked to economic performance. It moves in line with economic performance.

In contrast to Government revenue which moves in line with economic activity, expenditure depends directly on the discretionary policy of Government. For the past years a major share of Government expenditure has been current expenditure, of which personnel expenditure was the main component. However, strict expenditure control measures which Government has put in place have greatly contributed to expenditure not increasing significantly since 2003/2004.

Within this mutual dependence of economic activity and fiscal policy, the Government pursues to achieve fiscal objectives through its revenue and expenditure policies. The National Development Plan outlines the Fiscal policy of Government. The objectives of fiscal policy are to foster growth and human development and at the same time to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability.

Our fiscal policy has been successful. Namibia has enjoyed stable economic growth since Independence. In the past fifteen years we have at least partly addressed the disparities in social and economic development that we inherited and we are continuing to do so. Improving educational attainment, health services and providing basic housing and infrastructure were our priorities. It is a well-known fact that a healthy and educated people are the backbone of economic development. Therefore, the investment undertaken for the past fifteen years will improve the well-being of all our citizens and result in more economic activity.

Throughout these years our spending was geared towards the attainment of our

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

national development objectives as outlined in the National Development Plan and we will continue to do that. We have managed to address these needs while maintaining fiscal sustainability. Even though our debt level seems to be high, it is still manageable and sustainable compared to international benchmarks. The current public debt stock is the result of what Government has experienced in the past fifteen years in addressing the disparities and covering priority areas in education, health, housing and infrastructure, amongst others.

The role of Fiscal Policy in promoting development can be seen through its effects on growth and more broadly, through its impact on social development. Over the medium term the Government will ensure a sound public finances management, resulting in a minimal gap between revenue and expenditure. This means that the Government meets its key priorities, while avoiding an unsustainable burden of public debt. For that strict fiscal discipline will be required to produce sustainable levels of expenditure which will require Ministries to spend within their ceilings.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia is integrated into the global economy through trade links and capital flows. This integration brings opportunities, but it also is a source of potential risk. The prospects for the global economy in general and for Namibia's trading partners, in particular, are an important determinant for the demand for Namibia's export products and thus for our economic growth.

World output is estimated to have grown by a strong 5,1% in 2004 and the prospects for 2005 are promising. However, growth in this year will be hampered by the high oil prices due to high demand for energy, as well as by a weak US Dollar. Altogether these lead to a world output growth projection of 4,3% in 2005.

Economic growth in Africa is estimated to have reached 5,1% in 2004, *albeit* with considerable variations across the continent. Growth was generally supported by improved macro-economic stability, a general rise in global commodity prices and the large expansion in oil production. These favourable conditions are expected to prevail in 2005, leading to an average growth of GDP of 5%.

Neighbouring South Africa is the largest economy in Africa. Domestic

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

demand is expected to drive the economy, which is expected to expand by 4% in 2005. Most of Namibia's other neighbouring countries are also expected to witness a strong GDP growth in 2005 and 2006.

The growth prospects for Namibia's main trading partners in 2005 will have a positive impact on the domestic economy. Demand for export products, such as minerals, fish and beef, is expected to be strong, given the economic growth in the various destination markets in the US, Europe and Asia.

The stable macro-economic conditions in the neighbouring countries will contribute to a favourable business climate in the Region. In the period between 2001 and 2003, the Namibian economy enjoyed a stable macro-economic environment, which has led to an average expansion of real GDP by 2,9% per year. The estimates indicate a strong increase in real GDP growth to 4,4% in 2004, receiving a major boost from a surge in mining activities. A stable monetary environment was also conducive to the solid economic growth. Inflation slowed down from 11,4% in 2002 to 7,2% in 2003 and this downward trend continued as inflation reached an average of 3,9% in 2004.

Interest rates also declined significantly, with average prime lending rates dropping from 15,6% in January 2003 to 10,7% at the end of 2004. Bank rates followed a similar trend, falling from 12,8% to 7,5% over the same period. This positive trend enhances business expansion and our private sector is called upon to make full use of the opportunities created by these positive developments.

The prospects for the domestic economy over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period are promising. The economy as a whole is expected to record an average growth rate of about 4% between 2005 and 2007. The sectors driving the growth are mainly agriculture, mining, post and telecommunications, tourism, trade and manufacturing. In addition, a positive world economic outlook, especially for Namibia's major trading partners, will support growth as trade links strengthen and new opportunities emerge.

Primary industries remain the stronghold of the Namibian economy in terms of both production of exports, products and employment creation. These industries are expected to grow on average by about 3% during the period 2005 to 2007.

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Recent years have seen an expansion of secondary industries into activities such as textile and apparel production, mineral refinery and diamond cutting. Over the medium terms these industries are expected to grow on average by more than 5% per year.

Tertiary industries play an important role in the Namibian economy and their contribution to GDP remains the highest at more than 50%. On average, tertiary industries are expected to grow by 4% between 2005 and 2007.

The review of the Namibian economy and the outlook for the upcoming years sketch the environment in which fiscal policy operates. The economic conditions in the various sectors of the economy affect revenue collection and public spending, on the other hand influences economic activities in the other sectors.

External Sector Developments:

Namibia's external sector situation continues to be unfavourable because of high levels of imports compared to exports and high capital outflows. Although Namibia has been experiencing a positive current account balance, this is mainly as a result of receipts from the SACU pool. This dependency on SACU receipts is, however, unsustainable, especially in view of the SACU trade liberalisation.

The free trade agreements that we are currently pursuing through SACU will also reduce the size of the common revenue pool and with that, our share from the pool. This in turn increases the risk of current account deficits. Namibia must, therefore, become aggressive in promoting its exports in order to compensate for these envisaged losses.

The high capital outflows are mainly in the form of pension funds, life insurance assets and unit trusts. In 2004, these outflows amounted to N\$3,7 billion, compared to N\$3,2 billion in the previous year. These outflows deprive the country of the much-needed funds for investments and in effect retard the national efforts to expand the economy. It is, therefore, imperative that this situation is reversed in order to utilise these national savings towards local investment.

Exchange Rate Developments:

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

The Namibian Dollar continues to appreciate against major international currencies, especially the US Dollar, reaching levels of N\$5,90 per one US Dollar at the beginning of 2005. Recently it has been hovering around N\$6 per one US Dollar and this situation is expected to persist for a while.

Financial Sector Development:

The Banking Sector in Namibia continues to be dominated by commercial banks whose lending is mainly on short and medium-term basis. This creates a gap in long-term funding that is required for large private investment that could expand the economy and create employment opportunities. Coupled with the gap in private development financing is the persistent problem of restricted access to finance for small and medium enterprises due to the undue risk averseness of commercial banks. Some positive developments have been observed where some banks and other financial institutions have established special funds to finance strategic investments in SMEs. These developments are, however, new and are yet to have an impact and they are also small in size.

It is worrisome that banks remain excessively stringent in their security requirements that are creating hardships for SMEs who seek to access financing. In addition, some financial institutions seem to target only Government with these funds and where private projects are funded, full exposure risk is passed on to Government through requirements for State guarantees, so that banks enjoy handsome profits while sharing no risk. Surely no serious investor can expect to have no risk and our financial institutions are requested to revisit this practice which no doubt will retard national efforts to expand the economy. I am in no way advocating that prudential requirements be thrown out the window, what I am saying is that actions that create artificial barriers for investors are definitely not supportive of national development efforts and are, therefore, unwelcome.

I must also express my concern with the high fees levied by our banks for services rendered. These have crippling effects on the banking customers and especially SMEs and the sector is called upon to ensure that their fee structures are fair and are supportive of business expansion.

Micro-financing:

The micro-finance area has experienced some new initiatives which could fill a

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

crucial gap in credit financing. These entail credit schemes for micro and small projects which are currently not catered for by existing private banking institutions. These schemes will play a critical role in promoting income generating activities, especially amongst women and the youth who are hardest hit by poverty and unemployment.

The Usury Act has been in operation since 1968 and has not been aligned to cater for new developments. As a result, persons who borrow money are not always adequately protected against unscrupulous operators out to make quick profit. To properly legislate for these needs, the Usury Act is in the process of review. Other pieces of legislation that are up for amendments are the Stock Exchange Act, the Unit Trust Control Act and the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority Act.

Development Bank of Namibia:

The Development Bank of Namibia was launched in April 2004 to address the gap in development financing and to spearhead Government's economic empowerment policy. In its first year of operation, emphasis was on establishing an entity that is based on best practice to ensure that the Development Bank of Namibia remains at all times a viable development finance institution. The Bank has developed a number of key policies to provide guidelines and a framework within which it operates. These include the board rules, lending policies, risk management framework policies, investment policy, procurement policy as well as human capital policy and regulations.

The Special Development Fund of the Development Bank is to support SMEs and economic empowerment. The rules for this Fund were approved on November 2004, setting the stage for the entity's operationalisation. The Special Development Fund will play a significant role in boosting SMEs capacity to contribute to job creation. In the first five months since the Bank's launch in April 2004, it has received 187 requests for funding from SMEs. On average, the Bank receives forty requests from SMEs per month. By the end of April 2005, the Bank has appraised close to fifty applications for finance. The total project cost of these projects amounts to N\$1,4 billion, of which 58% is requested from the Bank. The average loan size requested is N\$13 million.

We are encouraged by the expressed interest from international and local

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

financial institutions to pursue cooperation with the Bank. We will continue to encourage the translation of such interest into practical activities to support local investment and strengthen the capital and technical capacity of the Bank. Under this Medium Term Expenditure Framework, N\$200 million are earmarked for the capitalisation of the Bank and its Special Development Fund. A further boost to the Bank's capital base is expected from the transfer of the assets of the Development Fund of Namibia whose cash balance amounts to some N\$120 million.

AgriBank:

The new Board of Directors for AgriBank was appointed in October 2004 and a new Chief Executive Officer took office in February this year. Amongst the priority issues receiving the attention of the board of the Bank and the Government are the Agricultural Valuation Formula of commercial farmland and the Government guarantee to affirmative action loan beneficiaries.

The principles of productivity, sustainability and affordability need to be applied appropriately and vigorously when approving affirmative action loans in order to prevent over-financing of farms. Appropriate recommendations in this regard are being finalised for the approval of Cabinet.

Domestic Assets Requirement and Capital Flight:

As I said, a large portion of Namibian savings under management by unit trust industries, pension funds and insurance companies is invested in South Africa and elsewhere abroad. In view of the significant size of these funds, Cabinet decided that:

1. Legislation be introduced to subject unit trust management companies to domestic assets requirements and to withdraw the tax-free status of returns on unit trusts.
2. That the percentage of investment in dual-listed companies that qualify as domestic investment, be reduced to 10% over five years and that a 5% minimum investment in unlisted Namibian companies be prescribed to all institutional investors with immediate effect.
3. Mechanisms are currently being worked on for the implementation of

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

these measures. A task force has been established to facilitate for the input of the public, especially the financial sector, into this process. This far some interesting proposals have been received.

It is important to note that these measures do not in any way seek to eliminate dual listing on our stock exchange. To the contrary, the Government remains committed to the cooperation of stock exchanges in SADC as part of regional integration and to accelerate regional growth. However, Namibia can only partake in the regional growth if it can increase investment levels locally, which will require that the country deploys more of its savings into local investments rather than promote the narrow interest of a few individuals at the expense of the national interest.

Financial Charter:

Reform the economy is by no means an easy undertaking, but a task that we should face with courage and determination. In my view, the necessary reform could include the following:

1. Enhancing the skills level.
2. Promoting labour-absorbing export sectors;
3. Improving access to finance through the consolidation of our properly system.
4. Establishing new financing vehicles, such as venture capital industry.
5. By increasing local ownership of our financial sector.

Against this background I would like to repeat my call in the previous Budget Speech that encouraged the financial sector in Namibia to prepared a Financial Sector Charter. We still believe the country needs such a charter. At the same time, I would also like to discourage the Financial sector from converting their loans to other forms of lending, such as preference shares with a view to avoid paying tax. This practice has been observed in the recent past in some of the financial institutions and we think it is not in the interest of the country.

Anti-Money-laundering:

The Ministry of Finance, in consultation with various national stakeholders, in particular the Bank of Namibia and the National Task Force on Anti Money-laundering, has stepped up its efforts aimed at ensuring that Namibia speedily enacts appropriate legislation and creates capacity to combat money-laundering. The Namibian Government views money-laundering and organised crime as destabilising threats that must be defeated. A number of laws relevant to the fight against money-laundering have been enacted or are in the process of being enacted, in particular the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 2004 and the Anti-Corruption Act of 2003 have been promulgated, while the Financial Intelligence Bill, the Drugs Control Bill and the Combating of Terrorist Financial Bill are being processed with a view to have them speedily promulgated during this year. However, the effective combating of money-laundering and other related crimes, such as terrorist financing, presupposes the existence of appropriate laws. The wide consultative process that went into the above laws or bills provides for legislation that matches international standards. The biggest National challenge is for us to create national capacities in the law enforcement to ensure effective apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators of these criminal acts.

Parastatal Reform:

A State-Owned Enterprises Bill has been drafted to regulate the management of the parastatals in an effective manner. The Bill will be tabled before Parliament during the course of this Financial Year. Records show that for the past years, contributions from parastatals to the Treasury were not satisfactory. In order to address this unfavourable situation, the formulation of a dividend policy would require priority attention.

The reform efforts at Air Namibia are generating positive results. For this year, the company managed to reduce its operational cost significantly and the current initiatives of cost-saving measures, introducing additional rules and rearranging current ones and the forging of strategies alliances hold great potential to further improve the performance of the airline company. It is, therefore, expected that the budgetary transfers to the airline company will reduce over the years and gradually phase out. The importance of Air Namibia for the tourism industry and, by extension, the overall Namibian economy cannot be over-emphasised. Government, therefore, remains committed to

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

support the reform process at this important National institution.

The Southern African Customs Union:

The new democratised SACU Agreement, establishing a Customs Union with common external tariffs between Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, came into force on the 15th of July 2004. An important difference between this Agreement and the previous Agreement is that it provides for joint exercise of responsibility over decisions affecting tariff setting, common revenue pool and overall direction of the organisation.

The institutions of the new SACU include an independent SACU Secretariat, the Tariff Board, an Ad Hoc Tribunal and the National Bodies. The National Bodies will be established by each member state to coordinate SACU matters and to receive requests from the private sector on tariff changes. The creation of these institutions is part of continued efforts towards a more cohesive regional market. The new Agreement also provides for deeper economic integration through the development of common policies on industrial, investment and agriculture and competition policies, as well as harmonisation of policies on unfair trade practices. The integration process should continue *in tandem* with the further liberalisation of SACU's external trade.

As reported in last year's Budget, Namibia's receipts from the SACU pool for 2005/2006 show a significant reduction compared to the previous years following the introduction of the new revenue sharing formula. However, the experienced reduction in the revenue share is in part offset by adjustments still due under the 1969 SACU Agreement. It is important to note that the free trade agreements currently being negotiated with SACU and the EU-South Africa TDCA will have an eroding effect on the pool and thus on our revenue received from the pool.

Adjustments for the Financial Year 2002/2003 which are due for payment this year from the Common Revenue Pool amount to N\$883 million. Further adjustments for 2003/2004 Financial Year would become due in the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

The SACU Free Trade and Preferential Trade Agreements that SACU is negotiating with third parties are progressing well. The SACU/MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement has been concluded and signed in December of

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

last year, making preferential access to the South American markets possible. The negotiations for a preferential trade agreement between SACU and the European Free Trade Area are progressing well and the signing of the agreement is envisaged for later this year.

Free trade agreements between SACU and the United States slowed down during the past year, but have now been revitalised and the next round of negotiations is scheduled for May or June this year.

In spite of the risks that I have referred to with regard to reduced revenue flows, the benefits to our economy from free trade agreement deals are very tangible. Apart from the fact that open markets accelerate capital inflow and the transfer of technology and skills, these free trade agreements would have long-term benefits to our local firms and industries. The challenge that remains to our local businesses is to use their ability to ride on these new opportunities which the free trade agreements offer. I call upon our business community to take advantage of these new arrangements by penetrating those new distant markets. However, we need to remind ourselves that in order for our business to compete successfully internationally, we need to improve our production capabilities. This requires businesses to have access to new technology as well as to have knowledge input drawn from research and development practices in order to improve product specifications and designs.

I also wish to take this opportunity to call upon the business community to seek a dialogue with Government that would allow that their needs are well accommodated in the negotiations of these free trade agreements, so that at the end of the day any concluded free trade agreement shall reflect and respond to their needs and situation.

Now on policy issues for this Budget:

Expanding Economic Production:

Increased attention is paid in this Medium Term Expenditure Framework to the productive sectors and economic infrastructures which create employment opportunities and would immediately enhance economic growth.

The Green Scheme is one of the most important developments in the agricultural sector and about N\$300 million will be allocated to this

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

programme during Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, of which the larger part will be funded from external loans.

Aquaculture is another recent initiative aimed at diversifying activities in the fishing sector and improving income generation and job opportunities.

This programme can now be funded through AgriBank, following recent amendments to expand the definition of “*agricultural related activities*” under the AgriBank Act.

The Waterfront Projects are another initiative promoted by Government with the purpose to develop infrastructures which will induce economic activities and create job opportunities where growth is slow but potential is high. Under Medium Term Expenditure Framework products will be implemented in Katima Mulilo, Henties Bay and Lüderitz Bay. Other infrastructure projects under Medium Term Expenditure Framework include the upgrading of Walvis Bay Airport, which will promote the export of our products, especially fish, beef and grapes. Similarly, the Aus-Lüderitz and Northern Railway Projects will create the necessary linkage with regional and international markets.

The Kamanjab-Opuwo and Rundu-Nkurenkuru projects are the manifestations of the commitments of SWAPO Government to extend infrastructure into rural areas and open up those areas for development.

The Land Reform Programme will receive a boost through the implementation of the land tax. Additional funds have been made available under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme and the Farm Labourers Housing Scheme.

Poverty Reduction:

The key to reducing poverty is increasing employment and the provision of skills. By expanding production, opportunities for jobs will be created and this will reduce poverty. Similarly, the continuing priority afforded to education and the expansion of vocational training should enable more people to find work. In this area the target remains to improve educational outputs and produce graduates that become job-creators for themselves and others rather than job-seekers.

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Lack of adequate shelter is another manifestation of poverty. The Government will continue with its successful Build-Together Programme. The programme for low-income groups implemented through the National Housing Enterprise will also continue.

HIV/AIDS:

The scourge of HIV/AIDS affects every sector of our society. Additional resources were made available last year through a special appropriation so that anti-retroviral programmes can be rolled out nationwide. As a responsible employer, Government is keeping its commitment to ensure that Namibians infected by this dreadful disease have access to available treatment, so that they can continue to have a productive life.

Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children:

Currently Government provides support to over 28,187 orphans and vulnerable children through the Government social grant. The number of orphans and vulnerable children covered by maintenance and social care grants is being increased by over 70% over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. This will be complemented by a national census of orphans and vulnerable children to facilitate better planning and service delivery. The additional resources are complemented by substantial inputs from a number of development partners. The Government is seeking to ensure that those funds are used according to our own policies and practices, rather than inefficient alternative administrative arrangements.

Good Governance and Economic Empowerment:

Corruption reduces social and economic development by diverting resources that could otherwise be used more effectively. Funds have been provided to launch the Anti-Corruption Commission that will work with the existing agencies to help stamp out corruption.

The Government is committed to reducing inequalities and empowering its previously disadvantaged citizens. To that end, it will continue with measures designed to facilitate better access to finance and financial services for entrepreneurs and to ensure that they have the advice that they need.

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Government tendering procedures are being revised with a view to further improve the participation by small and medium enterprises in public tenders.

Efficiency and Effectiveness:

Improving results does not necessarily require that we increase expenditure. Alongside the additional moneys that we have been availed, there is a need to ensure that the Nation's resources are spent wisely and that programmes continue to represent value for money. As His Excellency, the President has observed, improving effectiveness and efficiency is vital in the Public Service.

The Medium Term Expenditure Framework:

In 1996 Cabinet determined upon a radical path of reform for the Budget process. It wanted to move the current practice of Budget decision-making towards the results being achieved, rather than organisational units and expenditure items. In 2001, the publication of the first Medium Term Expenditure Framework, including the Performance and Effectiveness Management Programme Framework, was highlighted by a major endorsement from the Founding President, declaring it a crucial component in the development of our Nation. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework is the key Budget document that sets out Government expenditure plans for the next Financial Year.

The Protected Revenue:

The Government's fiscal stance and its debt management policies together determine the overall expenditure limits for the coming three years. Within these expenditure limits, resource allocations to Ministries and their respective programmes are then determined by expenditure policies and priorities. Each of the Ministries produces a medium term plan, setting out the total resources allocated to each programme, the main activities to be undertaken and how those will help meet Government's objective. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework provides the basis for greater transparency and accountability by demonstrating what the Government seeks to achieve and how.

The first Medium Term Expenditure Framework, covering the period 2001 to 2004, was introduced in the Financial Year 2001/2002 with the aim of improving Budget planning. At the same time, Government set itself strict

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

fiscal targets. They foresee that the average deficit, as a share of GDP, should not exceed 3%, that the debt ratio should not exceed 25% and the expenditure should not exceed 30% of GDP.

Indicators from the first Medium Term Expenditure Framework showed that Government could not achieve the targets set for the deficit and debt as ratio to GDP. On average, deficit and debt stood at 4,8% and 27%, respectively. This came as a result of additional expenditures in the first years of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and the effects of the exchange rate in the last year that affected the revenue outturn. Furthermore, the high expenditure on personnel and the narrow expansion in nominal GDP also had an effect.

With regard to the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the challenge with these reforms is that they require the rethinking of planning and budgeting process. Moving from input needs to impact on outcome requires a complete change of mindset through all levels of Government. A big challenge within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework is the move from line items to programme budgeting, which requires programme activities as well as ceilings to be fixed for a period of three years. The main pieces necessary to make the transition to fully-fledged programme budgeting are now in place. Within that, ceilings for individual Ministries are set on the basis of medium-term plans, setting out proposals for changes in programme expenditure. Those changes have to be justified in terms of expected outcome.

The Government's overall expenditure policies as set out in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, together with the priorities and programmes described in the MPP, also provide a basis upon which development partners can support Government's objectives, using the State Revenue Fund.

Fiscal Outturn for 2004/2005 Financial Year:

As earlier reported, the exchange rate developments had a negative influence on the fiscal situation. As a result, the Budget deficit for 2003/2004 increased from 4%, projected in the Budget, to 7,5% in spite of a decrease in expenditures. For 2004/2005, the appreciation of the Namibia Dollar persisted. In spite of that, the projected deficit shows a significant reduction down to 2,4%. This is mainly as a result of improved revenue collection and stricter expenditure control. However, this estimated deficit is still above the 1,6% provided for in the Main Budget. This is due to the continued strength of the

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Namibia Dollar, as indicated, and in the increase in statutory expenditure to finance the increased deficit.

The additional appropriation of N\$65 million to cover additional expenses for medical aid has also contributed to the increase. Total debt stock is projected to be N\$11,9 billion for 2004/2005 Financial Year. The level of foreign guarantees as a percentage of GDP is on a downward trend. They have fallen from 7,1% to 6,3% during the years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 and are estimated to record a further drop to 3,1% in 2004/2005. This sharp decrease is mainly due to the full repayment of a loan for Air Namibia Boeing 747 Combi, following the disposal of the Boeing last year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I will now turn to the proposals of the 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The fiscal outlook for the 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 Financial Year period points to a favourable fiscal development, in that revenue estimates are projected to increase as compared to previous Financial Years. This increase is attributed to policy interventions that are to be implemented for the medium term. I will outline these later on.

Expenditure in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework is projected to grow at a lower rate than revenue, reflecting the Government policy aimed to restrain public expenditure growth. This policy will also assist in containing the Budget balance and public debt. However, the funding of priorities will not be compromised. Instead, Government expenditure will be restructured by shifting funds away from less important areas to priority ones.

Revenue over the next three years is estimated to total N\$39,2 billion. The largest share of this will come from tax revenue. While SACU receipts, as a portion of total tax receipts, will decline from 34% in the past three years to 33% in the upcoming Medium Term Expenditure period, we expect significant increases in the proceeds from the income tax. In the forthcoming years, total revenue collections from our own sources are projected to be as follows:

N\$12,2 billion for 2005; N\$13,3 billion for 2006/2007 and N\$13,4 billion for 2007/2008. In addition to that, for the next three years a total amount of N\$807 million in the form of grants is expected to come from our development

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

partners. Of this amount, N\$329 million will be channelled inside the State Revenue Fund in form of budgetary support and the rest will be outside State Revenue Funds. Those to benefit from these donor funds include, education, health, agriculture, decentralisation, rural roads, tourism, forestry, finance and planning.

Total expenditure for the next Financial Years will amount to N\$38,8 billion and will be distributed over the next years as follows:

N\$12,8 billion for 2005/2006; N\$13 billion for 2006/2007 and N\$13 billion in 2007/2008.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, in order to resource the recently created Office of the Minister of Presidential Affairs, I issued a special authorisation to the amount of N\$1,2 million. This was issued in terms of Section 9(1)(b)(ii) of the State Finance Act. In order to give effect to Section 9(2) of the same Act, this amount forms part of the resources allocated to Vote 01 in the Appropriation Bill.

The funds allocated to the Development Budget totals N\$4,4 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, which is equivalent to 11,5% of total expenditure. This is N\$1,3 billion more than was allocated in the previous Medium Term Expenditure Framework. In addition, N\$841 million will be sourced from external loans over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period to finance the capital programme. This is a demonstration of our emphasis towards strengthening resource allocation to development programmes.

The statutory expenditure is estimated to total N\$3,5 million, which is equivalent to 9% of total expenditure. This level of expenditure is, however, based on debt and deficit as proposed in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Based on these Medium Term Expenditure Framework projections, the proportions that go to statutory expenditures will decrease from 3,1% the end of 2004/2005 Financial Year to 2,3% at the end of this Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. This means that we are freeing resources from debt servicing to finance our development programmes.

In terms of the distribution by sector, the largest share of total expenditure is foreseen for the social sectors, followed by the administrative sector. In detail,

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the composition of expenditure over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period is 32.4% for Social Sectors, 21% for Administrative Sectors, 16,3% for public Safety Sectors and 10% for Economic and Infrastructure Sectors.

The fiscal outturn for the next three years is expected to bring us closer to our fiscal targets. In particular, revenue is expected to exceed expenditure over the next three years. On average we are expecting to have a Budget surplus of 1% of GDP per year. While this Financial Year is expected to produce a deficit of 1,2%, expenditure restraints in the following Financial Years and an improved revenue outlook is expected to produce a Budget surplus of 1,2% of GDP in 2006/2007 and 0,8% in 2007/2008.

Taking into account the above, the debt stock for Government in the three years to come is projected as follows:

At the end of this Financial Year, 32,8%; at the end of 2006/2007, 30,2%; and at the end of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, 27,6%.

Policies to Achieve the Fiscal Targets:

Within the fiscal stance outlined above, Government can free up additional resources through improvements in revenue collection, expenditure control measures and debt management. The following revenue policies will be implemented during the medium term:

Tax collection: The Ministry of Finance has initiated a series of forensic tax audits nationwide. Through this audit the following will be achieved:

1. Improved revenue collection;
2. Improved compliance with tax legislation;
3. Exposing possible irregularities for remedial action;
4. Strengthening of tax administration.

This initiative is being implemented through a public-private partnership programme between the Ministry of Finance and a private audit fraternity. The public is invited to forward information about any tax irregularities to the Ministry of Finance in order to help us to collect what is due to Government.

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

In order to further strengthen the Ministry's capacity to administer tax laws, a formal academic training programme has been introduced at UNAM to enhance the qualifications of our tax administrators. The Ministry's capacity-building efforts would receive a further boost from the European Union through a public finance management programme that they are implementing with our Ministry.

Ring-fencing: According to the Income Tax Act, taxpayers can offset losses on farming and other activities against their salary income, resulting in refunds of Pay-As-You-Earn to the taxpayer. This legislation has created room for abuses and consequently, led to losses of revenue. Amendments will be introduced to the Income Tax Act to prohibit the offsetting of losses from certain activities against salary income. For now these activities will include rental of residential accommodation and rental of vehicles, amongst others.

Withholding of Tax on Income: Taxpayers are currently not declaring to the Receiver of Revenue the interest they derive from investments with Financial Institutions. In order to implement a withholding of tax by Financial Institutions on interest earned, the legislation will be amended. This measure will reduce the current practice of tax evasion in this field.

VAT Refunds: It has also been noticed that abuse is currently taking place through claiming VAT refunds. Anti-abuse measures will be implemented through legislative amendments in order to discourage taxpayers from claiming excessive refunds.

VAT Rate: A VAT rate of 30% was charged on luxury items until recently. This policy was changed in 2002 when the Special Value Added Tax rate for luxury items was abolished and a uniform VAT rate of 15% introduced. This has resulted in significant losses of revenue to the State and reintroducing a special VAT rate for luxury goods is envisaged.

Environmental tax has become a common feature in many tax systems worldwide. Principally environmental taxes have two objectives, namely to introduce incentives for activities that are harmful to the environment and secondly, they generate public revenue. An environmental tax will be introduced in Namibia along these principles.

Unit trusts have enjoyed an exemption from income tax for a number of years.

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

In order to level the playing field, it is now considered necessary to subject it to tax. Consultations are ongoing with the industry to work out the required modalities and detail for doing so.

Transfer pricing and capitalisation legislation was recently passed by Parliament. When duly administered from this fiscal year onwards, it will appropriately attack this artificial tax evasions and generate revenue for the State.

Another component of income is non-tax revenue that is estimated to total N\$2,8 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. We have identified an urgent need to strengthen collection of non-tax revenue. the Ministry of Finance will, therefore, implement training for financial advisors in Ministries to improve the collection of non-tax revenue.

Excise Duties: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this year brings us to the second year of the phasing-in of agreed tax burdens as provided for in the new SACU Agreement. These increases are to the benefit of the SACU Revenue Pool and will be shared out to member states in accordance with the agreed revenue sharing formula. The following nominal percentage increases in excise duties will therefore apply:

On malt beer – 9,5%; on traditional African beer – no increase; on unfortified wines – 20%; on fortified wines – 13%; on sparkling wine – 20%; on cider and alcoholic fruit beverages – 9,4%; on spirits – 10%; on cigarettes – 11,5%; on cigarette tobacco – 7,5%; on pipe tobacco – 11,6% and on cigars – 14,9%.

Expenditure Policies:

The Ministry of Finance will embark upon various measures to curb overspending and unauthorised expenditures by Ministries. The following measures will help to achieve this aim:

1. The requirement of keeping up-to-date commitment registers by all Offices, Ministries and Agencies will be strictly enforced.
2. Measures will be put in place to ensure the proper functioning of financial controls in all Ministries. These will include, clearance of

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

suspense accounts, balancing of trade accounts and timeous closing of accounts.

The first steps to introduce proper financial control systems at Regional Councils have been taken through a public-private partnership programme. These efforts must be further consolidated to ensure full compliance to the State Finance Act. A programme to clear the backlog in Government audit reports has been worked out by the Office of the Auditor-General and additional resources have been allocated under this Medium Term Expenditure Framework to enable the Office to bring audited financial statements of Government up to date. We, therefore, foresee that we shall return to an integrated audit report for Central Government that is timeously presented very soon.

The expenditure for the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme is likely to rise sharply if the current risk exposure is not addressed as a matter of urgency. As a starting point, the whole benefit structure will be reviewed. In addition, immediate steps are taken, which include regular auditing of claims by medial service providers and providers of pharmaceutical products, coupled with prompt prosecution in the event of detected irregularities. Introduction of ceilings for some benefits. The commissioning of an actuarial impact analysis to determine the impact that HIV/AIDS will have on the existing benefit structure and the commissioning of an actuarial prevalence analysis to determine PSEMAS HIV/AIDS prevalence rate.

Debt Policies:

The approval of the Sovereign Debt Management Strategy by Cabinet in 2005 represented a major step in Government efforts to improve debt management. The overall objective of the Sovereign Debt Management Strategy is to ensure that the public debt remains affordable and sustainable. For the management of the public debt portfolio, the Government foresees a set of Namibia-specific benchmarks, which identify risks and provide guidance for borrowing activities. Government debt consists largely of domestic securities, such as Treasury Bills and Government Bonds. Being aware of the overall risks associated with short-term debt, Government has over the past years successfully decreased the share of debt that matured within twelve months. While at the beginning of the 2004/2005 Financial Year the share of total debt maturing within two months stood at 59%, this ratio was brought down to 53%

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

at the beginning of this Financial Year.

The successful redemption of the GCO 5 bond on April 15th this year has further decreased the share of short-term liabilities to less than 44%. Moreover, the smooth redemption of the GCO 5 bond shows our commitment and foresighted approach to debt management. This successful will boost investors' confidence in Government securities.

The new debt management policy also provides the framework for a stricter handling of Government guarantees. Furthermore, a levy on loans and guarantees issued will be charged, thus encouraging responsible and efficient use of Government loans and guarantees. Within its debt management operations Government is committed to minimise the cost of borrowing.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I would like to reiterate that a prudent fiscal position, comprising of low Budget deficits and low levels of public debt, promotes economic growth which is essential for reducing poverty and improving social outcomes. I wish to thank the Honourable Members of the Cabinet for their support and understanding during the formulation of this Budget. It is clear that the going would be tough, but I am confident that as a people-centred Government we have succeeded to allocate our resources, limited as they may be, for the development and benefit of all our people. I appeal for your solid continued support.

It is, of course, easy to forget the nameless faces who give momentum to the task we perform. I want to recognise the hard work of the officials of my Ministry and our colleagues at the National Planning Commission and, indeed, Ministry's officials who made it possible for me to finalise this Budget. I thank them for their hard work.

Lastly, but by no means the least, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency, the President for his support and for the trust that he has invested in me by appointing me as Finance Minister. With these remarks, Honourable Members, it is now my pleasure to table the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2005/2006 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Years to 2006/2007 to 2007/2008 before this august House for its consideration and approval. I thank you.

12 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for her important and much awaited statement. Before I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House, I want to inform the Honourable Members that the well-known PricewaterhouseCoopers has extended an invitation to all the Members for a cocktail in the courtyard. They are the ones responsible for the gift as you came in. I now call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday, 17 May 2005.

HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. Seeing that the Honourable Minister of Finance has just tabled this very important Bill and perhaps before we adjourn the House we need to adjourn the Debate and I was going to propose in that regard that the Debate on the presentation of the Minister be adjourned to Tuesday, 24 May 2005 at 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: After thanking the Honourable Minister, the Speaker should have asked for further discussion, to which the Honourable Ulenga rose and proposed adjournment of the Bill. Any objection?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I would very much like to grant the Honourable Members of the House enough time to review the Budget and formulate their interventions, but I am sure all of us are aware that this Budget is already late because we had to wait until the new Government is installed and Ministries are operating on the basis of continuation authorisation. In fact, the practice has been that we postpone the discussions on the Budget not for such a long period. I am really not able to understand why this time it has to be that long. I want to appeal to the Colleagues from the Opposition to consider a shorter postponement to next week Tuesday.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, we understand the pressures under which everybody has to operate and this was actually being proposed within the understanding that we have reached last year that the time through which the Budget will be scrutinized by the Members will be slightly extended.

12 May 2005

ADJOURNMENT

Perhaps we can then extend to Thursday, which will be the 19th and allow for five working days.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, at yesterday's Standing Rules and Orders, which has accepted the CoD as the Official Opposition, we accepted a programme and according to that programme we are supposed to start with discussions on the 18th.

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Finance, is the date of 19th of May acceptable to you?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Booy's is correct, on the basis of the programme we agreed to, we are supposed to commence on the 18th of May 2005. I want Honourable Ulena to adjourn the Debate until the 18th.

I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, 17 May 2005.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:05 UNTIL 2005.05.17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
17 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 26 May 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security the following:

During 2004, Thomas Kandove reported that he was harassed by members of the security force, throwing marula beer in his face and threatening him with hand weapons because of his association with the pre-Independence security forces.

1. What is the policy to prevent citizens from being harassed because of their past associations?
 2. Is there a code of conduct which guides members of the security forces on the prevention of human rights violation?
 3. Would the implementation of a Truth Commission, similar to that in South Africa, not prevent these human right violations in future?
-

17 May 2005

**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Notice of Motions? Minister Iyambo.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I give Notice that on Tuesday, 24 May 2005, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act of 1956 so as to define certain expressions; to prohibit the searching of the homes of individuals without a warrant; to increase penalties and to provide for matters connected herewith.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Any Ministerial Statements? The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
ACCREDITATION BOARD OF NAMIBIA BILL**

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I Move the Motion.

17 May 2005

ACCREDITATION BOARD OF NAMIBIA BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO

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

SECRETARY: *Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

SECOND READING:
ACCREDITATION BOARD OF NAMIBIA BILL

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, the mission of my Ministry is to be a catalyst for rapid, equitable and sustainable economic growth through investment, industrialisation and trade. Among others, the following objectives support this mission:

- To achieve accelerated industrial development, growth of the entrepreneurial culture and employment creation by providing an enabling environment through active and professional service;
- To create a conducive policy and legal framework for the promotion and growth of trade and business activities;

17 May 2005

**ACCREDITATION BOARD OF NAMIBIA BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO**

- To develop and manage the policy and regulatory framework; to ensure the competitiveness of Namibian products and services.

Comrade Speaker, our functions include, *inter alia*, to promote the quality and standard of Namibian products in order to ensure customers' satisfaction and competitiveness in the world market; to serve as a catalyst in the stimulation of industries in the strategic sectors not yet attractive to private investment but of critical importance to national economic development and growth. These functions are supported by the following strategies:

- Liaison with national, regional and international accreditation and standard bodies in order to enhance the quality and competitiveness of Namibian products.
- Protection of trade mark patents, designs, traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights.
- The promotion and support and development of national institutions and agencies contributing to the development of industry, trade and commerce.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is against this background that I rise to introduce before the august House the Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill for consideration. Namibia does not have a legal framework and infrastructure for the provision of accreditation as a means of demonstrating the technical competence and equivalent of conformity assessment bodies, such as inspection and certification bodies and testing and calibration laboratories in Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, due to the absence of a legal framework, no authoritative body exists in Namibia which can give formal recognition that conformity assessment body is competent to carry out. Such tasks relate to testing calibration systems and product certification and inspections. Yet, there is a need to ensure that the latter tasks are reliable. The functions of such bodies need to be checked by an independent agency by which they are then accredited. It is necessary to set up an independent Government supported accreditation body. Such an accreditation body would play a major role in integrating Namibia into global markets. In order for the national accreditation body to gain worldwide recognition, it is obliged to be established and to operate according to internationally recognised principles such as the standards

17 May 2005

ACCREDITATION BOARD OF NAMIBIA BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO

of both the International Organisation for Standardisation and the International Electro-Technical Council.

An accreditation body operating according to internationally recognised standards ensures that results of conformity assessment emanating from bodies in Namibia are to be accepted in other countries. When goods are exported from Namibia, accredited bodies, such as certificates or test reports, are tested or certified by such bodies. The proposed Bill establishes the basis for such acceptance.

Accreditation of bodies conducting inspection certification of products and services, testing and calibration laboratories ensure and support the protection of health, safety and environment both within and among economies. Such a system will contribute towards the reduction of technical barriers to trade and to facilitate access to regional and international markets by Namibian products, services and systems. Consequently, the country has to establish an accreditation system based on internal practices and standards.

Comrade Speaker, Namibia is a signatory to the World Trade Organisation's Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and as a State Party to the Protocol on Trade of the Southern African Development Community, has to establish a national quality infrastructure that is based on international standards in order to effectively use both the regional and international trading systems.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, on the 1st of December 1997, embarked upon a process of developing and promoting the national quality infrastructure in Namibia. This process was also necessary in view of increased globalisation and competitiveness of regional and international markets.

The Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill is the first of three pieces of legislation that will be submitted for passage by the National Assembly in order to complete Namibia's compliance with the requirements of the WTO and the SADC Protocol on Trade.

Conformity assessment and accreditation provide numerous benefits. Conformity assessment enhances product quality and reliability, it increases competitiveness, it improves and secures health and the safety of goods and it facilitates exports and the placing of products on foreign markets. Accreditation secures the competence of bodies performing conformity

17 May 2005

ACCREDITATION BOARD OF NAMIBIA BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO

assessment and creates confidence in their activities both for the consumers and other users, public authorities and commercial role-players.

The World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference has on a number of occasions expressed concerns about the marginalisation of not only the least developed countries, but also certain small economies in the international trading system and called upon the international community to make a particular effort to help such countries to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the international trading system.

The Accreditation Board of Namibia is one of a series of legislative frameworks that the Ministry of Trade and Industry is launching to establish a national quality infrastructure that would ensure that Namibia's corporate legislation complies with the country's mandates derived from its membership of the World Trade Organisation, the requirements of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Trade, as well as the Southern African Customs Union Agreement.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill is arranged into 29 Clauses, providing for the accreditation of bodies according to international standards and establishes the Accreditation Board of Namibia as a legal person. The Board will consist of five persons, that is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and four other persons who are knowledgeable in accreditation and conformity assessment. The work of the Accreditation Board is to be performed by its own personnel, headed by the Chief Executive Officer, assisted by the assessors provided for in the framework of the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation.

The object of the Accreditation Board is to provide accreditation services according to international standards and would be based on the needs of industry, commerce and trade as well as Governmental institutions. The Accreditation Board will be responsible for the administration of an accreditation system in Namibia, for carrying out periodic surveillance of accredited bodies and charging fees for the services rendered by it.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, in conclusion, I Move that this august House carefully studies the Bill and considers it for adoption. I thank you.

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA**

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: The Second Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Mr Kaura. Does the Honourable Mr Kaura Move the Motion?

HON KAURA: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

**MOTION ON RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES TO
THEIR PRE-COLONIAL INDIGENOUS NAMES**

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, my Motion reads as follows: *“I give notice that on the 17th of May 2005, I shall Move that the following places be restored to their pre-colonial indigenous names: and I ended by saying, “the House is encouraged to add other names to the list.”*

Honourable Speaker, I proposed this Motion in Parliament to change colonial names of nine towns in Namibia to an indigenous language, Otjiherero, which is one of the many indigenous languages in Namibia. Fellow Parliamentarians, I hope that as I am reading in newspapers and hearing on talk shows, Otjiherero is recognised as an indigenous language in Namibia and it is not a crime that I speak that language and propose names in the vernacular I was

17 May 2005

RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA

taught by my mother.

Some Regions in our country are fortunate, especially the three northern Regions, Oshana, Ohangwena and Omusati. You find a few or no towns and villages having colonial names as well as the Kavango Region. The tragedy starts at Caprivi. The name “*Caprivi*” comes from Count Von Caprivi, a German colonialist. Today Caprivians proudly refer to themselves as Caprivians as if they are descendants of Count Von Caprivi. What a tragedy!

You have a town known as Schukmansburg in the Caprivi. This is an issue that must be looked at in all earnest, as I stated in my Motion and I quote, “*the House is encouraged to add other names to the list.*”

Honourable Speaker, fellow Parliamentarians, I am noticing a little controversy in the media and on radio talk shows about the name Otjomuise, Windhoek or Windhuk. I am surprised and amazed because the name “*Namibia*” originates out of “*Nama*”, an indigenous Namibian language and we have all proudly accepted “*Namibia*”. We do not have a problem with that. Our hero, Chief Hendrik Witbooi is on the Namibian currency and we have all proudly embraced that and there is no controversy. Many of the streets in our towns are named after living legendary heroes, such as Honourable Hage Geingob, Honourable Libertine Amathila, Hidipo Hamutenya, Brave Tjizera, Kaire Mbuende and so on and we do not have a problem with that. Why the name Otjomuise? What is the problem with Otjomuise? (Interjections)

Yes, the name /Ae//Gams is also attached to Otjomuise. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: When?

HON KAURA: When the Afrikaner Namas came from South Africa under their leader, Jan Jonker Afrikaner, and reached Windhoek in 1820. They crossed the Orange River in 1894 after they murdered their employer across the river in the Khoi-Khoi Province and first settled at Warmbad in the South. That is why you find they are Afrikaners, they came from South Africa, they learned Dutch there in South Africa and then they came over and by that time

17 May 2005

RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA

they were indigenous people in this country that gave indigenous names to places in this country. Owning firearms, they turned into cattle raiders and supplied fresh meat to the Deutsche Geshellschaft at Lüderitz in exchange for ammunition, blankets, clothing and other German paraphernalia. They had to supply fresh meat to the Germans that were on the spice trade to India and they needed fresh meat at Walvis Bay. Therefore, these Afrikaner Namas with firearms started raiding cattle among the cattle-owning indigenous Namibian people and supplied them to the Germans in Lüderitz and the people who owned cattle in the South, started moving northwards. They moved from Karasburg northwards. Do you know the Herero name for Karasburg? *Ondjombo jovandu vo tujezu* translated that means, the well of the bearded people.

Keetmanshoop was *Otjezoroue*, Mariental was *Otjoruuma*, Rehoboth was *Otjomeva Momutumba*, Windhoek was *Otjomuise* and the Namas kept pushing northwards up to Okahandja. They did not stop there, they went as far north as Ovamboland and Kaokoland. Those were the Namas from South Africa who owned firearms.

When they reached *Otjomuise*, they named it /Ae//Gams after the hot water springs. Therefore, there should be no controversy which name is original, the history speaks for itself and mind you, who gave Fransfontein its name, the place where Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila grew up and is still staying? The Namas. The Hereros called it *Ombombo jova Kwena*. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Fransfontein is a reserve of Swartbooi Namas who came from Rehoboth, and Fransfontein will remain Fransfontein because it is not a Herero reserve. It is a Nama reserve and it is called Fransfontein – period. Where do you get *Ombombo jova Kwena*?

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, is Fransfontein a Nama name? Thank you. Honourable Speaker, there is something referred to as “*folk etymology*.” That is when you pronounce the name the way you hear it. (Intervention)

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: Honourable, I know Honourable Kaura is motivating, but may I use this opportunity to direct a question to him? I was checking in both the Constitution and our Standing Rules and Orders and I realised that this House is a House that makes laws. It is a lawmaking body.

Would Honourable Kaura inform this Honourable House and through this House, the general public, as to where in the Constitution does he get the authority and power to turn this House into a House that is now to name all kinds of places? We are here to make laws, not to rename places.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member is inebriated by the exuberance of his own verbosity. Honourable Speaker, let us come to folk etymology. It is when the people pronounce something as they hear it. For example, in the olden days Afrikaners ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that the first people who came to Namibia are the San people? Can we not try to find out the first names given to the towns from the first people who arrived in Namibia?

HON KAURA: We have heard that argument for a long time during the colonial period. That was the same argument advanced by South Africa. *“Why are you fighting for Namibians? You are not Namibians, the Bushmen are the Namibians.”* Please do not advance old, archaic colonial arguments. Let me come to folk etymology, Honourable Speaker. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I would like to ask Honourable Kaura a question. Honourable Speaker, I would like to know from Honourable Kaura whether he has consulted the people of Namibia before he embarked upon this grandiose plan to change to indigenous names, because I would have thought that first he would consult widely and then bring this important matter

17 May 2005

RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA

to this Honourable House. Now he has taken the liberty to introduce a Motion, trying to change the names without consulting the people in the first place. Is that democratic?

HON KAURA: Who was consulted when a street was named Kabila Street? May his soul rest in peace. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Nathanael a question, please?

HON SPEAKER: The question is put to whom, Minister?

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I am going to his original name. (Laughter)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please be specific. That name is not in the records of the House.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Nathanael Kaura a question? Honourable Nathanael, have you consulted your neighbour, because in my language Windhoek is /Ae//Gams. That is my own language. Have you consulted the Honourable Chief before bringing the matter here?

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA**

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I jettisoned my colonial Jewish name years back, I am Katuutire Kaura, not Nathanael Kaura, I am not Jewish.

I was saying people mispronounce names. In the olden days the Afrikaners used to refer to eu-de-cologne as “olikolonie”. Give me the benefit of the doubt, “*gee my die binnevet van die boud.*” It is folk etymology. The name Tsumeb, for example, was named “*Okavisume*” after the copper deposits. The copper bearing ore looks yellow and when the Hereros saw that, to them it looked like frogs, so they named the place Okavisume, the place of frogs. The Afrikaner Nama invaders could not pronounce Okavisume and pronounced it, “*Kaitsumeb*”, so the Germans wrote Tsumeb, having no meaning in any of the indigenous languages. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question in Otjimbingba? Honourable Kaura talks about colonialism, I think Kaura was supposed to tell his interim Government about these names. Have you forgotten that during your time in the interim Government or what happened?

HON KAURA: Honourable Member, do not sell yourself out too happily, think about Kaoko and the development which your Government should bring to Kaoko. Do not sell yourself so happily. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. When we are talking about Kaoko as a remote area, it is because of Honourable Kaura and what he is telling the people.

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA**

HON KAURA: That is why you are losing, because you do not tell them the truth and that is why I am winning in Kaoko because I am telling the truth, that nothing is coming to Kaoko.

The Afrikaner Nama invaders could not pronounce Okavishume and pronounced it Kaitsumeb. Honourable Speaker, I want to put my point, you will have a chance to say what you have to say, instead of standing up for Points of Order. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order, because I know the Honourable Member will never allow me to put a question. Honourable Kaura lied to the people there and they followed him instead of SWAPO, but he is denying them development. You said if they develop Epupa, the Ovambos will come. If you do not know, one of your councillors was telling the people, *“I am going to tell the people after five years if SWAPO is the one who brings them otjikukuta?”*

HON KAURA: Well, ignorance is bliss, you know. It is mispronunciations that crept into languages. That is why today you find the mispronunciation of folk etymology brought in by the Nama-speaking people in names such *“Konjore”*, which is *“Kanjoze”*, *“Biwa”*, which is *“Mbaeva”*, *“Katzao”*, which is *“Kazao”*, *“Katukwi”*, which is *“Katukuii”* and so on. (Intervention)

HON NAMBINGA: Comrade Speaker, on a serious Point of Order. Is the House busy with the naming of towns or are we being lectured on the Herero language? What is this? Is it the renaming of the towns or is the Honourable Kaura trying to lecture us in Otjiherero, because we can find time to go to other institutions to learn the language. I just want to be guided, Honourable Speaker.

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, argue the case why these changes should be introduced, rather than history of etymology.

HON KAURA: I am trying to show that names were mutilated by the colonialists. For example, my Honourable brother here is telling me that the names Usakos and Karibib originated from the Damara language, but today they have no meaning to anyone of us. We must correct those misnomers and I am happy that the Honourable Member is now going to learn something now that he is on our side, the side of the people.

HON NAMBINGA: Comrade Speaker, rule the Honourable Member Out of Order, I am not on the side of DTA. He must know the boundaries, this is SWAPO proper. I think he must be ruled Out of Order.

HON KAURA: It is true, he is in SWAPO benches, but he is now on the “*Shandumbala side*”.

Today the mutilated names have no meaning, neither in Nama, nor in Otjiherero. Therefore, restoration and correction of those misnomers is a categorical imperative. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Speaker, I just want clarity. The Honourable Member said that Usakos and Karibib are wrongly spelled, according to what he has been told by his neighbour there, but in this paper he said “*Otjandjomboimwe*” and “*Okanduu*”. Did your neighbour tell you this is how they called Usakos and Karibib?

HON KAURA: Those are the names my parents told me about those places and that is how I know them. I do not speak Damara, so I know them in the language I speak, my brother, and I have the right to know them in the language I speak.

17 May 2005

RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA

Honourable Speaker, there are thousands of misnomers in the country. I only opened up the Pandora's Box so that things can start flowing. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Mr Speaker, I respect the Honourable Member so much and he knows it and I really did not want to intervene at this stage, but the issues that he has opened up seem to be very sensitive. I am glad that you have confirmed that the history of this country, as put down on a piece of paper by those who had the know-how to do it then and still continue to do it, is so distorted and being mindful of that reality that Namibia's history is distorted and still remains to be distorted, the way you are putting across your case, as you are rightfully entitled to do. I want to ask, are you also aware of the history of many other communities in Namibia that remain distorted until today and that it might be opening up a very painful reminder to many societies in Namibia the way you are trying to justify in terms of motivating your Motion?

HON KAURA: I have given the people of Namibia and this House the opportunity to correct the injustices of the past, so that we can bequeath something to our children which is truly indigenous and Namibian instead of living forever with misnomers. (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: On a Point of Order. The history of this country is well-known to many of us and if Honourable Kaura is proposing to change the names now, yet he had a chance to have done so during the heydays and those times when he had that chance, I think it might be too late for him. Going down to that history may create a lot of pain in the hearts of many and in the same vein I would like to point out that reconciliation that has come into this country should be taken into account seriously. For that matter, we have to look at the implications in the changing of these names.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I am the one who has the Floor, he must follow the Rules of this House. I think he must be educated on Parliamentary Procedure.

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KAURA**

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker is fully aware that a Point of Order can be phrased in different ways and the Speaker would at an appropriate time have called the Honourable Member Out of Order. He has not reached that point. He is done now, you may continue.

HON KAURA: I have read in *The Namibian* newspaper about the non-reconciliation and the non-acceptance of people in this country. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: May I ask Honourable Kaura a question, please? Honourable Kaura, through you, Comrade Speaker, I understood Honourable Kaura saying that his neighbour, the Chief, has informed him that names like Karibib and Usakos are misspelled, they are Damara names. However, the names he is suggesting here is because these are the names he has learned from his parents, but that is telling us that these are not the original names, it is only that he has learned them from his parents. The original names are those which are misspelled. Are we really doing justice if we talk about the names which have come in when your parents came in, leaving out the names of those who were there, which then came to be misspelled? Are you saying that by doing this we will be able to correct the history?

HON KAURA: Honourable Minister, as we are sitting here now, no-one knows which name came first, that we do not know. I am answering the question, I have not finished answering the question. I am not saying my proposal is cast in stone. It is not cast in stone, it depends on this House to adjust it. If Okavisume is Oshomeva, let us put Otjomeva, as long as it is an indigenous name. My problem is having an indigenous name. I gave you the names I know, bring the names you know. I am not saying my names are the alpha and omega, bring the names you know! I am told, for example, that Otjivanda, Grootfontein, is the same in Otjiherero and Oshiwambo. Fine, no problem. Where there are two names for the same place, let us consider which one we should take. I do not have a problem with that. Do you say that I am not open-minded about that? (Intervention)

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
RT HON N ANGULA / HON DR GEINGOB**

HON AMWEELO: On a Point of Order. Since Honourable Kaura is saying that he does not know which names came first, because his Colleague mentioned that the two names are misspelled, maybe it would be good to go back and carry out wide consultations, because he does not know which ones came first. When you come back here, you come back with a proposal acceptable to all Namibians. Therefore, I would like this Motion to be deferred for wide consultations.

HON KAURA: I would not have controversy over the name Oshakati, Ondangwa or Rundu, I do not speak that language, I do not have a problem with that, it stays as it is, it is beautiful indigenous names, but in this former Police Zone, names have been mutilated, names have been changed and those people who were living in the former Police Zone have a problem and I happen to hail from there and I see things and they inflict pain on me as I see them every day, these mutilated names. I think it is a categorical imperative that this House must take that into cognisance and change these names. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Angula.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Kaura is on the right track, he is proposing authenticity for the names of our towns and villages, however I would like to Move that this Motion be sent to an expert committee for study and more information and that expert committee is the Monuments Council, so that the Monuments Council can do proper research and find out the proper spelling of these names, their meaning, their origin and their authenticity. I consulted Honourable Kaura earlier and he agreed and I hope he is going to agree. Thank you.

HON DR GEINGOB: I am in agreement with the Honourable Prime Minister, but what I want to say is that Honourable Kaura wrongly named my name by saying that there are names like Hage Geingob Street. In that regard I wanted to say there are certain institutions, like municipalities, which are given the mandate to change the street names and they can maybe also change the

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON DR GEINGOB**

names of the cities. However, what I want to say is that being a very good democrat, I would like to echo what others have said, that there should have been thorough consultations. This is a national issue. Look at the controversy it is now invoking here and if only Honourable Kaura, knowing the sensitivity of the issue in the Police Zone, could have consulted others who may be offended by this.

If you open a Pandora's Box, there are many others we can open that we have buried under reconciliation. There are many instances where we felt we should forget the past and move on. We must be careful, we may unwittingly open a Pandora's Box.

I remember in 1958 at Augustineum, before many of you were born, myself, Ouboet Hoakhaob and Ludwin Khuseb went to visit Dr Hendrik Vedder and we approached him by saying that, *"you have said this and that about Damaras and you have distorted the history."* Then Dr Vedder said, *"my children, I was not writing history, I was writing textbooks."*

That is a very important distinction, because if he was writing history, he would have done thorough research, but since he was just writing textbooks to be used in schools, he did not do research and therefore, there is distortion. Since history is supposed to be a written record, everybody goes to Vedder's writing today and therefore, distortion keeps on being perpetuated.

The Honourable Member is maybe on the right track to say we must change and come to original names, but because we are many tribes, many ethnic groups, we decided to be careful and decided to be sensitive to other people's feelings and, therefore, came with a policy of reconciliation.

Really, I would think, this being as sensitive as it is, it would have been good if we had first consulted. It is a good idea, but you have not consulted widely on this sensitive issue and therefore, we got the reaction we are getting now as I have predicted. I also said you have gone a little bit too far, maybe you should have started, as the Africans say, *"go small-small."* First maybe Windhoek alone and add others later on. Now that the Honourable Member has named all these towns and they are all in Otjiherero, it is invoking that kind of feeling.

I, therefore, support the Prime Minister's proposal that it goes to a committee.

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

These towns were proclaimed as towns and given names. In the pre-colonial era, were there towns where the people could sit down and name the streets and name the towns certain names? I thought the colonialists brought that concept, to name it Windhoek and proclaim it, to name it Tsumeb and proclaim it. We are going to perpetuate the colonial history of proclaiming. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, what I am going to say was partly covered by others, nevertheless I would like to raise some other points with regard to this Motion.

Honourable Kaura asks for a change of names of a range of places to what he termed as pre-colonial indigenous names and I place emphasis on “*pre-colonial indigenous names*”, because that brings a certain degree of sensitivity to the issue. If we were saying that we want to rename these places, it could have been another issue, but when we want to say we want to restore them to their pre-colonial indigenous names, that actually implies that this place in which all these towns and settlements are found is an ethnic area of a specific ethnic group which is indigenous, while others that reside in that place and may consider themselves to be indigenous to this country, are not indigenous. That is the first part.

To add to that sensitivity, the Honourable Member actually proceeds to call other Namibians invaders, which I do not consider to be in the spirit of Nation-building and reconciliation. I think to call the Nama people invaders does not auger well for Nation-building and that would actually load this issue with the potential to incite conflict between communities, because if the Nama people are listening to this Debate and should you consult them as is being proposed, what they would hear from you is that the Government wants to formalise the fact that they are no more indigenous to this place, they are invaders of a place that belongs to the Hereros and we want this name to be given a Herero name to reflect that it is the Hereros which are indigenous to this place. I feel that

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON RIRUAKO**

the angle from which the Honourable Member is coming with this Motion is not constructive.

While I would not disagree with the proposal to say there is a need for research on this issue, I would reserve my support for that proposal until the Honourable Member agrees to amend this Motion. If this Motion is amended so that it simply asks for the renaming of these places, then we would be able to go to these communities and consult them. However, if what the Honourable Member is asking to restore them to pre-colonial indigenous names and for us to agree with his motivation that others are not indigenous and they came from other places and they were invading all over the place, then I would have difficulties. After all, the question of “indigenous” is relative. There are some people who say the San communities are the indigenous people of Namibia. How would you define the timeframe when people who have been living in a place are supposed to be indigenous? Some people think that the Bantus came from Tanganyika in which these names are one. How would you define the timeframe when you consider these people to be indigenous, so that you cut out the Namas and Damaras to be non-indigenous? I have a problem with that one, Honourable Speaker.

As I have said at the beginning, I really feel that it is not called for, it is unparliamentary, it is not in the spirit of Nation-building. I could not have associated it with a very senior Member of this august House, a founding Member of this august House, to call Namibians “invaders.” I would ask this Honourable House, without this Motion being amended, to reject it. If the Honourable Member wants this Motion to be accepted, he should change it from “*restoration*” to “*indigenous names*”. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, I am really worried, there is no grown-up House which we can call an august House. We refute our history and at the same time we call ourselves something else. This is the way it is, I am worried that we do not have a future in this country and I am not here to argue, I agree

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON RIRUAKO**

a bit with the Honourable Prime Minister Angula, because I am worried.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Order. The Honourable Chief is a worried person because Kauandenge who made it possible for him to desert the DTA is already back in DTA.

HON RIRUAKO: That is where my worries started, we are joking, we are jolly about our own future and standing. It is a shame, grown-up people regarded as powerful, a few of them Ministers. Really, it is a shame. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, I am told that those who are writing the Hansard find it difficult when the Honourable Member speaks. Maybe the Honourable Member can just sit down.

HON SPEAKER: That is not a Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not talking out of stupidity. I think it is better for us to show how we can correct the mistakes and not to show how I am stupid.

The fact remains, we are building a Nation, but we are not talking about facts. I think the Prime Minister and the former Prime Minister showed their maturity and credentials. They showed who they are and they put their point across, but those who are not capable of reaching that kind of level, blunder. To give original names to places is not an offence, it is a reality. Today there is Harare in Zimbabwe and Pretoria has been changed. Those people became independent after us. If it is wrong to say this, I do not know where the

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON RIRUAKO**

wrongness comes from. You feel that some of us are offended by this. Let us face the facts if we want to build a Nation. I am not here to joke, I am not a clown. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Yes, in Zimbabwe and Pretoria the people consulted the Nation and not after dreaming brought a Motion to the Chamber.

HON RIRUAKO: I do not expect somebody to put words in my mouth, sorry about that. I am here to say what I think is the truth. Let us find a way to correct what happened. We can come up with a referendum, but not the department headed by Honourable Mutorwa. He came up with objections without even investigating the matter. We have to have a referendum which will allow everybody to come with their choice.

Talking about history, history has been distorted all the way. I have some of my people who speak Nama because they are recognised by Namas, they do not have their own language. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Who are your people?

HON RIRUAKO: You. One is Mrs Amathila and one is you. It is because of colonisation of Namas who colonised the Hereros in the past. There is evidence and to tell me that they should not be called invaders, what name can I give them if they give another language to my own people and they have my surname but they do not speak my language? One has to bear this in mind before coming with an argument.

Therefore, we have to come up with a referendum to correct what went wrong in the past. I am standing with the Afrikaner here, where did he get the name Afrikaner? Where did they come from? From Cape Town.

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON RIRUAKO**

For you to tell me that I am wrong when I am talking about this, I have to tell you I have the same right you have. Where you come from is where we come from and that is why I have the right to say that. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: I am from Angola.

HON RIRUAKO: You are not from Angola, you are an Afrikaner from the Namas here. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. We have listened to the introduction of this Motion and the Debate has started and we are all seeing where it is leading. It is not really helping this House at all and this explains the nature of the issue that was brought. I would, therefore, like to request you, Honourable Speaker, to invoke Rule 97 for the closure of the Debate.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, it is my right to say what I want. I am not going to confuse the public, I am not saying that I am not Ovambo, I am. The history tells me that way and you are Herero like me, the history tells you that, but you are hiding the truth.

I am not here to argue about the facts, the facts are there and I am not going to deny the truth. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Who is the Mover of the Motion?

HON RIRUAKO: It does not matter who the Mover of the Motion is, the truth is the truth. I am not arguing about who the Mover is, I do not care who the Mover is, I care about the subject we are addressing.

17 May 2005

**RESTORATION OF PLACE NAMES
HON //GAROËB**

To rest my argument, let us go back to the public and discuss this issue, because it is a public issue. That is the right way to do it, but I am not going to deny the fact, the fact can be argued. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: There are two proposals on the Floor, one by Honourable //Garoëb to adjourn the Debate and the other to send the Motion to an appropriate committee. For now I give the Floor to Honourable //Garoëb to adjourn the Debate.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I beg to Move an adjournment of this Debate until next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection?

OBJECTION

HON SPEAKER: What are you objecting to? There are people who want to make contributions, as you did.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: There is an objection because there was a Motion moved that the Mover amends this Motion. It is said that Namibians are invaders.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Order. It is a Rule of this House that unless a Motion is prepared on a pink paper and submitted to the Table, there is no Motion moved. So, forget it.

17 May 2005

ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable //Garoëb proposed that we adjourn the Debate until Tuesday, next week. So decided. I call on the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, in adjourning the House, I want to remind the Honourable Members about their homework. Tomorrow, the 18th of May, we meet here at 14:30 and SWAPO will have 85 minutes to discuss the Budget, CoD, 45 minutes to discuss the Budget, DTA, 45 minutes to discuss the Budget and propose an Amendment for an authentic name for the DTA. I so Move.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00 UNTIL 2005.05.18 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
18 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Education.

TABLING: EDUCATION STATISTICS, 2002

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Education Statistics for the year 2002.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Report? Notice of Questions?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 2 June 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

1. It is a fact that the anti-corruption law was passed in both Houses in order to prevent and root out corruption, nepotism and bribery.

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON ULENGA**

2. Is the Minister of Health aware of the well-planned corruption and nepotism done wherever there are vacancies and they have to employ new workers by the administration of the State Hospital in Oshakati?
3. Can the Minister establish a commission of inquiry to eradicate corruption, as was stated in the petition provided?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the State House? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will now read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF
SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 17 May 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Honourable Ulenka adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, my intervention will be ready to be delivered in this House only on Tuesday, the 24th of May. Therefore, unless there are others who would like to speak on the Budget now, I will Move that the Debate be adjourned until that date.

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

HON SPEAKER: That being the case, is anybody else ready? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to welcome all new Members of Parliament and further wish them strength for the hard-working time that lies ahead. Namibia as a country needs to congratulate itself for a successful power transition from one leader to another. I must admit that our future planning of elections and transitional periods must not be as long as the last one. We must never allow such a long period before new institutions are put in place. It is my opinion that smoother and timeous transitions always manifest stability and continuity.

Honourable Speaker, the timeframe for the purpose of studying the Budget must be reasonable for Members and especially backbenchers to exercise a proper oversight function.

Honourable Members, a National Budget is an embodiment of the values and aspirations of a society in which the needs and demands must be addressed. Thus, an occasion of Budget is a very important one to elected representatives to critically examine how shares of our resources are distributed to the benefit of society and the Nation collectively.

Honourable Members, setting targets is a useful exercise if serious attempts are made to achieve them. If that does not happen, then in most instances credibility would be lost. Our Government has set out expenditure targets that seem not achievable. Our current expenditure level is at 35,6%, nearly 6% beyond the target benchmark of 30%.

Our stock of public debt stands at 33,5% beyond the 25% benchmark. The stock of public debts exclude Government loan guarantees which are forecast to reach over 10% of GDP.

It was further projected in 2004/2005 Medium Term Expenditure Framework that for the current Fiscal Year, the public debt would have shown a decrease of 1,6% of GDP, whereas it currently stands at 2,4 percent of GDP. This result of unmet targets are standing in its fourth consecutive year of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

Public debt can be viewed by the Minister, as per her statement, that we are below international benchmark projections, however if we borrow to spend on items that do not generate growth, I argue that the country is in much greater danger than we can ever imagine. The red lights are on and we cannot afford to borrow if we do not want our country to be a heavily indebted country.

Honourable Members, public expenditure in our country reminds me of the old Scottish case in the English Law of a gentleman who killed three of his wives on different occasions in a bath at an outside resort in Scotland. At the death of the first wife the Judge remarked, *“how sad is this story.”* When he killed his second wife who died under the same circumstances, the Judge remarked, *“how accidental.”* When the third wife died under the same circumstances, the Judge remarked, *“how deliberate”* and the gentleman was sentenced for murder even if there was no material evidence before the Court.

The deliberate over-expenditure of many of our Ministries is a matter of great concern and more must be done to change the situation. The Minister of Finance seems to remark only on Budget occasions on more prudent financial management, but after that nothing seems to be done. The last year she remarked in her Budget Speech: *“This trend of overall expenditure should be reversed if Government expenditure is to remain sustainable.”* This year again she remarked: *“Strict fiscal discipline will be required to produce sustainable levels of expenditure, which will require Ministries to spend within their ceilings.”*

Honourable Members, our expectation is for the Minister to announce drastic measures to save costs. It is my conviction that the Minister has not spelled out firmer and practical ways of how to do what she proposed.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of the House to the State-Owned Enterprises and parastatals in our country. It is a continuous shocking news to learn that out of 49 or more parastatals that exist in our country, six of them provide just under N\$33 million in revenue in this Fiscal Year. The Minister stated in her statement that, *“Air Namibia’s reform efforts are generating results”*, but the financial statement presented in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework shows operating losses actually rose to N\$163,1 million in 2004. Which reform is generating results, Honourable Minister, while Air Namibia received a further N\$116 million under the Main Division 12? Furthermore, to what extent are State-Owned Enterprises

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

required to raise revenue collection for the Central Government in this way? May the Minister answer these questions during her reply?

Honourable Members, the underperformance of many parastatals has become a matter of great concern. Of late, State-Owned Enterprises have been caught up in the drama of mismanagement. Every morning we hear of the establishment of a commission of inquiry while many of our people are prejudiced of their hard-earned cash. These inquiries bear testimony to the disgraceful state of the entities and can be linked to the collapse of corporate governance. This, in my view, is due to many Board of Directors who are not competent and lack what it takes to lead the businesses to success within set commercial principles, especially not if the competition environment is strong. Continuously State-Owned Enterprises persistently inundate Government for more cough-ups, while millions of dollars are lost to financial embezzlement. The appointment of poor senior executives has led to this state of affairs in these very important entities. Perhaps the last Ruling Party call for “*jobs-for-comrades*” has led greatly to this situation. We need to re-look at the question of competency of senior corporate leaders at our parastatals.

Honourable Speaker, according to the 2004 World Economic Forum Web’s Africa’s Competitiveness Report, we as a country slipped from position four to five, as analysts noted that a culture of corruption which was rooting itself in Local Authorities and parastatals was chief among the reasons for Namibia’s drop. Namibia again slipped from position 41 to position 54 on the Corruption Perception Index, thus tainting the image of the country, according to Transparency International, an international corruption watchdog. All these indicators are not favourable for our Nation and the image of the country to investors are worrisome factors. I thus urge the Government to crack its whip on perpetrators of these despicable acts of corruption and mismanagement.

Honourable Members, I want to raise a very important issue which is sensitive and I appeal to Members to debate it with conscience and fair reason.

Our continent, Africa, has on many cases been divided and locked in civil wars over petty differences on regions or on many occasions, ethnicity. Resources are the best integral tools to advance human development and if assumptions and perceptions are created that resources are benefiting certain regions or groups, the situation becomes untenable. Honourable Speaker, I am very glad that I raised this issue during a non-election campaign period and would not

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

want to play the issue to the gallery, knowing its sensitivity. However, I have noticed with great caution and concern that no ethnic group in this country represents 60% of the population on its own.

Honourable Speaker, I want to refer the Members to Article 23(2) of the Namibian Constitution: *“Nothing contained in Article 10 hereof shall prevent Parliament from enacting legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons within Namibia who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory laws or practices or for the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society arising out of discriminatory laws or practices or for achieving a balanced structuring of the Public Service, the Police Force, the Defence Force and the Prison Service.”*

When the founding legislators of this country drafted this, they were well aware of the scenario that lay ahead and the scenario that was brought by apartheid and colonialism. However, with the restructuring of this institution in an unfair manner, we would lead a great Nation and a great dream in a direction where history would spit at us. Honourable Members, in brief, it remains unacceptable for close to 85% of chief executive officers and top managers of parastatals to be dominated by one ethnic group or certain persons from the same Region. It further remains unacceptable for the top structure of Defence to be dominated by close to 76% of the same ethnic group and the same people coming from the same Region, so in the Police Force and various structures in our country. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Which Regions?

HON VENAANI: Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Oshana. (Interjections) Those who are making the remarks are the ones perpetrating this agenda. It remains unacceptable for us to come from a system of colonialism and apartheid and then to re-implement a new apartheid of our people. We must be fair, and equitable distribution of resources must be effected in our country. (Intervention)

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I want to inform this House that during the Interim-Government only the people from Okakarara, where my brother comes from went to the then Academy for further education, they did not allow the Himba to join them. Now you are talking about only the people from the four Regions benefiting. You are nominated by the DTA but you are paid by the SWAPO Government, so there is no apartheid in that.

HON RIRUAKO: I have taken people to be educated in the names of Kavekatora and Mupia to be educated in the United States and I did this ahead of time.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, since I have 45 minutes for my Budget speech, I shall entertain those questions. I spoke of percentage and speaking of percentage, I take cognisance of the fact that other people are represented, but the majority is becoming a problem and it has been proven on the African continent to be a problematic issue. If democracy says that 85% of chief executive officers must come from one Region, then I do not know whether you understand the concept of democracy. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Member, you are contradicting your President, because your President referred to other Namibians as “*invaders*.” What about your DTA members in the South? Your President referred to your Nama members as invaders who came and colonised Namibia. What is your opinion on that? You referred to the Honourable Member in front of you as “*invaders*.”

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. This is a National issue, it has nothing to do with individual Political Parties. You made this invader a hero. This invader to you is a hero, what has he done to you? To us he was a killer and he is your hero.

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Order. It is my understanding that this is a new Parliament and that there is what we call a maiden speech which should not be interrupted. I am not doing your homework for you, Honourable Minister, I just want to know whether there is a precedent now, that during maiden speeches people are going to be interrupted, so that we can prepare for that. The convention has been that a maiden speech is the first time you talk.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member wants clarification. I do not know whether this was the case during the three previous Assemblies, but I think it is for new Members.

HON DR GEINGOB: Comrade Speaker, normally when you have new Members coming to Parliament, there is what is called an induction course. During the induction course I did not see old Members attending that course, which therefore follows that a maiden speech can only be made by those who are coming for the first time to Parliament.

HON VENAANI: The reference to the Afrikaner group as invaders, that was mentioned by my party leader, that is the history of this country and no person will deny the fact that the Namas fought the Hereros in this country. No person will deny the history that there was a Deutsche Geschellshaft that was buying cattle from the central and northern parts of Namibia to be sold in Cape Town for their markets in Europe. The historical fact that the Nama people came here with weapons and started making war is a fact. We cannot change the history, but we can change the future.

HON SPEAKER: Before I give the Floor to Honourable Ekandjo, I want us to concentrate on the Appropriation Bill. That is what we are debating.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, is it allowed to a Member of this august House to

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

refer to other Namibians as “invaders”, because he is confirming that he regards them as invaders.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to refer the Members of this House to the history of the great Zulu Nation. It is a historical fact that the Zulu Nation increased in numbers because they colonised and oppressed smaller ethnic groups, such as the Matabeles and the Vendas in South Africa and that is a historical fact how the Zulu Nation became the great Nation it is today and no person can deny that. The facts of history can never be denied and we as a Political Party... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please?

HON SPEAKER: Question denied.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, what I am trying to say and I do not want the Members to take the importance of this issue lightly, and that is that ethnicity and regionalism have divided one of West Africa’s greatest economies, namely Cote d’Ivoire. Today this great Nation is divided in the south and north. What manifested itself as the worst human catastrophe in Central Africa in the Great Lakes region, in Rwanda and Burundi, should never be repeated in Africa. Ethnicity, Honourable Speaker, is breeding itself in our country and it must be stopped and fought against in all its evil forms now and not later. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, I do understand that you said we have to speak to the Budget, but we also have to inform the so-called Opposition benches. Comrade Speaker, last month Honourable Mbumba went to Opuwo and a young girl, wearing Otjhimba

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

clothes, was speaking English on television. Now it is said the Government is doing nothing. Doing nothing for you or to whom? Your former leader of the DTA said he sent Kavekatora and Mupia to New York. Yes, he sent them because of the Namibian Nation. The money was supposed to develop the country, but it has been going to the DTA to buy guns to kill the Namibian Nation and the money which was left was used to send the people to New York.

HON MOONGO: I would like to ask the Honourable Member whether he is aware that she is looking for another promotion? If she does not spoil the spirit in the House, she will not get promoted.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, we have seen a young girl, wearing Himba dress, speaking English. That is a positive sign in this country. We do not want only one, we want them in numbers. That is what ethnicity is all about.

The receipts from the Southern African Customs Union revenue are forecasted to drop from N\$4,2 billion to N\$3,7 billion, while the Medium Term Expenditure Framework suggests SACU revenues are said to rise again next year and following year sees its fall. The Honourable Minister of Finance remarked the following: *“The Minister called on the business community to seek dialogue with the Government that would allow that their needs are well accommodated in the negotiations of these free trade agreements, so that at the end of day any concluded free trade agreement shall reflect and respond to their needs and situation.”* I agree with this call, and find it very laudable. I firmly believe that an immediate dialogue should be initiated by Government to engage business on the conditions of the free trade agreement before its implementation. This is in view of the challenges of SACU States that are expected to increase in competition from products produced in those countries, currently involved in the trade negotiations. This will require SACU member countries to develop their local industries in order to be able to function at the same playing level with other parties involved. This challenge of developing the local industry is a challenging one for our country, as SACU trades with relatively more developed countries with well-developed industries.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, how ready are we, how well-

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

equipped are our industries to meet these challenges? I say we have a long way to go and our priorities remain unbalanced and the following figures back my argument:

During 2004/2005 Financial Year, Vote 19 of Trade and Industry, the industrial incentives were cut from N\$3 million to N\$2,5 million, while training and reimbursement for export processing zones was cut from N\$4 million to N\$2,5 million. Again in this financial year, the same Vote 19 saw an industrial incentive stay at N\$2,5 million, training and reimbursement for EPZs rose marginally to N\$2,6 million. However, our Nation's Government sees it logical fit to spend N\$53 million in this financial year, N\$10,3 million last year, totalling N\$63,3 million on the film production of *"Where others Wavered"* of former President Sam Nujoma. We spend less on equipping our industries and more on developing a story of one man.

Honourable Members of this august House, our priorities seem not to be right and it reminds me of the Word of God that says in Corinthians, *"even if we speak the tongues of man and angels and have no love, we are nothing."* Even if we sign the best trade agreements and our markets and industries are not fully developed to take the challenges, no progress would be achieved.

The Minister of Finance said in her Budget statement on page 19: *"However, the experienced reduction in revenue share is in part offset by adjustments still due under the 1969 SACU Agreement."* This statement brings the following questions:

Being aware of the fact that before the new SACU Rules of 2004, South Africa used to map the overall direction of the trade policy of the region, while the South African Board on Tariffs and Trade assumed responsibility for determining tariff levels and the granting of duty rebates, etcetera, the South African Government, on the other hand, used to determine the excise duty without consultation with BLNS Member States. Honourable Minister, how do you view the dominance of South Africa in the new 2004 arrangements? Can our Nation beat South Africa and in which industries, in your opinion, through the free trade agreement?

Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of this House to the IMF 2004 Article 14 consultation for Namibia. Those that served in the Third Parliament will recall that I asked the Minister of Finance a question late last

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

year on why she never tables the IMF Article 14 Consultation Report for Namibia in Parliament as an act of good governance, as is the practice in many countries, including South Africa. She replied as having not known any statutory or conventional obligation to release such a Report.

A summary of the Report is contained in the Macro-economic and Budgetary Framework document and before I quote from the document for the purpose of those not knowing what I am talking about, the IMF Article 14 Consultations Report, under Article 14 of the International Monetary Fund, articles of the agreement to which Namibia is signatory, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members usually yearly, whereby the IMF staff visit the country, collect economic and financial information as well as having discussions with the country's officials on the economic development and policies. Out of this the IMF staff prepares a Country Report.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to quote from the Summary Report as contained in the Macro-economic Budgetary Framework: *"In general the IMF observed that Namibia has enjoyed a high degree of macro-economic stability since Independence. However, economic growth has been insufficient to generate a reduction in unemployment and a broad-based increase in living standards."*

While our creditors observe this, we justify spending a billion dollars on defence and cut on health spending. How many of our citizens are dying every year from malaria and other epidemic diseases? Last year I was called a liar by the former Minister of Defence when I asked a question on the purchase of new frigates from Brazil and helicopters and yet it was confirmed that we bought those frigates. We want new war toys to protect ourselves, from whom I know not.

It is my conviction that our country cannot afford to spend one billion on the defence of this country while our people remain unemployed and while the unemployment rate is standing at more 32% in this country.

May the Honourable Minister of Finance also explain the miscellaneous item under Vote 08 of N\$121,8 million as contained in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework?

The target that we set ourselves under NDP1 and NDP2 was to create close to

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

30,000 jobs in five years. Not half of the target is met, yet our Budget does little to attempt to accommodate how we can achieve this. We speak of an educated people to advance human development, yet the spending on our higher institutions remain the same. Thousands of our Grade 10 learners are dumped on the streets to create the observance of IMF of unemployment, yet Defence receives this much. It must be put on record that we as a Party have an objection to the Defence Budget of N\$1 billion.

The cry for better housing is loud and many of our towns have become shanty towns due to poverty, yet the Minister of Finance approves ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: May I ask a question? The Honourable Member has mentioned the spending on the military while there is no danger of being attacked. I want to know whether in his own logic he feels that we do not need a deterrent force and do not need to build our army for any eventuality, but we have to wait until we are attacked and then we start buying things?

HON VENAANI: Being a member of the farming fraternity, "*Honourable Minister without work*", you know that when you are a cattle herder and there are lions in the vicinity and you do not have a rifle, you use dogs and the *assegai* to kill the lion and you know that your forefathers used to do that. I am not saying that we do not have threats to be attacked, but those threats are not eminent and if they are eminent, please inform us how eminent they are. I do not believe that a middle-income country such as Namibia can afford to spend N\$1,1 billion on Defence to buy weapons. Even in the United States of America there is a great debate on the Defence Budget of America, a country that can afford, yet the Americans are fighting against their own Defence Budget. If we are a hundred times poorer than the Americans, can we really afford to spend on Defence? That is our conviction and that is our position. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: On a Point of Order. I want to advise my Colleague, the young man, to enrol at the University of Namibia to study the structures of the Government, because there is nothing such as a

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI

“Minister without work.”

HON VENAANI: Provided that a bursary is made available, I will do so. Honourable Speaker, the cry for better housing is loud, yet our Minister of Finance finds it possible to spend N\$1,2 million to create the Office of the Minister of Presidential Affairs as a matter of urgency. How many houses can you build with this amount of money? However, in two, three months we have to spend N\$1,2 million to accommodate the new Minister of Presidential Affairs.

Honourable Speaker, I want to reiterate my earlier call for IMF Article 14 Consultations for Namibia to be made public as a gesture of good governance for us to see the observations made by IMF. We further call upon Government to call the long-awaited job summit to discuss the unemployment crisis in our country.

Our Nation’s spending and lack of proper prioritisation reminds me of the old song in Latin America: *“Que se ra se ra, what would be would be, the future is not for us to see, se ra se ra.”*

Honourable Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House to taxation. The Minister spoke on consecutive Budget Debates on the particular need to improve revenue collection. The Honourable Minister referred to ring-fencing, noting in particular that taxpayers were offsetting losses from farming against salary income, but was unclear on how this practice would be curbed.

Tax revenue from the Mining Sector is said to be rather poor, non-mining corporate tax revenue is estimated at N\$1 billion five years ago and non-mining corporate tax revenue totals less than half of this figure, of N\$464 million, which suggests an astonishing increase in tax collection, which is a positive sign.

A further positive sign is the non-resident shareholders tax that has increased this year to N\$87,9 million from N\$36 million last year. The Minister, however, did not mention in her statement the mining royalty tax. Was there any reason for that and does she think the Industry can afford this mining royalty taxation?

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

Honourable Speaker, the Tourism Industry is the third-largest source of income after mining and fishing and thus a continuous strategic input should be invested in this Industry. Since the 9/11 attack on the Trade Centre, the world has seen a decline of tourists and the Industry was worst hit. However, many African countries, including our neighbours, went on various advertising campaigns to remarket their countries as great holiday destinations and we have seen little effort by our Nation to market itself to become one of the greatest holiday destinations it once was.

The country needs product diversification and branding to compete against other regional destinations. This is where community-based tourism should be supported to meet this requirement. The markets in the Kunene, especially in the Damara Twyfelfontein area where tourists are coming, the Kaoko, the four O-regions, Kavango and Caprivi must be fully exploited to enhance job creation and improve foreign exchange. I thus support all national efforts to improve this Industry.

Land reform in our country has seen a lot of talk and a lack of action by our Government. The fact that N\$50 million were appropriated last year and only N\$3,9 million were spent on land reform clearly backs my position. Many would argue that no land was made available for sale, an argument I refute, since last year many farms were available and few buyers existed due to the long moratorium on the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme.

We are observing with an eagle eye that many of the resettlement farms have become dilapidated and many new owners are vandalising these properties. Our earlier proposal of trying to assist these new farmers with soft loans for cattle and small stock still stands, as many, especially the San communities, are sitting on these farms without anything to farm with.

Honourable Speaker, the former colonial dispensation spent billions of dollars over several decades to subsidise white farmers through various provision of grants in order to build a strong agricultural sector, yet we see our Government is very hesitant to follow suit to address the imbalances of the past. Of concern is that agriculture's contribution to GDP has been declining from 7,6% in 1994 to 5% in 2002. The Affirmative Action Loan Scheme, in my opinion, is an efficient tool for equitable land distribution to previously disadvantaged farmers who can afford it without destroying the fabric of the economy.

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

The recommendations of the Standing Committee on Economics, which was adopted by the Third Parliament, has seen no life despite the importance and urgency of the matter. Thus, the allocation of N\$2,62 million is not enough for this important task, even noticing that is less than the previous year. I further urge white commercial farmers to sell their land at reasonable market prices. My proposal of releasing part of AgriBank reserves to support the initiative of loans for acquiring and purchasing of livestock and land still stands and I plead for Government's consideration.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance on her critical observation of the Banking Industry in our country. By doing so, I must admit that while many analysts were very critical of your statement, I was deeply moved, because I believe in leaders that always charter in uncharted waters to find hope and a future for their people. The poor access to funding by Small and Medium Enterprises is a matter of great concern and the call for banks to take some element in risk is welcomed, since our Nation's banks are among the most profitable banks in the world.

However, Honourable Members, we must bear in mind that the economic imbalances that our country has suffered are of the worst in the world, perhaps second from Brazil and South Africa. The gap between the haves and have-nots is still persisting and shall continue to do so for a very long time. Although I support the access to financing by small and medium enterprises, you and I know very well that it will take another hundred years for SMEs to compete with institutions established decades ago which dominate our economy today. Just in terms of economic empowerment this process will be a drop in the ocean. We as national leaders must make sure that we open up markets to empower the previously disadvantaged Namibians.

Honourable Members, I call for Black Economic Empowerment now. It is important for us to speedily pass legislation that will open up the current strong white-dominated private sector to all Namibians through acquiring shares in various established industries. If this process is implemented, then we will believe that a step in the right direction is taken. Banks must play their fair and sincere part, plus risks must be taken into consideration.

We have taken note of various black economic empowerment deals in this country of massive magnitude, but they were effected without policy framework and implementation. It must also be borne in mind that when we

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

speak of empowerment, we speak of equitable process to all Namibians and with the emphasis on ethnic diversity that exists among our citizenry.

In conclusion, we recommend and we advise Government time and again to have zero tolerance on unproductive items, give more attention to areas of productivity, allocate more spending on health and education, streamline structures to reduce spending, downsize Cabinet is one, restructure and downsize the public sector, create safety nets to repatriate employees to the business areas, re-examine and reappoint new and skilled persons on Boards and management of state-owned enterprises. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Speaker, today the SWAPO Party has 85 minutes. We wanted to hear what alternative proposals the Opposition has, but they are still to craft their statements. Therefore, to use part of those minutes, I would like to take the Floor.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, this is pre-eminently a momentous time for me to highlight a cascade of national issues that are so close to my heart. We are all impelled in this House to climb the ladder towards human enlightenment. I am, therefore, elated and I extend my felicitations to the Honourable Speaker. The eminence and sanity of this House is maintained by your admirable and refined track record. Your prolific Deputy is rock solid and an asset with unbreakable principles. You are, therefore, Honourable Speaker, a turbo-charge to an engine and your seat is a cockpit, a microcosm of this Chamber.

I salute the Honourable Minister of Finance for a well thought out Budget. This Budget is *pro-poor, pro-jobs, pro-food production, pro-poverty alleviation, pro-health* and above all, *pro-economic growth*.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, as we deliberate on this Budget, we should be guided by the mandate by the electorate. The electorate has mandated that solemnly use an infinite wealth of collective wisdom, graciously dispersed through all of us and tenaciously act *in tandem* with their highest expectations. Therefore,

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

when they demand answers, we should not frown, run and look away; their demands should not fall on hostile ears, but be attended to with rapidity. We should not be withdrawn from the people, but bind ourselves to a renovated common purpose, deliver and never betray their trust. Therefore, as we discuss this Budget, there is a mammoth job to be done with urgency, commitment, incisiveness and vigour.

I take it as a privilege and a grand responsibility to serve the Nation with complete subjugation of self and uprightness of character. The Nation is praying for deliverance. The elections are over, hard talks are over, now it is hard work and real introspection as leaders. Solutions will only be delivered by all of us working together towards the fulfilment of our intentions as codified in NDP2, Vision 2030 and the SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto of 2004.

Adherence to the prudent fiscal measures proposed by the Minister of Finance is vital. The destiny, survival and well-being of the Nation are now in our hands. Let our hands, therefore, be firm, safe and serve the Nation with humbleness, serenity and seriousness. The Nation will, of course, hold us to that promise. The voyage to success will demand that we spend our time and ingenuity in economic development. Therefore, from our divergent views that I see so much, we should derive unity, strength, wisdom and enlightenment. The versatility and solidity of our views should always stimulate and enrich Debates and elevate Debates in this House. The Chamber will be at times electrified, but never, ever electrocuted. Sanguine temperament, therefore, in this hub of ideas is a must. Once a debate has reached a plateau, we move on without prevarication. Time is too precious. Our liability in this House is to uphold unifying ingredients and discard and transcend clogging trivialities. Issues of national dimensions take precedence over our villages, next-of-kin, romanticism and stereotypes.

Ethnicity that is starting to brew up is condemnable and unconstitutional. The thrust and hammer should be on pressing issues, not on the luxury and passion of concentrating on inconsequential and false issues.

Honourable Speaker, I want to say that let us not be derelicts in our duty, in the nobleness, in the decorum, magnificence and in the vitality of this Chamber. Our imaginations and energies should constantly leap ahead, reshape Namibia's destiny and never falter.

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Venaani referred to the money being spent on the film on the Founding Father as the Nation as history. I would like to say that as we discuss the Budget, we must acknowledge the interconnectedness of the past, present and future. The past and present mould the future, therefore our indebtedness is eternally due to the legacy of the luminaries, the dynamos, pillars and architects of our freedom who had eagle eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak and a brain to think. Our undying gratitude, therefore, for their infinite values, providence, embodiments of victorious efforts, resoluteness and strong devotion to liberty. The epicentre of your hearts, Honourable Speaker and many of the leaders to whom I had to look up for a long time, was divinely formed by prowess, courage, value qualities, morality and selflessness. They fought the abyss of humiliation, servitude and degradation in which they were plunged. Their fragile dignity was torn asunder. Their achievements, the trajectory, therefore gives us confidence as a new generation of a prosperous Namibia. Therefore, we are descendents of a victorious past. We should now play our part and nourish the future. We cannot and must not freeze and regress.

Honourable Speaker, there is an inventory of a multiplicity of profound ills encompassing our Nation at the moment that we should not ignore as we debate the Budget. We will fight these ills with scarce finances as gently allocated by the Honourable Minister of Finance. We must, I agree with Honourable Venaani, prioritise and this is also called for by the Budget.

Honourable Speaker, the claws besetting our people include the prime and ancient and persistent tragedies of men, spanning from poverty as the greatest scourge, grave diseases besetting our Nation and the world, debilitating unemployment faced by so many people in the country, inadequate housing and inequality of opportunity. We are also faced by excruciating landlessness, demeaning mean spirited and nauseating crimes due to perverted fantasies by the cruellest and shallowest criminals. We should, therefore, draw a line in the sand that says the ills should be fought although with scarce resources.

To my Colleagues, the Honourable Members of the Opposition, I would like you to stop pretending of not knowing the intentions of the SWAPO-Party Government. The Budget is crystal clear on our resolve to fight the bedevilling ills that we face. Our duty, therefore, our ardent dreams and fervent aspirations are to extricate Namibia from these hampering shackles and tormenting miseries. Foul cries, groaning, bemoaning and unending anecdotes

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

are aliens in this Chamber. Some Opposition Members whom some of my Colleagues call “*rejects*”, are overly obsessed and intoxicated by a dose of guilt for their failure to win elections. I want to say it is normal, do not cry, let us just be adults. Accept defeat, you have been heavily punished, it is true, it has been pants-down, but just stop bleeding, you have nothing to offer at this point in time. Let us continue refining our electoral system, let us continue to look at the Electoral Act and get a home for the Electoral Commission. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question? Comrade Manneljie, do you want to suggest to the Opposition that because they were punched heavily, they must just throw the towel into the ring?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Speaker, I said our dear Colleagues were punched, we are still friends, they have not thrown in the towel, I said “*pants-down*” because they have nothing to offer. Therefore, let us continue refining our electoral system. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I rise on a Point of Order. Maybe the Whips of SWAPO have not informed their Members, but in Standing Rules this morning we stated that if people speak, they should not provoke others. I would under normal circumstances not comment on ridiculous statements and totally ignore the junior Member, in terms of age, but if he wants to provoke, if he starts scratching where it does not itch, he will be in trouble.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will take that into consideration as he proceeds.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Speaker, today I will not mention names, let people guess who I

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

am referring to, but today I am not mentioning names. If it is hurting some people, I will not mention their names.

I would like to say that we should not waste more time, our task is too serious, expectations are too real. We should, therefore, bring together mind and heart, summon zeal, seek lasting and sensible solutions for the Nation. We cannot be timid souls and I would like that every heartbeat and pulse of all of us should be a loud echo calling us for action.

The Budget is visionary, the bigger picture is that no Namibian should perpetually be condemned to squalid conditions and no inch of the country should be a fountain of misery, that we may be ashamed and sickened, as we fear to witness the repulsive reality and vicissitudes demeaning indignities. No phrase and word of a Namibian should be a sense of despair. Therefore, the roots, the seeds and causes of depressing poverty should be attacked through this Budget, weeded out and obliterated. I do believe that providing relief to the destitute should not be addictive. Permanent solutions are needed and this is what the Budget is advocating.

Honourable Venaani referred to the Defence Budget, and I would like to thank the SWAPO Party and ask that we be reimbursed, because immediately after Independence, the Boers took what they had and the SWAPO Party had to give the weapons.

Last year there was a Parliamentary Committee that went to some of the Regions and looked at the military installations and Parliament recommended that the Budget of the Ministry of Defence should be drastically increased and the Minister of Finance should be congratulated for being obedient to this Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to touch on the economic growth and job creation. The embryonic stage of our economic struggle has witnessed a colossal leap as we ushered in a new era of macro-economic policies and good governance. However, much remains to be accomplished. We do not pretend to be saints and to have achieved all our goals, but we have not been a sterile and non-responsive Government. Results of the SWAPO Party Government are there to see and touch for those who so wish. Our nerve and will are now to further strengthen our implementation capacity to ensure economic momentum, rapid rate of economic growth and transformation of the economy

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

for us to have a real sense of hope for the future. The Budget calls for the continuation of deficit and debt management. Our efforts are, therefore, paying off as we manage the deficit and the debts. Honourable Speaker, we should grow the economy. NDP2 and Vision 2030 are only attainable, in my view, if the economic growth is at least 8%. We have to create jobs. This issue has been part of sporadic motions from some entities, without mentioning names in this House, Honourable Speaker. Regrettably, these motions were ill-intended, opportunistic and calculated as election weapon and ploy. The motions were at times entangled in a morass of political petty-fogging and gimmick.

We should, therefore, find workable solutions, we should find workable ideas to create jobs. I, therefore, agree with the Minister of Finance that financial institutions should assist Government and assist the small and medium enterprises to do business and create jobs.

On the issue of competitiveness and the effect we have on so many of our Sectors, I have the following to say:

The Budget acknowledges the dynamics of world events. Our problems are complex and baffling due to the awesome pace and forces of the willy-nilly wave of globalisation in which ecological, social and economic phenomena are all interdependent. We are influenced by world events, our Mining, Fisheries, Textile and Agricultural products are not insulated from these global effects.

I am at great pain that many people have lost their jobs. Industries and Government, therefore, need fresh rethinking, commensurate with these intersecting realities. We should stimulate productivity. Non-productivity strangles economies, which means economic sluggishness. Some of our industries are hamstrung, they produce and sell, but do not market themselves. In that case I agree with Honourable Venaani. We should continue to boost private, public and foreign investment to accelerate economic growth. Investors need consistency, transparency and predictability of policies. Expenditure on Capital Projects should not be stagnant if we are to ensure economic vibrancy, but be increased based on prudent criteria, including rate of return.

I am happy that the Budget proposes the attention on new, strategic, productive investments, including Green Scheme and aquaculture. Honourable

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Speaker, global competitiveness and innovativeness is a must. Without these, exporting industries lose revenue, denting balance of trade and income streams. Businesses do not stand still, Honourable Speaker, our products should be of enviable quality. Industries must reappraise their situation and not succumb to yesteryears' obsolete practices. There is no standard recipe for rapid economic growth, but I dare to suggest that we need to urgently craft our own winning, comprehensive Namibian growth model and make it work. We should not blindly copy and paste. Yes, we may sing the same cosmopolitan songs with other nations, but we should always consider, assemble and play our own tunes. This should be in harmony with the uniqueness of the fabric and symphony of our social institutions, including political background, human capital, geo-political location, population dynamics, infrastructures and security of property rights.

On the issue of the primacy of knowledge, because Honourable Mbumba is in front of me, I would like to say that we have a small population, enduring political peace, blossoming democracy – even if some question that, it is blossoming and I will say it even louder – many natural resources, viable laws and policies. However, our economic growth is at an agonisingly tortoise pace. It is an unvarnished truth that technology is an important catalyst to ignite and propel super economic growth. The smaller our economy remains, the more susceptible, brittle and precarious to internal and external shocks. Economic growth, therefore, and industrial development are our lofty objectives for the next five years.

The Budget fittingly gives emphasis on the imperatives of human capital. We should continue to rely on the primacy of knowledge capital, the crystallised foundation upon which nations are anchored. As the saying goes: *“the main hope of a Nation lies in the proper education of its youth.”* The Budget is pro-education, all Budgets have been pro-education. Education should, therefore, continue to be a locomotive of success, it should continue to be what breathing is to human life, it should continue to be a liberator of the Nation from the cloud of poverty. We should, however, not train for the beauty of training and not for the street. That is a wasteland. Let us ensure that subjects at institutions of higher learning are relevant and graduates are absorbed at workplaces after graduation. We further need an infusion of social capital consisting of norms if we are to build this country, consisting of values and trust. Distrust and exclusiveness create societal disharmony. It hurts me that despite the magnanimity of forgiveness from the previously oppressed, some

18 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

head and heart-hardened elements only share under duress and upon an elbow-push. We have no choice, but to narrow the artificial cultural gap and economic divide. The bonded share experience, opportunity and responsibilities.

On the issue of State-Owned Enterprises I want to say that in order to ensure economic growth, we should entrench institutional quality by rewarding institutions that are productive and creative and punish those in disarray. Civil Servants and State-Owned Enterprise practitioners must uphold the ethos of efficacy. Boards of directors should not be amicable, symbolic figureheads, but fulfil fiduciary responsibilities. Ritual, ceremonial and superficial meetings where managers at times merely present incumbent directors with information on managerial intentions without any query are insufficient. Managers should have performance targets and above all, the mastery of the business.

On labour issues of the country, the bilateral relationship between trade unions and businesses, Honourable Speaker, should be put under the microscope, dissected and a cure found. I lament that there is a lack of trust. Trust is built on openness and respect for the dignity of all. Negotiating acumen should be developed to ensure industrial peace. Rivalry, self-importance are futile traits. The preponderance of the tug-of-war on labour issues is an economic catastrophe that we cannot afford, Honourable Speaker. The two, the businesses and the unions, are not belligerents to a conflict, but social partners. The workers and the country will suffocate in the dust in the absence of a healthy communication strategy.

Before I end, on the issue of land: Namibia inherited an unjust society of two clubs, one of the wealthy haves and one of the dispossessed and disempowered have-nots. We could not afford the continuation of this humiliating malady and savagery, it had to be rectified. The fertile land amass in the hands of absentee landlords is a concern. The bitter and bloody struggle was primarily for land. The distasteful treatment of labourers by some farm owners painfully tingles my nerves. The labourers are dehumanised, their dignity trampled under feet. The scouring heat and freezing temperatures take their toll. Irrespective of age and health status, the reservoir of patience of the landless is running out. Therefore, let us continue addressing the issue of landlessness in an orderly manner.

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO

On the issue of tourism, I want to agree with Honourable Venaani that the Budget recognises that the tourism sector is pregnant with prosperity. Namibia is, of course, a seductive gem of appealing beauty, captivating tender majesty, splendid virgin terrain, pristine purity, magnified by open space, fauna and flora. Therefore, no wonder visitors are magnetised and hypnotised to this country. The hospitality industry, therefore, should treat our visitors with absolute civility and flawless politeness. They should greet them with smiles of gratitude and infinite happiness for having been our guests. We need a Namibia that embraces and warmly welcomes visitors, where an enthusiastic smile is natural and not demanded, that visitors feel at home and once Namibia is in the blood of a visitor, it is there to stay. Extend courtesy, kindness and invite them to call again and do not throw change to them with disinterest. After all, they pay your salary.

In summary, Honourable Speaker, Namibia is emerging from a fractured past and the Budget should be discussed taking that into account. That epoch was of hatred and human suffering and this Budget should be discussed taking into account where we are coming from, that we are trying to heal the wounds of the past. We are coming from an era where human-beings turned infernal and became at times anti-human-beings. Theft of properties of the powerless as well as travesty of justice was notoriously authenticated.

We are coming from an era where water became blood and where tools of production became weapons of destruction. Today we are triumphant, not it is time to build a gigantic edifice of prosperity, solidified nationhood, cemented by commonness of purpose and permeated by an aroma of camaraderie.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: May I ask my Colleague a question? I agree with everything Dr Iyambo has said, but probably he could put emphasis on these beautiful things he has said about our country, which is the truth and nothing but the truth. We can only attract the people if we are very aggressive in marketing the things we are talking about through all channels. Are we really marketing it to the level that it will attract people to come here? Swaziland had one small plane, but the way it was marketed abroad, you thought that it had a big fleet of planes. If we could market aggressively, do you not think we will achieve what you are saying?

18 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN

HON SPEAKER: Aggressive but polite, yes.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Speaker, we should politely in an aggressive fashion market our country. We should continue to be on a crusade to market the unsurpassed beauty of this country of ours. I do believe that we have done quite a lot, but we still need to do quite a lot. Our ancient desert should be marketed more.

Honourable Speaker, the Minister of Finance has presented a highly realistic Budget that we should support. The Budget acknowledges the daunting challenges and unprecedented opportunities facing Namibia in our quest for Nation-building and socio-economic reconstruction. We should support the Budget.

I have confidence in our country. I envision a prosperous, firm, secure, stable and reputable Namibia. In the sanctity and ambience of this Chamber we are duty-bound and condemned to look for solutions and always deliver. We will consider the pros and cons, the merits and demerits, the debits and credits of the different legislative and developmental options. This House is not a barren land, it is endowed with people with formidable intellectual armaments, faculties and, above all, consuming love for Namibia. Once the post mortem of our work is done one day, posterity will be our judge. Let the verdict be conveyed in a roaring sound that, *"you have performed as per the oath you took."* I support the Budget.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday, 19 May.

18 May 2005 **COMMITTEE STAGE: ACCREDITATION BOARD OF
NAMIBIA BILL**

HON SPEAKER: Is there any objection to the adjournment of the Debate until tomorrow? So decided. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**COMMITTEE STAGE: ACCREDITATION
BOARD OF NAMIBIA BILL**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The
Committee has to consider the Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill.

Clauses and the Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Bill reported without Amendment.

18 May 2005

**THIRD READINGA CCREDITATION BOARD
OF NAMIBIA BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO**

**THIRD READING: ACCREDITATION
BOARD OF NAMIBIABILL**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry Move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Any further discussion?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you all for having thoroughly studied this Bill and having satisfied yourselves and I thank you very much for your support.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

**ACCREDITATION
BOARD OF NAMIBIABILL**

SECRETARY: *Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill.*

18 May 2005

ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: I call on the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House be adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 16:20 UNTIL 2005.05.19 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
19 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Members, today being Thursday, the business of the House is initiated by the Opposition benches. The second Notice of Question is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 2:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am rising to respond to the question asked by Honourable Phillemon Moongo of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. (Interjections) I am trying to answer questions of Honourable Phillemon Moongo, village headman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance.

After thorough investigation in the mentioned Regions, I am pleased to answer the first of his questions on whether it is true that the NANCA Project was granted the tender to renovate schools at Iiheke ya Nekela in 2003, Ipumbu Secondary School in 2003 and Onyuulaye in 2004.

I am pleased to say Erundu Construction and Global Construction did the construction work on the Ipumbu Secondary School and on Onyuulaye,

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON MOONGO
HON MBUMBA**

respectively, in 2003 and 2004. NANCA Project did neither of these projects, as alleged by the Honourable Member and Headman. The third school, Iiheke ya Nekela mentioned by Honourable Moongo could not be found in our records and statistics and I shall only be able to provide the necessary information when the right name of the school is provided.

On the second question of Honourable Moongo, whether the Ministry is aware that 30 of the workers of this project have not been paid and that the blame is directed on this Government, I have the following to answer:

The Government has paid the contractors in full for the services rendered by the other companies, not by NANCA, and does not interfere with remuneration between contractors and the workers, because the contract is given to a company, not to individuals. That is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, neither of the Government. Therefore, let him identify the correct company and let the workers confront that company.

On the third question of the Honourable Member Moongo, whether the contractors were paid by the Government for work done, I can confirm that the contractors who got the tender were paid in full by our Government. Once you get your contract, you will be paid.

On the last question by the Honourable Member on what the Ministry has done to ensure that the funds for these projects were appropriated correctly, be informed that the project supervisors, the project inspectors and/or consultants approved and recommended the payments for the work done and the payments were done. I hope the Honourable Member is satisfied with the answers.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The third Notice of Question is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON VENAANI
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

QUESTION 3:

HON VENAANI: I put the Question, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the question by Honourable Venaani.

The Honourable Member wanted to know as to what happened to the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration on the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. On this question I answer as follows:

As a Government, upon receipt of the Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, we took the natural approach of scrutinising the proposals contained in the Report so as to take a position on the way forward with respect to those recommendations. As soon as the process of reviewing the Report is finalised, our proposals on these recommendations would be submitted to the Cabinet for its approval and thereafter this august House will be approached accordingly. It is however important to note here that consultations between Parliamentary Committees dealing with specific assignments and stakeholder Ministries are necessary if we are to ensure that conclusion of Committees' investigations are taken forward without delays once approved.

Now the Honourable Member asked in his second question when the recommendations of AgriBank Board of Directors in respect of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme will be tabled in Parliament. Perhaps it is important for me to explain on this issue, that the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme is the policy initiative launched by the Executive with the aim to give momentum to the Land Reform Programme. Government has however observed that certain aspects of the scheme, specifically the Government guarantee, were not implemented in the manner that was initially envisaged by Government. As a result, Government tasked the AgriBank Board and the stakeholder Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, Water and Rural Development then, and Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation then, to review the formula for determining the amounts guaranteed by Government and to make appropriate proposals for a more appropriate formula to Cabinet. In this regard it was deemed

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON VENAANI
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

appropriate to put a moratorium on the Government Guarantee Scheme until a new formula has been put in place.

I am glad to announce that these institutions, as referred to above, have generated some useful proposals that will soon be put to the Cabinet for approval, so that the Guarantee Scheme can start again.

On the last question of the Honourable Member with regard to when the moratorium on the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme will be lifted, it must be clarified here that there is no moratorium on the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme, the moratorium is rather on the Government Guarantee Scheme.

It is equally important for me to explain that the concerns that gave rise to the moratorium are very real and they do not only relate to the financial sustainability of the scheme, but also to the affordability of the loans by the beneficiaries of the loan scheme. What was taking place until recently was that Government guarantees were used to secure loan funding above AgriBank's maximum loan value, which is the maximum loan that AgriBank feels can be sustained by the production of the farm to be acquired. The risk in this arrangement is that farmers then get loans which may be way beyond what they can service with the income generated from their farms and the outcome of that will be default on the loan, which will cause them to lose their farms. This situation threatens the financial stability of AgriBank as a funding institutions, erodes the sustainability of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme, which is an important component of the Land Reform Programme and creates undue exposure risk for Government as the guarantor.

The aim of the review, therefore, is to ensure that the Government guarantee is used to, first and foremost, ensure that Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries do not get into a debt trap that will cause them to lose their newly acquired farms.

Secondly, it will ensure that the scheme does not contribute to the escalation of farm prices by providing loans that are higher than the market price of the farm.

Thirdly, it will ensure that the scheme is streamlined with the Government policy of prudent management of the contingent liabilities of the State.

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON VENAANI
RT HON ANGULA**

The question on when the moratorium will be lifted has been answered already, that once the proposals are approved by Cabinet we will lift the moratorium. I hope that this information has provided clarity on this issue and that the public now understands that these measures have good intentions and that it has benefits for the beneficiaries of the Affirmative Active Loan Scheme and the Land Reform Programme in general. Thank you.

HON VENAANI: I want to thank the Honourable Minister for her answers.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The fourth Notice of Question is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 4:

HON VENAANI: I put the Question, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank Honourable Venaani of the DTA for his question. Unemployment is a matter of great concern to all of us. It is a well-known fact that while the labour force grew at 1,7% during the nineties, employment growth only grew and 1,7%, leading to an effective growth in unemployment during that period. For example, in 1994, those who were actively searching for work were 14,4% of the labour force. During the same period, those who were available to work but were not necessarily actively searching for work, were estimated at 32,9% of the labour force.

For the year 2000, those who were actively searching for work were estimated at 20,2% of the labour force and those who were available to work were estimated at 33,8%.

According to the Annual Report of the Bank of Namibia of 2004, the unemployment rate is more acute among the Namibian youth, particularly the age group of 20 to 24 years. For this age group unemployment stands at 46,9%

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON VENAANI
RT HON ANGULA**

of the total population of this age group. Unemployment is also comparatively higher among females as compared to their male counterparts. Moreover, most unemployed people are those with only primary education. The unemployment rate amongst this category was estimated at 36,2%. The unemployment rate amongst those with junior secondary education and senior secondary level was estimated at 28,1% and 25%, respectively. The implication is that a better educational qualification increases the employment potential of individuals.

In addition, it has been noted that unemployment is higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas. In urban areas the unemployment rate was 24%, whereas in rural areas the unemployment rate was 16,6%.

The unemployment rates are being further exacerbated by ongoing retrenchments, especially in the fishing sector. Job losses in this sector is a great concern to Government. The Ministers of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Labour and Social Welfare are seized with this matter.

With regard to the holding of a National Job Summit, Government commissioned the Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit, (NEPRU), to conduct a study on employment creation policies in Namibia. The study examined issues such as dimensions of employment creation, economic environment, employment policy environment, policies have direct or indirect impact on employment creation, infrastructure development and institutional framework for employment creation. This study will now be work-shopped by the Employment Creation Task Force. On the basis of this study, the Employment Creation Task Force will prepare for the holding of a high-level forum on employment creation. The forum will discuss the findings of the study and make recommendations to the Cabinet on the ways and means of moving forward to launch initiatives in favour of employment creation. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The fifth Notice of Question is by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON ULENGA
RT HON ANGULA**

QUESTION 5:

HON ULENGA: I put the Question, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I would like to thank Honourable Ulenga for the pertinent question. The short answer to the question is as follows:

Any security threat against any person within the borders of the Republic of Namibia deserves to be investigated by the relevant law-enforcement agencies whose primary functions are the preservation of internal security and the protection of life and property. It is against this background that investigations into the alleged security threats against certain specific Government or State officials have been instituted. An investigation is being conducted by security components entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that all citizens and residents within the Republic of Namibia are protected and secured. The investigations are ongoing and their findings will be made known after the completion of the task.

Once again, I thank you, Honourable Ulenga, for your interest in this matter. Thank you.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not have any follow-up question, save to thank the Prime Minister, Right Honourable Nahas Angula, very much for a sufficient answer. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The sixth Notice of Question is by Honourable Schimming-Chase to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE-QUESTION-HON SCHIMMING-CHASE
RT HON ANGULA**

QUESTION 6:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I put the Question.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Once again I would like to thank Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase for her question and I would like to answer the three questions by way of a short statement which aims to place the findings and the recommendations of the said Commission into perspective.

Cabinet, during its meetings held on the 18th of February 2005, adopted the findings and recommendations contained in the said Report. The same meeting also established an ad hoc Cabinet Committee with the specific mandate to work out a strategy for the implementation of the recommendations of the Report.

Subsequently, Cabinet at its meeting held on 26 April 2005, considered and approved the strategy for the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the ad hoc Cabinet Committee. In line with the said strategy, designated Offices, Ministries and Agencies were directed to implement the recommendations of the Report without any delay and to report progress on the implementation of the said recommendations every three months to the ad hoc Cabinet Committee. The latter was tasked to report back to Cabinet within six months after Cabinet's approval of the implementation framework.

Cabinet further directed that the Report of the said Presidential Commission could only be submitted to Cabinet and disseminated to the public once the recommendations have been fully implemented. This decision was based on the fact that tabling the Report in Parliament and disseminating its contents to the public whilst the recommendations are still being implemented could prejudice the due process of law. For example, police investigations into criminal offences, counterclaims especially from those implicated and the objectivity of the courts during the course of trial could be challenged.

I, therefore, urge the Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase to let the implementation process run its due course and await further announcements on

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE-QUESTION-HON SCHIMMING-CHASE
HON DINYANDO**

the tabling of this and any other Commission's Report in Parliament and their subsequent dissemination to the public. I thank you.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for the timeous reply to my questions and to express the assurance that I shall be patient. Unfortunately we wanted to know this before we discussed the Budget and we will now have to discuss it without the knowledge.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The seventh Notice of Question is by Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 7:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I rise to respond to Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase on her question on the film, "*Where Others Wavered*."

It is common knowledge in Namibia that the idea of the film project, "*Where Others Wavered*" has been a private idea of the Pan-African Centre of Namibia (PACON). At the same time, it is a reality that a film based on the Founding President's book, "*Where Others Wavered*", once it has been realised, would no doubt bring out Namibia's history for liberation from colonialism and it is definitely of national interest. Of course, it is a well-known fact that no one can avoid SWAPO's dominance in recording the history of Namibia's liberation struggle as that is the pattern that has brought the liberation of this country, thus paving the way for Members of Parliament to sit in this democratic august House.

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE-QUESTION-HON SCHIMMING-CHASE
HON DINYANDO**

Therefore, being a project of national interest, the Namibia Film Commission, feeling it is its legal requirement to support the production of local films and to strengthen the film industry in Namibia under a fully-signed deed of grant between the Film Commission and the Pan-African Centre of Namibia, has made to the Pan-African Centre of Namibia a grant of N\$15 million, not N\$16 million as alleged by Honourable Schimming Chase. The deed of grant is very clear that the grant will be used strictly for the film project, "*Where Others Wavered*", and the Film Commission has all the rights to satisfy itself that all moneys from the Commission is utilised for that purpose.

At the same time, within the deed of grant the Pan-African Centre of Namibia has undertook to source additional funds to cover the difference to realise the finalisation of the film. That means, the initial N\$15 million made available by the Film Commission was a once-off payment as a way of promoting the local production of films.

As to whether Cabinet intends to make more money available, as mentioned above, Cabinet has no intention to make further money available as the Pan-African Centre of Namibia was to raise all the money. However, at this stage when all preparations are made and the film crews have arrived in the country, most of them international, and the Pan-African Centre of Namibia has failed to raise money to cover the production of the film, the Government has to allocate an additional amount of N\$50 million, as reflected in the Budget before this august House under Vote 29, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. That means a total amount of N\$65 million will be needed to complete the film and all will be paid by Government. The N\$50 million were already taken care of in the Financial Year of 2003/2004.

The Government had to take this decision for two reasons:

1. **Already** an amount of N\$15 million is spent and if the film is allowed to collapse, that money will be lost for good.
2. **The project** has become an international project as contracts with international film-makers are contracted and should the project be abandoned, it will bring long-lasting damage to Namibia as a potential film-making country and upcoming Film Industry in Namibia.

As it is a recognised fact that taxpayers' money will be used in this project and

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE-QUESTION-HON SCHIMMING-CHASE
HON DINYANDO**

more money is needed to address national priorities, such as education, health and social services, the Government has directed the Film Commission of Namibia to engage the Pan-African Centre of Namibia for an agreement to be signed between them to ensure that spin-offs to be realised from the project will be paid into Government coffers until the full investment made by Government has been recouped.

On the issue to bring the Audit Report to the House, the film project is not a statutory body whose audited reports are required to be presented to Parliament. However, now that the project is funded by Government through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, when the Auditor-General will audit the books of the Ministry during the years to come, the moneys spent on the project and such expenditure will be reflected and this House will then be informed. In the same vein, the Report is available and if need be, the relevant officials from the Film Commission and the Pan-African Centre of Namibia can be approached for copies.

May I also use this opportunity to inform the Nation that the shooting of the film that has started almost five weeks ago is progressing well. The Minister and I have witnessed some of the shooting sessions and we are convinced that if the trend continues, we are expecting high quality material. I hope that I have answered Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase though I have chosen not to answer them in the order they were asked. Comrade Deputy Speaker, thank you very much.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his maiden answers and congratulate him on his appointment. With regard to the answer that the film was started without the money being available, could the Deputy Minister tell us how one starts a project before you have the money?

Secondly, it is not my intention to discuss the history of the liberation struggle here, because all of us who were there will have our own interpretations. However, I have again read the inaugural statement by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba and all his public statements. (Interventions)

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE-QUESTION-HON SCHIMMING-CHASE
HON DINYANDO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: It is not a supplementary question, therefore I rise on a Point of Order. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Use your time, do not waste time with your Points of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: The Rules give me that right.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you assist me with that Rule, Honourable Members.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: You want to rule the speech of the President Out of Order?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It must be in the framework of your previous question where you did not understand, not a long statement.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: The priorities for this Nation, as stated by the President, did not include the making of films. Therefore, I would like to ask the Honourable Deputy Minister when this became a priority if the President does not feel that it is? And finally, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I again thank the Honourable Deputy Minister that the audited statements are available and we shall discuss it when we get to the Vote. Thank you.

19 May 2005

**RESPONSE-QUESTION-HON SCHIMMING-CHASE
HON DINYANDO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: On the first question, why the Ministry started this project without money, I said this project is a baby of Pan-African Centre of Namibia and that should be asked to them and not the Ministry. The last question is not related to the questions on the paper, it is another question. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Schimming-Chase, are you satisfied with the answer?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am satisfied, I am patient, the Budget will come.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

SECRETARY: *Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – Appropriation Bill.*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Honourable Mr Viljoen adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. This is a maiden speech, we should not interrupt the Honourable Member.

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I will only use half of my time, because I am not going to say anything controversial and I ask for your patience.

I have always regarded myself as a good teacher and, therefore, I may use the remaining minutes to put questions to my audience to see whether I have lost my ability to convey a message.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency President Pohamba has recently singled out education as the way forward for our youth. Namibia will only go forward if our youth go forward. That will only happen if enough money is made available for the education of our youth.

Before I look at education specifically, I want to remind you of trends in budgeting that Namibia has experience since Independence and how it has influenced education and the youth. Since Independence there occurred changes in the spending patterns of Budgets. A study made by the Institute for Public Policy Research in Namibia on the budgeting of the past fifteen years had shown four main reasons for the changes in the patterns of budgeted public spending. The reasons are:

- A reclassification of spending and new main divisions have been created and other main divisions have been eliminated;
- Commercialisation of Government operations, like the creation of parastatals;
- Strategic political motives and for the purpose of this speech I do not want to elaborate on them; and
- Changes in spending priorities.

The mid-nineties have seen a turning point in the spending pattern of public money with more on defence, paragraph-military security and intelligence; more on medical aid for public servants; more on parastatals and repayment of public debt, but the part which I feel is a cause of concern is: less on education, less on health and agriculture and less on housing for the wider population. Although I am not giving figures to substantiate the previous statements, it is clear that public spending is becoming more inequitable.

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

As far as the Budget for Education during the new Financial Year is concerned, I agreed with Honourable Iyambo yesterday when he stated that we budget for the education of our youth, but if we should double the amount, it will still not be enough. The Budget, as presented by the Honourable Minister, was done professionally and it gives us hope for the future. It promised to give back our national self-respect. If only the Government can address those issues harmful to our economy, which include uncontrolled and unnecessary prestige projects.

Now I want to emphasise two very important areas in Namibia as far as the availability of funds is concerned. The first area is education.

I am not giving you hearsay information, nor is it what I have read or heard on the radio, but what I have seen and experienced. For 35 years education was my business and for 12 years after Independence. It was my core function to visit every secondary school in this country more than once a year. I wrote reports on every school and I still remember the names of many of the principals. I remember I once wrote a letter to the Honourable Mr Isak Katali of Onesi, congratulating him on the good results of his school. I also remember an incident which happened in 2001 when I visited a junior secondary school near Uukule, which I think is the village of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. It was very early in the morning and I was driving with a Government car in the vicinity of Uukule, a blue Volkswagen Passat. It was a sedan and suddenly I got stuck in the sand. I tried in vain to get the car out of the sand and decided to go for help. There was nobody nearby and I walked for several kilometres when I heard voices and realised that I was near a small village. I was walking through a mahangu field with the rising sun behind me and suddenly one of the women saw this Koevoet approaching the village. She started to scream and the whole community came out of their houses and when they saw me, they ran for the surrounding bushes and vanished. How I solved my problem is a long story.

It was a pleasure to serve under competent Ministers, Minister Nahas Angula and Minister Mutorwa, although Minister Mutorwa stopped my salary when I became too old.

Honourable Speaker, my intention today is not to give a negative report on education, but to emphasise the financial needs in education, coupled with

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

financial constraints in the country. I want to point out how money from the Budget could be spent more effectively.

Presently nearly 80% for the Budget for education is allocated to salaries and personnel related expenses. Taking into consideration the high commencement salaries since 2005 of newly appointed teachers and the adjustments still have to be done to the salaries of teachers who were in the service of the Ministry before January 2005, it will be an unbearable burden on the finances of the State. If we are fortunate, we might be left with 20% of the Budget for very necessary infrastructural needs. An effective education system needs a realistic portion of the National Budget, but it seems as if we have to spend most of our money on the wrong target group, the educators, instead of the people to be educated. Let us look why the 20% is not enough and what can be done to alleviate the situation.

The first point of consideration is the ever-increasing number of learners. Learners seeking admission to schools, especially in Windhoek, have increased considerably over the past number of years. It is ineffective and a temporary solution to place learners, mostly Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners, at the beginning of the school year in already full schools by requesting schools to create more classes and this just to satisfy people. All children cannot be accommodated in primary schools by admitting more and more learners, as these large classes make teaching and learning ineffective.

I have seen more than 80 Grade 8 learners in one classroom. When I studied the timetable, I saw the teacher preferred to have a big class of eighty learners instead of two classes because it gives him more free periods. Furthermore, there is approximately one secondary school for every ten primary schools. How could the large number of primary school-leavers possibly be accommodated in the few secondary schools?

Then there is the question why there are over one thousand learners from Angola in our schools while many of our own learners cannot find a place. This is a problem that should be resolved, because the situation in Angola has normalised and there is no reason why these learners cannot return to their country, thus providing space for our own learners.

The Ministry of Education should make yearly provisions in its Budget to build more schools for the learners in Namibia, but if we build more schools,

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

we need more teachers. As already said, the largest portion of the Budget is allocated to the salaries for teachers. This brings me to the next related issues:

Educational institutions should be forced to bring teacher training in line with the demands of the Namibian school curricula and the needs of the Namibian economy and society should be reflected in the curricula. There are schools where private teachers are being used additionally and paid by the school fund, because appointed teachers cannot cope with the high standard of the IGSCE AND HIGCSE curricula. Furthermore, principals should be held accountable for the academic results as well as the physical condition of the school, hostel and other facilities. Lack of proper supervision costs the parents and taxpayers money.

We often wonder about the high rate of non-promotion in schools and the high Grade 10 dropout rate. Many principals are afraid of the teachers and in turn, the teachers are afraid of the learners. When a dozen or more of the teachers of a specific school sit in the staff room instead of doing their job in the classrooms, a principal is afraid to address the problem, with the resultant loss of teaching and learning and a waste of taxpayers' money. Honourable Speaker, I know exactly what I am talking about, because schools and what is going on or not going on was my speciality for many years.

Another area of concern is that the inspectors and subject advisors cost the Government a lot of money. I can assure you that 90% of the inspectors in this country do not make any contribution to the academic progress in the schools and have zero influence on the results of learners. The main task of inspectors has become the delivery of letters and messages to schools.

Apart from a number of hostels which have been closed because they became a disgrace to be used for accommodation, a large number of remaining hostels have to be renovated as soon as possible to save them from total dilapidation. There is not much time left. It is, therefore, imperative that the building of new schools and hostels and the renovation of the existing buildings should be a priority in the National Budget.

Textbooks are the medium through which knowledge is being conveyed to the learners. It is very costly to provide every learner with all the textbooks needed and textbooks are supposed to be used for a minimum of five years, but the problem is that the lifespan of new books is limited because learners have

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

to carry the books over long distances through wind and rain in plastic carry-bags. The biggest problem, however, is that there is not an effective control system for textbooks issued to schools. There should be a computerised system at the Regional Office, indicating how many of a certain text book is available in every school. It is possible to do it because such a system is in place in the Karas Region. By embarking on an effective control system where inspectors can play a big role at schools we can save millions of dollars.

Areas for which money should be made available: training of teachers to accept accountability for what is going on in their schools. I once complained before the Presidential Commission on Education about the negligence of school principals. I referred to a senior secondary school where a leaking tap in the laboratory ran constantly for weeks and the water has already damaged the wooden floor of the building. Three months later I visited the same school and the same tap was still running.

Would you believe that there are senior secondary schools in this country where there are no toilet facilities? A colleague and I, presently the Regional Director of the Windhoek Educational Training, a lady, visited a senior secondary school in the Caprivi. We enquired about toilet facilities we could use, only to receive the following answer from the principal: *"Sorry Madam, Sir, we do not have a toilet in this school."* He explained to us that it was a very serious situation, because at that time there were some lions prowling around and living off the domestic stock of the people. Imagine a Grade 12 girl visiting the surrounding bushes and encountering a hungry lion!

In 1995 I reported about toilet facilities at a certain school where the entrance to the toilets was blocked with furniture because the facilities were out of order. Five years later in 2000, the proper authorities had still not addressed the problem. These are the kinds of problems for which proper budgeting should be done and which enough money should be budgeted for.

Honourable Speaker, I now want to step off education and come to the second aspect for which proper financial planning must be done and I know people do not want to hear it, but those are the youth and HIV/AIDS.

Honourable Speaker, this issue can be compared to a monster, not only eating up our money, but also the human capital of our country and you all know the figures. This morning I read that in a recent voluntary testing project of 1809

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

soldiers in one of our neighbouring countries, 947 were found to be HIV-positive. It is 89%. Honourable Speaker, with respect, we are heading for turbulent waters and we are concerned about the names of places and the needs of land-hungry people. At an international conference in Bangkok one year ago in July 2004, it came to light that the life expectancy of people in southern Africa has dropped at an alarming rate. All of us wish to live very long, but I wish to mention the life expectancy of adults in only three of our neighbouring countries. The term, “adult”, implies people between 15 and 49 years:

In 1990 the life expectancy in South Africa was 61,8 years. Twelve years later in 2002, it dropped with twenty years and it was 41,5 years.

In 1990 in Zimbabwe, 56,6 years and in 2002, 33,9 years.

In 1990 in Botswana it was 74,6 years and in 2002 it is 26,7 years. I do not have the figures for Namibia.

Dr Deborah Landey, the Chief of UNAIDS said, “*the virus is running faster than all of us*”, and the information of the Bangkok Conference announced “*the death of a continent.*” Namibia has a very fine vision. According to our Vision 2030, the life expectancy of men should be 68 years and those of women, 70 years. May God help us that it remains there.

Honourable Speaker, a few weeks ago an amount of an additional N\$65 million was budgeted for the Medical Aid scheme to cope with the escalating claims for life-prolonging drugs. How much money will be enough for the years to come? A massive scaling-up of treatment to prevent the collapse of society is necessary, but the big question is whether all Governments in southern Africa have the capacity to sustain treatment programmes at national level. Material aid, such as medicine, does no longer suffice for this is no longer a disease, it has become a human disaster, a life destructive Tsunami. AIDS is no longer a disease, the virus has left the hospital room and has become the determinant of decision-making and massive disruption in society and it does not play by democratic rules.

Last week we have read in one of the Namibian newspapers about the situation in Lesotho where food shortages are no longer caused by drought as in other countries, but by the scourge of AIDS. It is hitting production at village level, killing the strongest and leaving ten million people short of food.

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

Honourable Speaker, the conclusion is that the AIDS pandemic in southern Africa will exert a full-blown effect on the continent, regardless of what politicians decide. Is there any hope? Is there a solution? The only solution is that all responsible Namibians, including Parliamentarians, have a role to play to influence public opinion. When a national workshop is conducted we should not send our subordinates, we should be availed with adequate resources, information and time to engage in HIV/AIDS related advocacy work in our constituencies. We as parliamentarians should be aware of our own status, we should speak out about prevention of this killer disease and should know that to abstain and faithfulness is the only way to be hundred percent safe. Therefore, the message to the people in our constituencies should be to go back and live according to high moral standards.

Honourable Members, do you know that in the Constituencies of some of the Honourable Members of this House, parents send their daughters over weekends to neighbouring villages to earn money? How many of our youth of today will still be there by 2030 to carry out our dreams for our country? How are we going to prevent governing fatigue, owing to the loss of expertise and knowledge? How are we going to counter the functional decay of our society? How can we accommodate the consequences of HIV/AIDS in our Budget?

Honourable Speaker, I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House may rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mutorwa.

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUTORWA**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, for the opportunity to contribute to this very important Debate, the Second Reading of the National Budget.

The word “*budget*” means a plan that is designed to show how much money a person, an organisation or even a country has and is available and how such available money should be spent on the items and needs that have been identified as needing to be attended to. Any country, more so a developing country like ours, a country that experienced many years of colonialism, discrimination, unequal distribution of the country’s resources and, therefore, lack of development for the vast majority of its citizens, necessarily have and will have many, many things to be done for its citizens urgently. The problem, however, is the available money cannot and will not always match or equal the needs and the things to be provided and to be addressed. That is the unfortunate part of it.

It is for this reason that the Honourable Minister of Finance clearly articulates the Government’s policy position in the foreword of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the big book we were given here, reflecting the Budget Allocations for 2005/2006 up to 2007/2008 as follows: “*In my Budget statement a year ago, I explained the hard choices to be made and the reform of the Budget process from input needs to allocations based on what we get for our money and from how much each Ministry should get to the benefits that will accrue to our citizens.*”

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this word “*choice*” that is used in that paragraph that I have just quoted is very easy to pronounce, but it is definitely a word that is not so easy to apply in the practical, real world in which we live. At both the personal level, when you are called upon to make choices, but also worse still when you are called upon to make choices at an organisational level, at Government level, it is definitely not easy to apply. Therefore, I have full empathy and understanding for the difficult position that any Minister of Finance, including our own, finds herself or himself in, especially when it comes to the actual allocation, the dishing-out of funds to all pressing public needs.

It is not an easy task to do. If you do not agree with me, you can just imagine a situation at home where the mother or father has to dish out even food to

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUTORWA**

their own children. Money is not always easy.

The Budget Allocations to the various Offices, Ministries and Agencies of Government for 2005/2006 give us a clear, unambiguous message and that message is that we are called upon to achieve many things with less and less money. That is the message and this is a very tall order. Our country, Namibia, is a vast country of more than 800,000 square kilometres, but it is also a country that is inhabited by slightly less than two million people. This tells us that our country is sparsely populated. Long distances characterise the physical positions and locations of and between towns and villages and settlements where our people that we represent in this august House live and work.

Expenditures to cover only travelling to provide the services inside the country alone are enormous, but we have no choice as elected leaders, we must travel to all corners of our country, we must reach all people where they live and serve them equally, equitably and fairly. In this regard, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe, and strongly so, that the policy of decentralisation and how it is practically implemented is crucial, because it is through this policy of decentralisation that we must reach all people wherever they are, that we must provide them with resources, we must empower them in order for them to initiate, propel and drive development activities where they are.

Namibia, being a unitary state with a strong Central Government, democratically and popularly elected, it follows also that the implementation policy of decentralisation must logically be coordinated properly from the very centre, that is at the level of the Central Government, of course, without diluting the plans, programmes and the activities that have been initiated and planned in the specific regions, Constituencies, villages and towns.

Some commentators from within this Honourable House but also from outside have been criticising the Honourable Minister of Finance for having made certain choices and decisions with regard to the allocations that she eventually has to make. That is fine, but I would like to point out the following: Honourable Minister of Finance, you should rest assured and you should be comforted by the fact that even the allocations that we make in our own homes to family members are neither easy, nor are they popular at all times.

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUTORWA**

To say that the building of the State House is not a priority or that the allocations to the Defence and other security agencies of our State are not justified, is like saying that one should only live from drinking water. You need water, but you also need meat, you need “*pap*”, you need vegetables for the body to function properly.

State House means it is the house of the State, it is the house of the people, like the Parliament where we operate from as Parliamentarians and like the Supreme Court that is the embodiment of the Judiciary of any country, in my opinion are symbols of State power in any such country, because it is from these institutions that important decisions are made and important functions and duties are executed, duties and functions that at times will have a permanently, lasting effect – good or bad – on the Nation of a particular State.

One only has to look at Articles 27 and 32 of the Namibian Constitution, the details, the functions and powers and duties of the President of the Namibian State to realise and appreciate what I am talking about and in this regard I will only quote on sub-article of Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution that deals with the functions, powers and duties of the President, irrespective of who the person is who occupies State House: Article 32(1) states the following: “*As the Head of State, the President shall uphold, protect and defend the Constitution as the Supreme Law and shall perform with dignity and leadership all acts necessary, expedient, reasonable and incidental to the discharge of the executive functions of the Government, subject to the overriding terms of this Constitution and the laws of Namibia which he or she is constitutionally obliged to protect, to administer and to execute.*”

I read in the newspaper the other day that when one states that it is the duty of the State House and the President to defend the Constitution, then it is an anomaly. It is not. It is not only the President that operates from there, it is the House of the State and there are many officials and other people who must operate and function from a State House as an institution that represents the power of the State. Therefore, inasmuch as it might be costly, the importance thereof cannot be reasoned away. The same applies to the National Defence Force and the Police Force. These are constitutional bodies. The creation of the National Defence Force and the National Police is constitutional and their functions go beyond political allegiance. They are there to protect and defend the territorial integrity of the Namibian State.

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUTORWA**

The issue of prioritisation, as far as I am concerned, does not necessarily denote importance. Education, health and housing are priorities of Government, but it does not mean that the other services which are supposed to be delivered to our people are not important, because in the end all public services, education, health, water, housing, youth matters, culture matters, sport, roads, agriculture, security, law and order are equally and vitally important, because the one cannot meaningfully do without the other.

Looking at education, which is a priority of Government – and Honourable Viljoen has eloquently stated this fact – every beginning of the year you will find a situation where our schools in urban areas are overcrowded. At superficial level you listen to debates and voices that say that this happens because of lack of planning. However, if we expand and build schools all over the country and neglect one fundamental fact, namely that development must be integrated, the problem will persist. When you have a school somewhere in a village, there must also be other services for the people. There must be water, there must be health, there must be employment opportunities, there must be housing. Otherwise you will find that some of the small schools which have been built in remote areas are becoming depopulated because of lack of other services. People move to the towns where they believe there are employment opportunities.

Therefore, by raising this point, I am stating that we have priorities, but we must never believe that the human being can only be satisfied when there are other important services provided.

Let us not waste time by accusing the Minister of Finance and Government at large about wrong priorities. The reality is – and it is an undeniable fact – the reality that confronts us as a Nation is that our economy is simply too small and the rate at which it is growing is too slow to address all the Nation's needs at once. By this I am not implying that the available resources should not be utilised judiciously and prudently. There we all agree, the available resources, little as they are, must be utilised prudently and judiciously, but the fact of the matter is our collectively responsibility to find ways and means to grow the cake. The economy must grow so that at one point we are all happy to have a share in this cake, to enable us to provide all the services that our people want and need urgently and probably immediately.

With this, I support the Appropriation Bill and I thank you.

19 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA

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

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this House, as I rise to make my first intervention in this august House, I would like, at the very outset, to thank my comrades in SWAPO Party and the Namibian voters in general for the confident and trust they have put in me to be a lawmaker. I sincerely treasure this heavy responsibility. I am particularly humble to join in this Chamber the generation of the founders of our Republic, the men and women who wrote the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. I pay tribute to the Founding President, His Excellency Comrade Sam Nujoma, for his revolutionary leadership from the days of the liberation struggle and for the successful management of public affairs over the past fifteen years. I wish his successor, His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, success as he implements programmes of good governance and excellence in the political and socio-economic spheres. I commend him on his vision and sound mission statement. May God bless him.

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on your election. You have written the history of this National Assembly as the first woman to hold the position of Deputy Speaker. Given your dynamism, steadfastness and versatile parliamentary experience, it speaks for itself that you are the right person for the job. I wish you vigour and determination in the execution of your duties.

It will bother me a great deal if I play ignorance and fail to congratulate, in absentia, the Honourable Speaker, Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab on his election to the eminent position of Speaker of the National Assembly. The man of outstanding credentials that he is, I have no doubt in my mind that he is equal to the task before him. He has distinguished himself over the past years as a seasoned politician, all-weather statesman, skilful negotiator and first-class diplomat. His is a proud history with records of meritorious achievements and heroism. I am at a loss of words to enumerate his accomplishments. He brings to that prestigious office the wealth of expertise, brainpower and natural wisdom. I admire his credibility and capabilities and I salute him.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my maiden speech to this august House could not

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

have been better timed than during the period when we have an important discussion before the House, the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2005/2006, which was introduced by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. The Minister and I have collaborated and shared similar sentiments on a number of issues in the past and I would like to assure her that today I am in no different frame of mind.

The Budget presented to this august House unequivocally emphasises good financial discipline, underpinned by increased revenue collection and to reduce growth in recurrent spending. Both these two avenues will ensure that we achieve a budget balance which in essence restrains borrowing and thus saving the fiscus on the cost of borrowing, which at times can become burdensome due to external factors, such as exchange rates.

I, therefore, congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on this mammoth task. Much work lies ahead to ensure that we realise these objectives. No doubt, these are good intentions which all sons and daughters of the soil must take to fulfilment.

The general economic conditions as reported by Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, portrays a promising future for Namibia. Interest rates have been on a downward trend, with the Bank of Namibia's bank rate now at 7%. This trend benefits businesses and consumers alike, as their commitment on loans and other debt lessens. This brings relief to hard-earned income. Low interest is a strategy to promote an atmosphere of price stability, essential to maintaining sustainable economic growth.

Likewise, the level of inflation, which measures the general price level in the economy, also faces a favourable downward trend. Low inflation stimulates economic growth and it fuels low interest rates. Low inflation is perceived to be efficient because it promotes more productive investment and reduces market uncertainties and thereby reducing investment costs and promoting efficient long-term contracts. Low inflation also reduces inflation vitality and increases economic growth.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have observed low revenue collection from the export oriented industries following the weakening of the US Dollar and other trading currencies. Such trend is likely to repeat itself or at least lower revenue from such industry will be expected as the foreign exchange market maintains

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

the strengthening or appreciation of the Namibian Dollar phenomenon. The current appreciation depresses the country's export revenue and a depreciation would boost this sector severely.

Efforts to enhance revenue collection go hand-in-hand with having the right tax men and women in place. I, therefore, welcome training provisions for the public servants at our own university and other reforms aimed at enhancing revenue collection.

I have noted from the media that the Ministry has advertised the position of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. The filling of this position is long overdue as it has been vacant for a year. I applaud the Ministry for having a move to recruit the principal tax collector in the country and I hope that the process would be expedited soon, given the importance of having such an official on board.

Without undue pressure to our esteemed taxpayers, increased revenue for the State offers the following benefits: Financial independence, less reliance on debt, reduced Government Budget deficit and eventual surplus and savings in terms of circles of borrowing. It is also important to know that our State-Owned Enterprises will contribute significantly to revenue collection. A total of N\$139,4 million that is expected over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period to be contributed by the various State-Owned Enterprises is welcomed.

Inasmuch as we want State-Owned Enterprises to meet their financial obligations towards their shareholder, we must also bear in mind that certain State-Owned Enterprises need to reinvest in their activities. State-Owned Enterprises are created to deliver certain goods and services to the economy, hence dividend payments should not compromise State-Owned Enterprises' survival and service delivery. State-Owned Enterprises' service should ensure sustainability, affordability of goods and services by consumers and success of those enterprise activities. The mismanagement of State-Owned Enterprises and their eventual bail-out by Government deprive our Nation of much-needed funds for development. Those who are charged with these public institutions should, therefore, ensure that they meet their performance targets.

The white collar crime phenomenon that has been observed in some State-Owned Enterprises should be combated before it becomes contagious to other

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

State-Owned Enterprises. Let the management of our State-Owned Enterprises subscribe to the ethical principles of honesty, integrity and transparency. The top-heavy structures of some of the State-Owned Enterprises should be reconsidered to save the funds that are much needed for the capital projects that are aimed at extending services to all corners of the country and improving quality of services.

Throughout the world in nations at all levels of political and economic development policy-makers seek to determine whether particular bundles of goods and services are best provided by the Government, the private sector, public-private partnership or some set of hybrid institutions and under what arrangement is the public best served and what is the public bill of resources, goods and services.

As I stated earlier, parastatals are created because of market failure to deliver certain goods and services of the economy. Joseph Stiglitz, an American economist, also who served as President Bill Clinton's advisor, argued that, "*market failure occurs when:*

1. *Mechanisms for values articulation and aggregation have broken down;*
2. *Imperfect monopolies occur,*
3. *Benefit holding occurs;*
4. *There is a scarcity of providers of public (**prelude**);*
5. *A short-time horizon threaten public **prelude**;*
6. *There is a focus on susceptibility of assets that threatens conservation of public resources;*
7. *Social and market transactions threaten fundamental human subsistence;*
8. *Price lying, that is when prices of goods and services give false signals about their real value, (**unfolding**) the communication between consumers and producers."*

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am particularly pleased that Government will

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

introduce measures to address the problem of capital flight. It is high time that we start investing the funds generated from the country to the benefit of the country's economic growth. We should continue to put in place measures that encourage the financial sector to invest in the country. The Minister will continue to enjoy my support in this regard.

As we strive to attract foreign investment into our economy, we need to protect our local investments against undue competition which arise in the wake of globalisation. Protectionist policies, such as policies of import substitution, give the local production breathing room to develop efficiently so that it can replace imports and tariffs can later be improved.

Madam Deputy Speaker, given the social imbalances of our society, it is fitting that more resources, scarce as they are, be deployed to ensure an equal society. It is, therefore, fitting that the Education and Health Sectors continue to receive the highest proportion of the cake at 26% over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. These, however, go towards operational expenditure. On the Development Budget the education sector gets a share of 9%. We have observed at the beginning of the year 2005 that an alarm was triggered as a number of Grade 10 learners struggled to find place in the formal education system. I applaud the Ministry's response to the matter, but we must redouble efforts to ensure that such alarm does not ring twice.

More schools are surely needed to accommodate learners and simultaneously, more teachers are also needed in efforts to reduce the teacher-learner ratio. It is a well-known fact that some schools in the formerly disadvantaged communities have no modern classroom structures. I know of an instance where one of the schools, constructed with wooden materials, was blown up by the rain and wind and was destroyed completely. I happen to be a patron of that school. I do not want to imagine what would have happened to the learners if they were present at the time of such natural calamity. I am, therefore, comforted by the fact that in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework provision has been made of N\$3,9 million towards the construction and renovation of school buildings. Students are able to study and concentrate when their classroom environments are conducive to learning.

Education is very fundamental to the development of a country. It avails the manpower with technical competence to the job market. This in turn will ensure productivity and hence, economic growth. Our institutions of higher

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

learning should continue to identify new areas of specialisation to produce students who will serve all sectors of our economy. Accordingly, we should support the initiation of a project that is aimed at restructuring the education system to provide for the skills that will ensure self-employment as embodied in the SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto for the year 2004.

It is my submission that a diversity of subjects offered at primary and secondary schools in urban areas, multi-skilled teaching personnel and modern science equipment should be extended to schools in all Regions to prepare a good foundation for the academic future of the children of ordinary Namibians, the masses in the rural areas. I, therefore, support the plans in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to recruit and re-deploy teachers in a *pro-poor* sequence to facilitate teaching norms.

I have been following with great concern the performance of some schools, especially in IGCSE examinations. While I acknowledge the fact that in some schools this is partly attributed to lack of seriousness on the part of learners, I also believe that the management of some schools leave much to be desired. That a school where out of 200 learners only 30 have passed, I am not too sure whether in such case I should continue putting the blame on the learners alone.

I commend plans to conduct a base-line survey aimed at improving enough provision of textbooks to schools. The target of a learner-book ratio of one-to-one for all core subjects in each phase in 15% of schools by 2007 will surely improve the performance of learners. I am, however, of the opinion that schools should also be proactive in this endeavour. Most of the schools fine learners when they lose textbooks, but not all schools use this money to acquire new textbooks. Actually, the management of school funds is another thing that needs serious consideration. At some schools principals run school fund accounts single-handedly with a lesser degree of accountability to School Boards. This trend should be discontinued.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to harm societies and the economy. We cannot measure the value of life. HIV/AIDS robs nations of the human resources capacity necessary for economic development. The pandemic brings poverty, resulting from low productivity caused by the scarcity of manpower. The additional appropriation last year to address the pandemic was a step in the right direction. It is also pleasing that more resources are availed in this Medium Term Expenditure Framework to

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Anti-Retroviral programmes and orphans and vulnerable children support.

The condition of our State hospitals and clinics should be socially friendly. I thus welcome the additional appropriation of N\$181,2 million to construct, renovate and improve our health facilities. In this vein, we also need to support our local previously disadvantaged firms as far as practically possible by awarding them work to perform these services. This should, however, be done with due consideration to quality services.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am disturbed by the fact that over the past years crime has taken root in our country, posing a threat to peace and stability. People who were otherwise going to make an immense contribution to the development of Namibia met their unfortunate fate in the hands of criminals and had their lives cut short. Time and again we are shocked by sad reports of rape and other forms of women and children abuses. Armed robberies continue to terrify innocent and defenceless citizens. Crime in any form is evil. The appropriation of 16,3% towards the public security sector is welcomed. We need to instil fear in the minds of criminals by assuring our citizens of the necessary protection for themselves and their properties. We should continue to fight crime at all levels of our society and make such an endeavour a national project.

Complementary efforts by the City of Windhoek in establishing the City Police must be applauded and supported. We hope other towns which are financially stable will follow suit in the years to come.

The amount of N\$645,000 for the acquisition of police vehicles over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period is too moderate seeing that there is a lot of public outcries on the Police response. With that amount, only about five vehicles or less may be acquired. I, however, know that the Police intend to increase its response time to about 98% whenever contacted as well as reduce escapes from prisons to the absolute minimum from 1,500 in the previous Financial Year to 10 by the end of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. This commitment goes hand-in-hand with the unwavering dedication of our servicemen and women. The efforts by NAMPOL to maintain and undertake development projects, using own manpower, create savings on procurement of those services. Accordingly, we should therefore create incentives to further boost the morale of our Police Officers in respect of revisiting their capacity and welfare.

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Crime scares away much-needed investment, both domestic and foreign. Some tourists encountered bad experiences during their first visit and this impacts negatively on the tourism industry which makes a meaningful contribution to our economy. The fight against crime will create confidence among potential investors and Honourable Members in this House would agree with me that Namibia has good investment opportunities, given the country's rich natural resources with a small population.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the mentioning of the words, "*rich natural resources*" drives me yet to another important point, that these resources should be distributed equally across the country. In this respect, I would like to stress the importance of developing rural areas. I note with appreciation rural development programmes that have so far been carried out since Independence. We should continue to encourage more development programmes in rural areas, especially those that employ a large number of people.

The influx and migration to urban centres by people who are unemployed create hardship to those people because of the urban life's dependence on cash living. It is estimated that about 32% of the population live in rural areas. This is lower than the average of 36% for the sub-Saharan Africa and 50% for the lower-middle income countries. The state of affairs in which these people find themselves can cause frustrations which may result in other undesirable activities. Therefore, efforts to attract rural life and, thus, entice living in those areas would help to reduce crowding in urban cities, rural development initiatives by inhabitants. The total appropriation of N\$4,8 million in this direction would add to Government's efforts to reduce poverty and increase economic activities, which are most accompanied by provision of basic services to residents in the form of potable water, electricity and proper sanitation.

It also brings the much sought after jobs to rural areas. All these will help to reduce poverty and will lead to rural development. I commend Government's plan to spend up to N\$20 million per year during the next three years for the proclamation of Ruacana, Okahao, Oshikuku, Omuthiya, Divundu, Bukalo and Otjinene.

Our GDP per capita in 2003 looks very high. This, however, reveals how skewed the economy is, as the majority of our people are still living on less

19 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA

than one US Dollar a day. Such imbalances create distortions. In view of this, efforts to distribute resources equally must be enhanced through, amongst others, promotion of policies towards black economic empowerment. We must, therefore, ensure that through this efficient markets are created. This should be done while avoiding making anyone worse off through making someone better off.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have been following developments in the international political system. Namibia is relatively a small country but it has played a meaningful role at international forums. The Land of the Brave has contributed both its military personnel and international civil servants to a number of peacekeeping operations and missions in the region and the world at large. Namibia has sponsored and supported resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council aimed at bringing amicable solutions to conflicts around the world. Our contribution to international politics is thus so far commendable. It is, therefore, important that Namibia continues to be a respected actor in world politics. It augers well that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is the custodian of the country's foreign policy, is provided with enough resources to continue championing the cause of world peace. I am pleased to note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has plans to increase the awareness of our people on the activities of the AU. This should be extended to other areas of foreign policy and diplomacy, as most of the people in our country regard foreign policy issues to be the exclusive domain of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With increased awareness, our people will be able to start public debates on important foreign policy issues through which they can make a meaningful contribution to the foreign policy-making process.

Inasmuch as we have seen productivity in some areas of foreign services, it is my submission that we should put in place a review mechanism on the performance of our diplomatic officials. This would assist with planning in respect of where we need to improve, where we need to put an emphasis and to what degree.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to say that when I look back at the past fifteen years of Independence, I derive comfort from the fact that the country had foresighted founding fathers and mothers who have laid a strong foundation that will stand this country in good stead. I then realised that a heavy task lies ahead of us to maintain and improve on the achievements that have hitherto been made. In this respect, the Minister of Finance is

19 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

appropriately on the right track. I cannot stop commending her for the prudent fiscal measures that are set out in the Appropriation Bill and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. It is now for those who are tasked with the implementation to ensure that the good intentions and aspirations of these measures have been realised.

With these remarks, Madam Deputy Speaker, I support the Appropriation Bill 2005/2006 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Year 2006/2007 to 2007/2008. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Mushelenga. Any further discussions?

HON MOONGO: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow morning 09:00.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I would like to congratulate all the speakers who took the Floor today, those who answered questions and those who participated in the Budget Debate. I think the Debate was at a very high level today. With these few words, allow me now to adjourn the House until tomorrow, 09:00.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Agreed to. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:55 UNTIL 2005.05.20 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
20 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO
STANDING COMMITTEES**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we start the business of the day, I would like to announce the names of Members who will be serving in the following committees.

Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements:

Honourable B Amathila
Honourable H. G Booys
Honourable H Geingob
Honourable E G Kaiyamo
Honourable L Kasingo
Honourable L Basson
Honourable T Nambahu
Honourable A Ncube
Honourable P Mushelenga
Honourable E !Nawases
Honourable J De Waal
Honourable M Venaani
Honourable B Ulena
Honourable N Schimming-Chase
Honourable T Gurirab
Honourable G K Tjombe
Honourable M Kerina
Honourable J J Viljoen.

20 May 2005

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES
HON SIOKA**

Four names from the Ruling Party are outstanding and I am sure they will be provided in due course.

Standing Committee on Privileges:

Honourable B Amathila
Honourable H Christian
Honourable H Geingob
Honourable K Kaura
Honourable B Ulena
Honourable J //Garoëb
Honourable K I Riruako
Honourable J J Viljoen

Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration:

Honourable H Geingob
Honourable P Mushelenga
Honourable C S Ankama
Honourable R /Ui/o/oo
Honourable T Nambahu
Honourable H Christian
Honourable L Basson
Honourable H G Booy
Honourable J De Waal
Honourable M Venaani
Honourable T Gurirab
Honourable K Gertze
Honourable M B Goreseb
Honourable J //Garoëb
Honourable A R Tjihuiko
Honourable H Mudge

Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development:

Honourable E G Kaiyamo
Honourable H Christian

20 May 2005

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES
HON SIOKA**

Honourable R Diergaardt
Honourable I M Hoffman
Honourable C S Ankama
Honourable R /Ui/o/oo
Honourable A Manombe-Ncube
Honourable P Mushelenga
Honourable P Moongo
Honourable E Dienda
Honourable K Gertze
Honourable M B Goreseb
Honourable G K Tjombe
Honourable A R Tjihuiko
Honourable J J Viljoen
Honourable M Amweelo

Standing Committee on Public Accounts:

Honourable A Manombe-Ncube
Honourable E G Kaiyamo
Honourable H Geingob
Honourable L Kasingo
Honourable B Amathila
Honourable R Diergaardt
Honourable H G Booys
Honourable M Amweelo
Honourable J De Waal
Honourable M Venaani
Honourable T Gurirab
Honourable E Dienda
Honourable G K Tjombe
Honourable M B Goreseb
Honourable A R Tjihuiko

Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs:

Honourable L Kasingo
Honourable T Nambahu
Honourable R /Ui/o/oo
Honourable I M Hoffman

20 May 2005

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES
HON SIOKA**

Honourable H Christian
Honourable M Amweelo
Honourable R Diergaardt
Honourable H Geingob
Honourable P Moongo
Honourable M Venaani
Honourable B Ulenga
Honourable K Gertze
Honourable J //Garoëb
Honourable G K Tjombe
Honourable M Kerina
Honourable H Mudge
Honourable E G Kaiyamo
Honourable E !Nawases

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security:

Honourable B Amathila
Honourable L Basson
Honourable R Diergaardt
Honourable I M Hoffman
Honourable C S Ankama
Honourable L Kasingo
Honourable P Mushelenga
Honourable E G Kaiyamo
Honourable K Kaura
Honourable P Moongo
Honourable N Schimming-Chase
Honourable B Ulenga
Honourable J //Garoëb
Honourable M B Goreseb
Honourable K I Riruako
Honourable J J Viljoen
Honourable H Geingob
Honourable H Christian.

Members nominated to Regional and International Parliamentary Bodies and Associations:

20 May 2005

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES
HON SIOKA**

SADC Parliamentary Forum:

Honourable H Basson
Honourable T Nambahu
Honourable L Kasingo
Honourable K Kaura
Honourable B Ulenga
Honourable N Schimming-Chase
Honourable K I Riruako
Honourable J J Viljoen

Pan-African Parliament:

Honourable B Amathila
Honourable L Kasingo
Honourable E !Nawases
Honourable J Hakaye
Honourable K Kaura
Honourable T Gurirab
Honourable K I Riruako
Honourable J J Viljoen

International Parliamentary Union (IPU):

Honourable K Kaura
Honourable J De Waal
Honourable N Schimming-Chase
Honourable K Gertze
Honourable M Kerina

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA):

Honourable P Moongo
Honourable M Venaani
Honourable T Gurirab
Honourable E Dienda
Honourable M Kerina

20 May 2005

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON !NARUSEB**

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to draw to your attention that some of the names on that list are incorrect and not according to the decision that was taken yesterday morning by the Standing Rules and Orders Committee. If you could allow us to look at the list afterwards, we will correct it. They are definitely not correct.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The staff will look into that. Maybe the Whips have to meet and solve the problem.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY COMMISSION, 2001/2002**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Social Security Commission, 2001/2002.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Peya Mushelenga.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice, that leave of absence, due to official business, be granted to Honourable Charles Dickson Namoloh, Minister of Defence, until the 23rd of May 2005.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION
OF SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill*.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Honourable Moongo adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. First of all, allow me to congratulate all the new Honourable Members who joined this august House in 2005. Allow me to also congratulate His Excellency President Pohamba who democratically took over on the 21st of March 2005.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, both the new President and the new Prime Minister undertook to eradicate corruption and bad administration. This intention is very commendable and I hope that this intention will become reality in the near future. We also welcome the announcement that there will be strict control on the misuse of Government vehicles. We must facilitate efficient and good governance.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was shocked to learn that the number of police guards for VIPs were given very high priority to be increased while not enough are available for the prevention of crime. I was also shocked to learn that the

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

Ministry of Defence is getting a huge increase in their Budget Allocation. I am also concerned that members of the Defence are forced to take out certain unknown insurance policies against their will and they are forced to sign the contracts, but no documents or contracts are issued to them. They, therefore, do not know what these insurance policies are worth to them and how they should claim in the future. This creates a lot of unhappiness among our soldiers. They are forced to pay for NDF T-shirts and they are not given S&T when they execute duties outside their towns. These conditions of employment will not boost their morale and it will not give them any incentive to work harder and to be loyal towards the Defence and Namibia.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the film of the ex-President is allocated N\$50 million while Namibians are pressed by hardship. Some areas did not receive enough rain, therefore the people do not have crops to harvest and the old-aged people are still living below the breadline. Orphans do not have proper shelters or centres in every village to accommodate them. They are in need of food, blankets and all humanitarian aid, including proper schooling. They also need special permission in order to be treated by medical doctors.

Namibians need water dams so that the unemployed villagers and their livestock can drink from these dams. I propose that water dams be constructed in every *omukunda* (village) to supply affordable water, which they can also use to produce vegetables and other crops.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, unfair treatment and nepotism is the order of the day in the Oshakati Hospital. Mal-administration and corruption in the employment of staff occur regularly. I am informed that people are employed because they are brothers and sisters of the people in power. Some of those people are appointed without even being interviewed, simply because they are kith and kin.

The cleaners at this hospital are treated differently on the basis of whether they were in exile or not. I, therefore, propose that a special commission be appointed to visit the abovementioned hospital to investigate. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Moongo is making a very interesting statement and allegation and I think it is only fair that the public out there need to get the

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

actual facts. It is in that context that I would like to request permission to direct a question to Honourable Moongo.

Honourable Moongo, you are talking about nepotism in terms of appointments, specifically in the Oshakati Hospital. It is a fact that the majority of the people who work in hospitals are professionals, nurses, doctors, etcetera. Could you just demonstrate how somebody who does not have the required qualification to be appointed as a nurse or a doctor or any professional, could be appointed in that position merely on the basis of him or her being a family member of somebody?

HON MOONGO: Thank you for the question. I hope in my address I will cover that and I have documents which can prove that. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, are you aware that the Namibian Government has appointed an Auditor-General that has done a *Lotus* Computer Application Programme?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you should be very careful not to mention people who are not in the House. That is a direct attack. The Auditor-General is only one person.

HON MOONGO: We have the Anti-Corruption Commission Bill in place which should be implemented and I would like to request the Government to appoint a commission to investigate thoroughly in that hospital and probably the other hospitals too. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Headman of Ondangwa a question? Honourable Moongo, you are talking about corruption and now you want a commission to look into that. In the first election the DTA had 21 people, in 1994 they had

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO

14, in 1999 they were seven and now they are four. Is there corruption in the DTA or corruption in the whole of Namibia?

HON MOONGO: Madam Deputy Speaker, SWAPO has become experts in rigging all the elections and that is why we have gone to court. SWAPO is rigging too much.

Allow me to congratulate the Minister of Health and Social Services for providing Anti-retroviral drugs in order to prolong the lives of HIV/AIDS sufferers. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point Order. I want clarity on a very serious charge made about SWAPO rigging elections. That is a very serious charge. CoD and the Republican Party are contesting two things about elections. Why is the DTA not part of that?

HON MOONGO: Thank you for the question. We were the first ones to challenge the rigging of elections. We have some information that you brought people from Angola to come and vote in the first election in Namibia. We were the first ones to challenge you in court. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: My question is why they are not part of the CoD and Republican Party's contest now? I am not talking about the past.

HON MOONGO: Because we know SWAPO is even controlling the courts, therefore they will not win that case. SWAPO is influencing the Courts' decisions. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I did not want to participate in interjections before the Speaker

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO

has given the opportunity to those who are here for the first time to be inaugurated properly, but if we are starting off like this, then we cannot help to start serious interjections. I am requesting the Honourable Member to withdraw the statement he has just made in reference to the Judiciary. It is a serious indictment. (Interjection)

HON DE WAAL: But you can stand up here and criticise the outcome of a court case, then it is not a problem.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Honourable Members.

HON VENAANI: Kapia is controlling the Judiciary.

HON MOONGO: Madam Deputy Speaker, I also want to draw the attention of this House to the fact that malaria is becoming a very serious problem in this country. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we should not turn this House into a joking place. The issue that the Honourable Member mentioned cannot just be mentioned in a joking manner like that. Unless he has evidence that he can produce, he cannot ridicule the Judiciary in this National Assembly. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: What did Jerry do?

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Please, can the Honourable Member withdraw his statement?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, can you withdraw?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you withdraw, Honourable Moongo?

HON MOONGO: I said nothing about elections in my speech, it came from the side of SWAPO and they wanted an answer. They are the ones who provoked me.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I would like you to withdraw that the courts are controlled by SWAPO. It is on record.

HON MOONGO: I withdraw. Many people are becoming very ill because of this disease and I, therefore, want to recommend that this disease be taken much more seriously by the Government and that a more effective programme be instituted to curb this disease, because our current efforts leave much to be desired. The current programmes are too slow, too short and are not effective. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to take this seriously, because malaria cases are increasing.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the old-age people are not given any increments in the current Budget and I, therefore, propose that funds be made available to increase the pension to N\$500 per month. The cost of living is increasing every day and our old-age people can simply not buy enough food to sustain themselves on the current pension of N\$300 per month.

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO

Madam Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry dealing with roads is slow in providing and improving roads. Roads such as those from Kavango to Kunene, the main road to Otjinene, the road from Otjinene to Okakarara, the road from Gobabis to Aminuis as well as from Dordabis to Leonardsville and from Opuwo to Alpha need our urgent attention. (Interjection) Are you uncomfortable? As long as you are with SWAPO you will be uncomfortable all the time. You must come this side.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to know whether there are any plans in the pipeline to gravel the roads from Onalunike to Uudhengelo Clinic and from Omuthiya via Uudhengelo to Onanke Clinic. We all know that these roads are very difficult to drive on. It is very difficult to transport patients to the bigger hospitals, such as Onandjokwe and Oshakati Hospitals and therefore, gravel roads must be constructed as a matter of urgency.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Home Affairs is doing its best, but they do not have enough vehicles. I would, therefore, like to know whether this Budget makes any provision for new vehicles for the Police Force. We would also like to see the current Police volunteers serving in the village become full-time Police, and for Amulema to have its own police station. We also need a full-time police station in Onanke.

The money allocated to the Police Force must be increased in order to help raise the salaries and benefits of the members of the Police Force. If we improve the remuneration and working conditions of our Police Officers and women, they will be more effective in combating crime. It has further become necessary that our towns and streets be patrolled during the night in order to prevent the current high crime rate from increasing further.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, although Education received a huge amount of money in this Budget, it is necessary to reallocate some of these funds in order to speed up the building of new primary and secondary schools. I also want to see that there are enough text books for Grades 8 to 12, as everyone knows that there is not enough teachers for some subjects and we are already approaching the middle of the year. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed that for the past seven years the Honourable Member to

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO

read the same speech? We already know it by heart. Every year it is just the same speech. Is it really fair?

HON MOONGO: It is the same as Jerry who was spoiled in Robben Island, his interjections are always the same. (Interjection)

HON MUDGE: You are not building schools, so we must keep on asking.

HON MOONGO: Madam Deputy Speaker, the mattresses and furniture in all secondary school hostels are very old and must be replaced with new ones. The food in hostels is inadequate, children are given only four slices of bread for dinner while in some hostels, they are eating expired rice and this is a fact.

The Minister must come up with a new policy for learners who fail Grade 10 while they are still only 14 to 17 years old. If a child is unable to pass Grade 10 while attending a full-time school, how do we expect such a child to suddenly pass Grade 10 through NAMCOL where the child has no full-time teacher available?

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is high time that Herero and other Traditional Authorities be recognised. I also appeal to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to subsidise the Traditional Authority Fund in order to give incentives to headmen and sub-headmen, because the Traditional Authorities are responsible for large Regions without proper roads. I, therefore, propose that they be given at least one 4x4 vehicle each to enable them do their work properly. I further propose three local courts to be build in every Region as a start with office equipment and transport to enable Traditional Authorities to stamp out crime in their respective Regions.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, after fifteen years of Independence we have not succeeded in reconciling those members who were in exile with the rest of the population. I, therefore, propose that Cabinet must

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI

draw up a reconciliation document to re-unite all the Namibians and those who were in dungeons and prisons in exile to be attended to. Maybe a Truth Commission such as the one in South Africa will serve us well. I appeal to the Government to come up with a proper document to facilitate true reconciliation and true healing, so that the Namibian people must be united and so that we have peace in Namibia. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, you are saying that after fifteen years the Namibians are not united. If that is so, would you be in this Chamber? You wavered, you ran away and came and joined South Africa and that is why you are still lenient to them and you want to imitate them. Were you assisted by Gertze in that statement who always used to mention the SWAPO dungeons?

HON MOONGO: I would like to advise the Colleague that I am here because I was elected by my people and SWAPO is uncomfortable that I am here. Therefore, you are uncomfortable whenever any white of this country is taking part in this House and this is what I call failed reconciliation, because you are against any white talking here who was not in exile. I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call on Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I would like to, first and foremost, welcome all the Honourable Members who made it to the Fourth Parliament through their Party nominations and through the Parliamentary elections by their respective

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI

members of their Parties. The SWAPO Party has done it once again to hold onto the two-thirds majority in this House. Congratulations.

I would also like to welcome the new Official Opposition Party of five members. You could not do better than that. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? On that point, is the Honourable Member aware that a court case against the election results is still pending?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Lastly, I welcome all the new Parties and their members, including the former teacher and education subject advisor, Honourable Viljoen, whom I was happy to listen to yesterday, bringing educational issues and challenges to the House out of experience. I am happy for the compliments and that I managed to impress him during my teaching and educational leadership role that resulted in many learners passing as Onesi Senior Secondary School during my time. Of course, I owe this achievement to those who cooperated with me and believed in my strict leadership. I am confident that I shall continue to impress the Honourable Member so that he writes me another letter as the Deputy Minister of Lands and Resettlement when many formerly disadvantaged Namibians will get access to land.

I am particularly happy for the change in emphasis between Honourable Viljoen and his predecessor, former Parliamentarian, Mr Pretorius, who is the co-designer of apartheid and its notorious policies of division and a fighter for the Afrikaner *volk* and rarely for the Namibian people as a whole. We will be happy to listen to your future uncontroversial contributions.

Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the biblical wife of Abraham and the mother of Isak, has tabled the Budget in this august House and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for our Government. Honourable Minister of Finance and your Deputy, you have taken this position when the economy of the country looks bleak. The same applies to all of us as Members of the

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI

Executive and as Members of Parliament. However, we have to face this challenge and prove to the Nation our ability to lead them even when the economy is not doing well.

The Budget, as was thoroughly defined by Honourable Mutorwa yesterday, was not initiated by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Everything came from the line Ministries and it was just for her to ensure that what is available is carefully divided according to issues of importance and priorities. It is, therefore, my belief and understanding that each Ministry has put up the Budget according to this very principle. It is, therefore, expected of all the accounting officers of the various Ministries to stick to the ceiling provided and not regard this as a denial of funds, but rather as a measure to spend wisely today for prosperity tomorrow.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I have closely followed the comments in the Auditor-General's Report for the past five years. Every time I read that report, the words, "*unauthorised expenditure*" to Minister of Safety and Security were very difficult for me. At the beginning and as time went on, I was of the opinion that this will come to an end, but the persistence in the appearance of this unauthorised expenditure term is really questioning and challenging our ability to learn and make corrections. My suggestion to you, Comrade Minister of Finance, is that this year you make sure – and not next year – that every Ministry adheres to the financial rules and procedures of the Government. It pains when you listen to criticism levelled against the Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila or any other Minister for Government's failure to spend within the appropriation. I really feel that a team should be sent to all those Ministries who are culprits in this, so that those things they are supposed to do before the Auditor-General's Report are put in place, so that we do not have excuses later. The Auditor-General's Reports are coming very late and you would find that the responsible person is no longer in that Ministry to answer questions and, therefore, there is a need for us to intervene now to ensure that everything will be corrected.

I am aware that we have been working hard as Parliamentarians, but now we need to work even harder. As SWAPO-Party Members of Parliament we owe a lot to the Nation and to the President of the country. There are expectations out there that we have created during our election campaigns. We promised people true development and we must work very hard towards that. I

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI**

remember what I said myself and where I said it, I guess everybody else does too.

In order for us to achieve this noble goal of improving the quality of life of our citizens and for them to continue to vote for SWAPO Party in the majority and few for the other Parties, we should take an integrated approach in the provision of services and programme implementation. For example, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement buys the land and resettles people. Then the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry must provide water, skills and management practice for agricultural produce to the resettled beneficiaries, while the Ministry of Environment and Tourism should look after environmental issues. The Ministry of Trade and Industry takes care of the marketing, so that the beneficiaries are able to sell their produce. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare looks after knitting and bakery projects, etcetera. In this way I hope we can render services and better develop our country.

Currently, once something is for a specific Ministry, all other Ministries view it as the baby of a specific Ministry. We really need a concerted approach so that we tackle one issue with all our expertise from the different Ministries.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, there are times when some Honourable Members of the Opposition apply their minds properly to issues of national importance. I would like to bring the issue of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme, which Honourable Venaani also raised, to your attention, as I did in the past. I know that buying a farm through AgriBank is not quite understood by many who did not venture into it. I know Honourable Tjiriange, Honourable Konjore and others did express themselves regarding the hardship and the need for the review of the programme. Let me reiterate that ownership of farmland is not what is important to many who bought the farms. Many did this because it is the only way available to have access to exclusive use of commercial land, no matter how expensive it might be.

The affordable and sustainable methods remain leasing with the option to buy. That brought the current established commercial farmers at the level of ownership where they are today. We are expecting many farms to be repossessed by AgriBank because the owners are unable to pay and then it will be sold back cheaply to the former owners simply because the price might be

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI

controlled. That will render the skewed land redress in Namibia unsuccessful and a major blow to our Government.

If there are good lessons that we can learn from our enemies, one of them is this one: Lease with the option to buy. That will make the programme affordable to each and every Namibian who wants to farm and contribute to the economy of this country.

It is correct what the Honourable Minister of Finance said about the programme in answering the question yesterday and when it comes our way to take decisions on the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme, we really need to address this issue with sober minds and not look at which Minister will benefit from it, since the majority who will be affected are not Ministers or Permanent Secretaries and they are not Chief Executive Officers, but the majority of them are ordinary Namibians.

Let me turn to education which, I believe, is the theme for the Fourth Parliament or for this current Budget year. Everybody believes, and rightly so, that education is the key to development. Of course, everybody talks about it because people here and outside went to schools of some sort or have children in school, therefore we all confidently talk about education. However, it is easy to say that the education system is not good, but sometimes we do this without pinpointing exactly what is wrong with our education system. This is so because of the complexity of education. There are many factors and players in education that need to be taken into account whenever one puts the blame. You have parents, teachers, learners, facilities, materials and even the environment that is often blamed for any failure in schools or society. It is true that these factors do not affect the education system equally or in any order at all.

There are, for example, claims that schools need electricity for learners to do experiments that will eventually contribute to good performance. However, we all know of schools in our areas with electricity for many years no, but no good performance, whilst schools without electricity do well. You find schools where electricity is on the whole night, but the learners at that particular school do not perform. Other schools without electricity perform better. Therefore, electricity alone cannot bring about good performance.

The factors are so many, the players are so many, maybe the problem lies with

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI

the inspectors whom I learned yesterday are just delivering letters and circulars to schools. It is too complex to just stand up and criticise the Minister, the Government or the school authorities without really knowing what is the problem.

For example, teachers claim that their salaries are too low. Yes, salaries could be low, but I do not agree that the salary of a teacher has something to do with his ability to teach to lead to good performance. A message that I would like to send to my fellow teachers is that first let us improve the results and then we can ask for a reward in terms of salary increase, but not the other way around. The fear I have is that if you raise the salaries, the results will go down and you cannot reverse the situation. You will have highly paid teaching staff while the learners are failing and your Budget is actually exhausted.

As a teacher I still believe that the textbook and all other learning materials and facilities are just there to help the teacher. A knowledgeable teacher does not have to rely on a textbook. The other day I was saying that with a teacher and one textbook, learners can learn how to read and write, while if you give five hundred textbooks without a teacher to the learners, these learners will never learn how to read and write. Therefore, the emphasis here is on the teachers.

Studies in Namibia have shown that, all things being equal, trained teachers with high academic education have a high correlation with learner performance in reading English and thus better performance in their academic schools.

When I browsed through the education statistics for 2002, it is rather late but I am convinced that the situation described in here did not change much since then. These statistics reveal that there are huge disparities in the provision of facilities and the quality of teachers in terms of trained teachers with higher academic education that I said contribute more to performance of learners in schools.

When you have a situation like this, you must look at the distribution of qualified teachers, not just teachers, qualified teachers with high academic qualifications. Then you will realise that yes, some of our problems are actually with ourselves. You have to look at how the facilities are distributed and then you will realise that it could be true that some of the problems with our education system are caused by the manner in which we allocate our resources.

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI

We often say a lot of money is spent on education, but sometimes we do this, not really following up where the money is spent, whether it is spent on teachers or spent on facilities, we just say the money for education is too much. Now that we have only one Ministry of Education we can do more research which could inform our decisions in the allocation of education resources through budgeting. However, I must caution that it is not straightforward that it is doable.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, one cannot easily talk about education and development without touching on the youth. The combination of the two is a necessary ingredient for development. Therefore, the improvement drive in education is mostly to the benefit of our youth. The youth need to education and get employment opportunities. Government alone cannot develop the economy and, therefore, needs the private sector. The industry is always quick to complain about the lack of skills in our youngsters. Apparently they expect that when a learner leaves Grade 10 or 12, that learner must already be able to repair a car, the learner must already be able to do accounting or be able to nurse the sick people, but the youngsters should receive training in these fields. Therefore, it is high time that we embark on in-service training. The industries must take in unskilled learners and give in-service training in order that we mould skills for our development.

It has yet to be proven to me, even if we are saying that our education is so bad, that our youngsters are not trainable. They are. As I said, schools cannot train them in skills and the higher institutions that we have, few as they are, cannot absorb all the youth, for many practical reasons that we are all aware of.

We do talk a lot about self-employment and some youth and entrepreneurs, small as they are, took it very seriously and started projects, most of which are agriculture related. Some of them suffered as a result of uncoordinated efforts, that they do not have the market to sell their products. If you go around countries where there are water, you find that these youngsters have taken the call seriously, but to my disappointment, I have seen tomatoes and butternuts which became rotten due to lack of a market.

Therefore, now that we have a specific Ministry dealing with the youth, the Berg Aukas project must be multiplied and then their produce must be marketed, so that they will be able to understand the call for entrepreneurship and the call for self-employment.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI**

Finally, I would like to turn to the parastatals as Government institutions that are supposed to boost both economic and social development. We have NamWater, the institution which closes water to schools and individuals, even if those particular schools and individuals have paid. Can you imagine that you have paid and you are not provided with water? This payment is not only for the water that you used, but you are also paying for the cost of the installation, the cost of having that pipeline coming to your house. For that matter, you are paying the connection fees and even for the digging of the line, but in the end you do not have water.

Government provided water to a school in an area where there is not even rainwater, but then because of bad planning within NamWater, they could not provide water to those who pay and cut the water supply to those who do not pay. It has taken them long to come up with a workable solution that would allow those who pay to have access to water. There should probably be an intervention from somewhere so that they really work towards solving this problem.

I was disappointed when I listened to a radio interview in Oshivambo. One official from NamWater in Oshakati or Ongwediva was telling the Nation that, *"I have a document here, the Government Gazette and the price increase for water was not effected by NamWater, but by the Government"* and people believe it. I have been listening and nobody has corrected that. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Minister, you will recall that I tabled a Motion in this Parliament that NamWater must be brought back to Government. Do you not think it is now time to bring NamWater back to Government?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Motion was trying to bring NamWater back to Government and that is not what I am saying here and that is not what I am advocating. I am addressing the people in NamWater, who are the same people you are saying should come to Government, to correct a very simple issue. It does not mean that if you transfer institutions it will bring about

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KATALI**

change. The change can be effected even within the current set-up. There are Members who were members of SWAPO. Do you mean if they are ineffective there, we must bring them back to SWAPO?

The issue of transformer ownership has also been mentioned on the talk shows for too long and nothing seems to have changed. We have a situation where a transformer is bought by a businessman or an individual, but then when others want to tap electricity, they do it free of charge and nobody wants to reimburse the money that went into that transformer.

While some transformers belong to the Government and others belong to individuals, NamPower is charging people for their transformers, but the individuals who own transformers do not charge them equally. I think the solution to this problem could be that whenever a person puts up a transformer and others tap from there, Government must just take over the transformer and reimburse and then the whole problem is solved. Then the fees paid go directly to the Government as the owner of the transformer, not the current set-up where transformer A is for the Government, the money is going to NamPower, transformer B is for an individual and the money is not going to the individual. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask my Colleague a question? Comrade Katali, we are here in the capital city, the Municipality provides electricity to all households here, but I never heard a person being requested to pay a connection fee of N\$50,000. You only pay a nominal connection fee. Why can this system not be corrected? I want you to put a question directly to the Minister of Mines and Energy, whether they cannot come up with a solution.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Yes, you are correct, I am appealing that this be corrected. I would, therefore, like to request NamPower, together with the Ministry of Mines and Energy, to look into this issue and find a solution.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE**

In conclusion, the economy looks bleak but we have hope. Let us gear ourselves to grow the economy, while at the same time trying to live with what we have and to suffer today and live better tomorrow. With that, I support the Appropriation Bill and I rest my case.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:20
HOUSE RESUMES AT 11:40 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Gertze and it is a maiden speech, he will be protected.

HON GERTZE: Honourable Deputy Speaker. Since it is my first time to rise in this Chamber, allow me to extend to you and to your senior, the Honourable Speaker, my felicitations on your new occupation. The same goes to all the Honourable Members who have found their way to this grand House. I am sure that we are all in search of comfort in the laws we are bound to make in this House. I can only wish you strength, wisdom and the hearts to open up to faith. I pledge to you that I shall be positively difficult to help secure a healthy and straightforward Debate in this House.

I have come into Parliament at a time when my good uncle, His Excellency, President Pohamba, has just taken over presidency of our Republic. I beg to congratulate him once more and wish him all possible wisdom, good health and strength in leading this small, beautiful and intricate Nation with a very big land.

I remember having met His Excellency the President in Francistown, Botswana in 1978. We were then under the good care of my hero, the late Victor Nkandi, who died in the dungeons, while at the same time then the late Sakkie Uugwanga was the SWAPO representative in Botswana. I have continued to know President Pohamba during the years of my exile and I remember some of

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE**

the very pertinent good things he has done to ensure my continued existence until today.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to also congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas Angula, in his absence, on his appointment as Prime Minister. The same goes to his Deputy, Dr Libertine Amathila. I also remember other uncles who have remained true to themselves and to others and sorry if I have forgotten to mention your good names and all that has been good. I however feel blessed to make my humble beginnings in Parliament in your presence. Some of these uncles are Honourable Ben Amathila and some of my mentors like Honourable Hage Geingob, the former Speaker of Parliament, the Honourable Dr Mosé Penaani Tjitendero, Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya, who is no more in this House, and also not to forget the Honourable Minister without Portfolio, Dr Ernest Ngarikutuke Tjiriange, whose driver of the couple I was when he got married in 1981.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me say a few words about the reception into this majestic House. I am sure that you and the rest of us have together enjoyed the induction and even though yours have started with immediate tasks, as it has just happened, I believe that the induction served as a guide for those of us who joined this House only a few days ago. It is also reminiscent for those who last had it some five years ago. It is also my conviction that we will all live by the prescriptions and ethics of that induction. I have understood that my task, as with every Honourable Member of this House, is to make laws and as I said, find comfort in the laws we make. It is also clear that the comfort in the laws that we make seem to be relative. It is in the light of that, that I will always know where I come from and what is due to me.

Paramount to me from the induction was the much-debated connective separation of the three organs of the State. I have come to infer that all three are just called Government in some quarters and you will understand what I mean. Added to that, I am beginning to see even less separation between that three-level Government and the Ruling Party, while I have learned that the implementation of all Party manifestos lies with the elected Members of Parliament. I thought that Members of Parliament emanate from their Parties and should in fact hold Members of the Executive accountable for implementing the wishes of the people as portrayed by the Parliamentarians when they are in Parliament.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE**

The SWAPO Manifesto is a flattering document, certainly. No one will fear it, no one will discard much of its contents. I would have thought that the Manifesto was going to influence and deliver critique to the work of the Executive.

As it is, indeed, the beginning of my assignment from the people with whom I have always shared a common life, people with whom I have always longed for a better life, I must state that I am not coming to deliver a message from those people with whom I have always shared life, I am rather coming to remind or, alternatively, state how we experience life on the ground, how we work and how we do not work, but that we fend for ourselves and how we seek for redress. I am not going to talk about poor people out there, because I am just one of them. I have risen from misery and slavery and I will never forget that.

As I have said, in Parliament we initiate the laws and we make sure that those laws find a solace in our lives. So, I believe too that when it comes to the Budget, it also becomes law in the end and I want to talk not about figures here, because we do that every time winter starts and experts and analysts have the fine task of conciliating any disparities in Budget figures and allocations. Once approved, the Budget becomes the law that aims at improving the quality of the lives of our people. This means three good meals on our laps – and I am not talking about tables here because we often do not have tables, we eat our meals on the laps – and I begin to see the quality of life in the plate with regard to the food I eat. I am going to talk about the bedding we sleep in, and about the houses we stay in, about the courtyards of our homes. I am concerned with the sanitation, hygiene, dignity, self-respect and pride of our people. Our identity lies in what we are and what we have and how we cope in our struggle for survival. That is what matters to me in our social development. When a Budget is tabled, I am looking at the issues that I have just mentioned and not necessarily on which figure is bigger than the other.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not want to talk about the State enterprises, the percentage increases of rolling Budgets of three years, spending on Defence, etcetera. Though it is important, I am not going to dwell on economic theories and concepts either. I do so while at the same time not ignorant of the crumbs we gain from building the biggest shopping complexes, as it is normally being done around, the biggest and most beautiful banks, super court buildings, the most beautiful waterfronts, the best technological

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE**

inventions with undertones of being the best in Africa and among the best in the world. That is not my concern when I speak about the Budget now.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I must state that I do no more cherish budgets and planning processes that do not show visible outcomes for our people. Perhaps I only see the socio-economic regression in Otjimbingwe, the place I come from and its surroundings and my neighbours, Karibib and Usakos. I have learned that poverty is not genetic, it is however heritable and my satisfaction with socio-economic development will always refer to the visible growth that points at the quality of our people's lives.

A number of areas in the Budget are pertinently of worry. Like I said earlier, I am looking at appropriated amounts in the following manner and I am sure that that should be a new way of looking at it:

Firstly, the amount appropriated for Defence, which is over N\$1,2 billion, and the amount appropriated for Labour and Social Welfare, which is N\$564 million. That is one pair that one has to look at when one wants to see the seriousness in the difference of the issue I am talking about.

Next I look at the second pair, which is Gender Equality and Child Welfare and I am talking about women and children here, which is about N\$145 million, and Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development which is about N\$428 million.

When I look at the last single one, which is the Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, which is N\$164 million, when I look at these figures in blocks like that or in pairs, I get the impression that certainly war toys and the soldiers seem to be a priority over food on the table, also perhaps more important than housing, the youth and more important than social welfare, because the respective amounts they will receive altogether are even less than that given to the guns and the machines.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am not being scratchy, perhaps I am just left in the dark as far as social well-being is concerned in this country, but I just cannot accept that 1,8 million people, less those that have bread every day, cannot be fed properly even if they live in ignorance or even if they are not educated. I cannot understand that and I cannot stand that any longer. I just do not have the patience anymore for a protracted suffering that our people are

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE**

subjected to. I would have thought that when we have found Namibia at Independence it was said to have had a population of 1,5 million and the newcomers that were born after that period should never have known poverty anyway. Perhaps it is not a matter of budget as such in this case, it is maybe a matter that goes around the following thoughts: Which one is purpose and the request made for the purpose, the permission granted to the request, the allocation and most importantly perhaps, the application of the purpose and request. That is perhaps why I fail to see a measurable upshot in social development.

By postulation, it should be an area over which the Honourable Minister of Finance probably has very little jurisdiction and that is how I am able to skim through this Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me turn to Education. Education is the instrument that can turn the lives of poor people into a critically well-off person. I am afraid I must also say that I am just one of them. Having made my debut in Bantu Education, finishing in a European set-up and system and having been in the teaching profession for the past twelve years and having dealt with it at secondary as well as tertiary levels, I choose to speak about it without any reference to estimates, adjusted figures and political praise-songs. Twelve years is exactly also the time in which a child enters Grade 1 and exits Grade 12 and that is as long a period I was in education, to have been able to see children grow from Grade 1 to 12.

In the past ten years or so, we should have precluded the gigantic size of NAMCOL and hence with it, the perpetuation of poverty. We could have done that by simply providing good education and I would advise that we extinguish the continued transfer of poverty in the next three-year rolling Development Budget for the Financial Years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Educate the children appropriately and they will not fail Grade 10. This is what I believe in. They will only pass Grade 12 with flying colours and then they will either walk into University for further studies or they may decide to work. They will go back home when they finished to help ease the struggle of survival at home. I know that the dream of every struggling parent and especially mothers comes true through investment and the deliverance of the good work by their children. As the children – I am just one of them too – who rose from poverty and who, through their own struggle, studied and went back

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE**

home to help. They are now able to provide for their own children without expecting handouts from Government or from anybody. Investments in children are done once and over more than ten years. Once they finish we no more have to pay for their food, shelter, clothes, etcetera, they rather actually provide that for us in turn.

Education does not start at Grade 11 level, much less at Grade 10, it starts at home, but when a child is born in a poor home where the child has no choice but poverty, how can he or she escape poverty?

The N\$2,7 billion is a very beautiful sum, so beautiful that you can do anything with it and when I say that, just imagine how much could it procure, how much could it buy and that is basically perhaps the problem. We could even divide it amongst all learners and teachers and they could start their own new projects. Had we built NAMCOL for a pre-school, every primary school would have had and be twinned with a primary school and ultimately with a secondary school and then finally with a university.

I must also remind this House that I have gone on record for saying that education has just never only been about building schools and I shall make reference to what Honourable Katali has just said about education, that we do not actually know what to do because everything seems to be there and we do not seem to deliver much as far as education is concerned. My suggestion is, introduce compulsory pre-primary schooling, let the women teach the children as they successfully do every day. Introduce a compulsory study on civic sense of duty at all levels, train and/or re-train teachers that would respond to the challenges of those pre-primary school-leavers when they have to teach on primary level. The process should go on to train and re-train teachers that would meet the challenges at every level. And again, continue to train teachers towards upper levels and re-deploy former competent teachers. What we will be sitting with will be high Namibian moral fibre on street and in the next twelve years, universities will be open for us, our students will be credible and Namibia will boast the best of human products for export even. When that happens I shall perhaps never complain about the amounts appropriated for Defence, even if it is little bit more than what is given now. I shall only be proud of our Defence Forces and I must just recount that I have enjoyed looking at our Defence Forces during the Independence Celebrations and I acknowledge that as well. I would never easily have a problem if the important priority areas are well-covered.

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I must say that I do not intend to criticise the appropriated amounts as such, neither the figures of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Usually women do not allow their children to go to bed on a hungry stomach and I would have hoped of seeing disciplined implementation of the Budget if most, if not all, Ministers were perhaps women and I am speaking as a boy and an adult that was raised by a woman.

Just to conclude my view on socio-economic development, we all, just like many others, work and receive in many cases very attractive salaries. Let our children not sleep hungry while we are driving the latest Volvo's from Sweden, a country which is known as the best model of a social welfare state. Let us not be like a father who earns a high salary but spends it on social engineering. The wise and productive use of our financial resources will ensure an ever better morning, a fine day, a relaxed evening and sweet dreams for all of us.

I would like to touch on some of the political matters and issues that relate to justice, reconciliation, redress, peace and harmony. I shall do so quite briefly.

I do not have to be a member of the Congress of Democrats or a Member of Parliament to express my thoughts with regard to the unending treason trial of those men in the Grootfontein Prison. I must state that I am beginning to get the impression that political matters cannot easily be turned into legal matters. It certainly is not as easy as melting ice in the water and that is the advice I shall give to our political system in our country and the justice system to consider that political matters are just political matters and largely require political settlements.

When I think of a solution to the Caprivi dilemma... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, I am sorry to disturb you, I think that issue is *sub judice*, we cannot tamper with it.

HON GERTZE: Thank you very much. I have unfortunately stated it

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GERTZE**

already, but I withdraw that.

I am coming to national reconciliation. National reconciliation is in the same arena as well. I am happy that that is not on the court roll, I do not think that it will ever be either. It will only cost us to work out a workable approach to these sorts of questions. Trust, honesty and openness with a vision will free us all from the current mis-hearings and misunderstandings.

Another is the land question and here our collective political will and vision can only serve us when the just-mentioned matters are resolved through a mature and unselfish approach. We have to redefine the misconceptions around words such as “affirmative action, reconciliation,” etcetera, because it is very often that we do not live up to the terms and up to the spirit of these words, but rather give it uncalled for and irrelevant definitions and so many interpretations attached to it.

Affirmative action, for example, went into post created loans that never came back, post created job opportunities through nepotism, racism, sex discrimination, corruption and so on. Maybe for the next Budget let us think of the now already talked about Basic Income Grant for our low to no-income people. In addition to that, let us think of a better tax incentive for people who pay wages to their domestic workers out of their salary earnings and thereby ensuring that domestic workers are paid an acceptable limit of wage.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, last but not least, while it is early, let us ensure a better debate by fair representation in the National Assembly. By political will and vision of our future generations we need a fair electoral system and commission. With a fair referee I am always willing to accept defeat and if that could be the case, I will not stand in the way of the Party that wins 56 seats out of 72. I may even end up joining it. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Gertze. Honourable Pandeni. This is also a maiden speech.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON PANDENI**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, at the onset let me congratulate you and also congratulate Comrade Speaker for your unanimous election as leaders of this House. I wish you renewed dynamism and wisdom as you continue to guide discussions and deliberations in this House in the best interest of our people.

Let me also in the same vein congratulate each Member of Parliament for your respective either appointment or election to this august House. I trust that in the next five years we shall all deliberate on issues and where necessary, enact laws that will advance our national interest, security and sovereignty. May I also congratulate the Opposition benches for their presence in this august House and express the hope that should there be any differences of opinion arising in our deliberations, that on matters of National interest and security you shall forego your pride and join the Ruling Party in safeguarding and promoting our values as a sovereign State.

As this is my first time to make a contribution to debates on the Budget estimates in this august House, please allow me, Comrade Deputy Speaker, further to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy Minister and their entire staff of the Ministry of Finance for tabling a well-detailed Budget that I believe will go a long way in taking this country to effectively address the plight of the very poor, narrowing disparity in income as well as reallocating resources to improve the quality of life of the citizens of this country, thereby aiming at empowering our previously disadvantaged communities and above all, promoting sustainable rural development and economic growth.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise in this august House today filled with a great sense of admiration for the leadership of our Party, SWAPO. In particular I must appreciate and salute the principled and dynamic leadership of our Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, who has placed Namibia on an unprecedented legacy for peace, stability and tranquillity during the past fifteen years. Today our country is free and democratic, the world over our friends and foes alike cannot but admire the oasis of peace and tranquillity we have become as a people and as a country.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON PANDENI**

I appreciate and salute his successor, the second President of the Republic of Namibia and Vice-President of SWAPO Party, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for having vowed to uphold the legacy and continue to fight in the second struggle in our liberation struggle, namely the struggle for economic empowerment. Moreover, on a day such as this one we must also remember the fallen heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle whose blood waters our freedom. We must remember those who sacrificed their lives, those who languished in apartheid colonial prisons and above all, we must remember the supreme sacrifices made by the masses of our people, the peasants, the youth, the women and workers, all of whom were prepared to fighting for this legacy of peace and Independence we enjoy today. Indeed, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I believe these Budget estimates can be dedicated to their memories and that it achieves all the objectives set out for the next five years.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency, President Pohamba has repeatedly emphasised the need to address the aspirations of the rural and urban poor through rural development. However, in its present form the Rural Development transferred to our Ministry deals with food-for-work, which is an adequate approach and thus it is the intention of the Ministry to broaden the scope of that division to ensure that synergy is sought with all other stakeholders, aimed at positively addressing the needs of our people, particularly the urban and rural poor.

It must be pointed out and it must be noted that like elsewhere in the developing world, rural areas were strongly affected by the impact of colonial economic exploitation and, therefore, neglected from the radar of infrastructure development. We must, therefore, modernise the rural sector through the normal process of industrial development. We must in particular address the problems of peasant producers and rural communities by seeking to stimulate rural transformation through policies that encourage technological innovation in agriculture, particularly in areas with high productive potential. These efforts must unleash the productive potential of rural villages and communities through identification of felt needs, local organisation and self-help efforts in the expectations that such activities should overcome the fatalism, powerlessness and traditionalism thought to characterise the lives of the rural poor. A critical component of this approach must be the village level worker who must be a catalyst in unlocking local potential for development.

As we are debating these Budget estimates, we are mindful that our

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON PANDENI**

communities, especially the rural and urban poor, are watching and listening with keen interest to the extent to which the discussion and the implementation of this Budget will affect and have an impact on their lives on a day-to-day basis, especially the effective and efficient delivery of goods and services.

Undoubtedly, this Debate has the potential to raise public expectations which will require zero tolerance of fence-sitters who often are seen and heard demonstrating high level of Debates inside the House, while stunning the very same public when it comes to the implementation of the results of these debates outside Parliament. The challenge before us as Members of this august House, Ruling Party as well as the Opposition, is to demonstrate how we would work in unison inside and outside this House to realise the target that we have set for ourselves as a country.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the introduction and transition to programme budgeting could not have come at a more opportune time as the world is constantly facing the pressing demand for result-oriented efficiency and effectiveness in the public service delivery amidst aggressive world competition. Thus the effectiveness management programme of the Ministries can be enhanced by a sense of accountability through integration and consultation. The development of medium-term reviews, suggested by our Medium Term Plan, have the potential to detect in time the shortcomings, while assessing the progress that will take us to reliable and predictable socio-economic outcome. At the same time, the framework can serve as an effective monitoring and performance mechanism that will enable us to find positive indicators that are set as prerequisites to realign our work productively.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I fully support well-funded armed forces which constantly remains up to date with the ever-changing world to defend the territorial integrity of Namibia. In fact, it is because of the peace that is maintained that we are able to talk of the potential for development. It is commendable that this Budget reflects those needs. However, in recent days of debates, criticism and insincere noises are being heard, especially from the opposite side, particular in relation to this Budget allocation to the Ministry of Defence. It is not surprising that those criticisms are coming from there, especially from Political Parties founded by the illegitimate, monstrous regime of apartheid with the highest defence Budget aimed at stagnating the aspirations of our people's hunger for Independence.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON PANDENI**

It was the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance which supported such budgets and how insensitive and insincere can the same Party be to want its bread buttered on both sides by wanting to score cheap political points.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, analysing the outlays of this Budget framework gives me a clear demonstration of the SWAPO Party Government's commitment to enhance and entrench participating democracy and quality governance through the process of decentralisation. This Budget is drawing the attention of this august House to a set of expenditure priorities on which we are expected to focus our funding without fail. These priorities do not suggest, in my view, a slacking approach as opposed to the support accorded already to both education and Health Services sectors.

It is also important that skilled and trained knowledgeable workers in an environment of a healthy Nation should remain a priority, realising our economic growth and development objectives as enshrined in our NDP2, Vision 2030 and SWAPO Election Manifesto. The Budget also sets a good tone for the small and medium enterprises by calling for support, both financial and technical, to our emerging SMEs and the encouragement of financial institutions to grant them access to financial resources. SMEs can be the backbone of rural development. However, without access to funding, it will never kick-start and, therefore, will remain a liability instead of contributing towards economic growth and being an important component in job creation.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the call made by the Minister of Finance on private sector participation in the economy of our country is notable. During the past fifteen years of our peace, stability and economic prosperity, no doubt the private sector has thrived beyond expectations. Therefore, the private sector dominated by South African-based financial institutions, have a moral duty, obligation and responsibility to respond favourably to the majority of the Namibian population who are their clients and customers. In the same way, we resisted and rejected political repression and if need be, we shall also reject any attempt to financially repress or hold us captive by a private sector which does not share in our national interest and, therefore, the welfare and well-being of our people. To this end, it is better that the financial institutions need not be antagonistic with Government, but rather cooperate with the Government of the people in the spirit of public-private partnership to enhance and implement sustainable development and in particular, the Millennium Development Goals.

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJOMBE**

I would like to thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, for giving me this opportunity to address the House. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Honourable Tjombe.

HON TJOMBE: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I start with my Budget speech, allow me to congratulate all Members of this august House who were successfully elected to the Fourth Parliament of Namibia. My congratulations also go to the second President of Namibia, His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba, for achieving this high position for which I wish him good health and wisdom.

To my mind, Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is good practice in some countries to involve the Members of Parliament at the preparatory stage of the Budget, because we all might imagine that this exercise of drafting a national Budget is a hectic one and cannot be done overnight.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I tried to understand why those countries are involving and/or inviting Members of Parliament at that level and I came to realise that it could only be for the following reasons:

- Firstly, to make the Budget a collective responsibility for their leaders; and
- Secondly, they owe absolute loyalty to their Government and their country, hence the development of such country is a common obligation for Members of Parliament, no matter to which Party they belong.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the same can happen in Namibia if only the governing Party is liberal enough, ready to do justice to our policy of national reconciliation and as such, also accept genuine

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJOMBE**

contributions from the Opposition in this House. A Budget committee could for instance be established in our case where everybody would be represented. Such a Budget committee would deliberate on burning issues long before the actual drafting of the Budget. This would make the Budget a true national issue which would call for absolute cooperation.

Honourable Members, one week for the Opposition to study, to do research on and make meaningful contributions to the Budget is far too short, let us be honest.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that Namibia is for all of us living within its boundaries and the country is vast enough to have space for every single Namibian citizen, so we do not need endless fighting and politicking and national issues. I strongly believe and pray to the governing Party to reconsider its exclusive style, because it will never bring us anywhere in Namibia to have two fighting sides. We are not enemies, yes, we are political rivals. Criticism and defence, while the Nation is waiting for deliverance, is not in the interest of our citizens. The Nation wants to see hard work, because they are poor and besides, they want to be motivated by us as their leaders to become better citizens.

Honourable Members, you will appreciate that my speech is in a layman's language with simple compliments and/or complaints because I am representing communities who would like to convey their concerns and messages to this august House in their terms and language orientations.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, firstly, we want to compliment the former Minister of Home Affairs, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, for the vehicles delivered in some parts of the Regions which I am representing. That part of the programme on transport has relatively been solved. It is no longer extensive but there is still room for improvement. I, however, came across the problem of crowded police cells which the communities complain about, but the problem lies with the justice system.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, suspects are brought to the Police Station and are jailed, for that matter, but when the suspect has to appear in court, the Magistrate and/or the Prosecutor is not available, which results in the suspect not appearing before a Magistrate. (Intervention)

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJOMBE

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON TJOMBE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am busy with a very sensitive and serious issue from my community and would not accept the question today.

It results in the suspect not appearing before a magistrate within the stipulated period in the Constitution. Even if the first-time suspect is so lucky to come before the Court, a constant process of delays is coming his or her way, sometimes because the recommendation from the Prosecutor General takes too long to come.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, coming to the lack of Magistrates and/or Prosecutors, the answer is that we are mainly served by the circuit courts, so are even the prosecutors attending court proceedings at different towns. This ultimately results in these kinds of delays. Now our question is whether the Ministry and the Government cannot consider appointing Magistrates for the necessary lower courts, because we also believe that the cost for the circuit courts are much higher than permanent appointments for the said stations. Witnesses are also travelling to and fro and are getting paid even for cases so postponed. This again is an expense from the State coffers.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, secondly, a problem also persists for the serious crimes, for example rape or murder committed in our areas, because again the results from the laboratories are taking too long to be released. By the time the laboratory and forensic results and/or the recommendation of the Prosecutor-General arrive, normally a year or eighteen months later, the victim has already forgotten the details of the case. Honourable Deputy Speaker, that is sometimes the main reason or contributing factor why the rape or murder cases are lost by the victims.

For the abovementioned reasons we pray for the indulgence of the Ministry and again, of the Government, to consider decentralisation of the laboratory services. We know building a laboratory for each Region will be a costly exercise, but even so, if specialised teams of laboratory assistants could be

20 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJOMBE**

assigned to do analysis in a priority sequence of the most overdue results, that will help to hasten the process.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am now turning to the health centres in communities which I am representing. While we all appreciate the fact that renovations, upgrading and extensions have been done on some health centres, for which we are so grateful, there are still health centres which cannot function to their full capacity. The reason being that there are only enrolled nurses and that such health centres do not have registered nurses who qualify for prescription of certain drugs and/or do order the said drugs. For this reason the patients cannot be treated properly, which results in them being transported to other hospitals, while some health centres do not even have ambulance facilities or any reasonably suitable means of transport. This again causes the unfortunate patients to wait for transport to travel as far as 160 kilometres, for example between Sesfontein and Opuwo.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, against this background, may we request the Government of the day to consider providing the said communities with ambulances or suitable means of transport, otherwise we are losing very precious human.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the communities in Kunene South are sitting with a problem of water. We all know that that area is a semi-arid area which does not have enough water. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask just a small question for the sake of her community there?

HON TJOMBE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, today I am serious and I do not want politicking, because I have been sent by my community.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. At the beginning of her speech the Honourable Member mentioned that

20 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJOMBE

the Executive must also take into account the Opposition when making decisions regarding the Budget and now in her last sentences she is talking about Kunene South. Does the UDF really believe they will win elections if they only concentrate on Kunene South? What about Caprivi, Hardap and other the Regions? (Interjection)

HON VENAANI: At least they defeated you in Kunene South.

HON TJOMBE: Let me continue with my speech. Whenever the communities complain about the water problem, I think the Government is not seriously addressing the issue. Instead the communities have been given ownership of the water points in the said rural areas. Under normal circumstances, Honourable Members, it would be a good thing, but in that area of the country the communities are known for mainly sharing such water points with elephants and while they are doing this only for survival, they find it difficult to carry the cost involved in the maintenance of the water points.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, with these many requests, let me rest my case with great expectations that this Budget will be enough to also cater and/or solve the problems of the said communities. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Any further discussions?

20 May 2005

ADJOURNMENT

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, 24 May.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that note, I would like to call on the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move that the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 24 May 2005.

HOUSE ADJOURNS UNTIL AT 11:50 UNTIL 2005.05.24 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
24 MAY 2005
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of:

1. Regional Council for the Caprivi Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 1999;
 2. The Karakul Board for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2004;
 3. Namibia Development Corporation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2004;
 4. Ministry of Labour for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2002;
 5. Department of Transport of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2002;
 6. Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2002.
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24 May 2005

**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON TSHEEHAMA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Minister of Safety and Security.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I give Notice that on the 1st of June 2005, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to make provision for the mutual transfer of sentenced offenders between Namibia and foreign States for the purpose of serving their sentences of imprisonment; and to provide for matters connected thereto.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Venaani.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, to announce the untimely death of Jeremia Jagger who was a founding Member of the Constituent Assembly. Honourable Jeremia Jagger died on Saturday, 21 May 2005, after a short illness. He was a teacher to many Namibians, including our former Speaker, Dr Tjitendero, the late Honourable Moses Garoëb and many others. He was a trained boxer, a Traditional Leader, a tutor and mentor to many Namibians. I want to convey our sympathy, empathy and heartfelt condolences to his family in this time of bereavement and sorrow. I further Move that this Assembly observes a minute of silence in honour of one of our country's illustrious sons.

24 May 2005

**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON VENAANI**

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: Further Notice of Motions?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on the 14th of June 2005, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses and debates the current ugly face and form of ethnicity and tribalism in Namibia. Cognisance of the fact that the continent of Africa for long has been locked in long, protracted conflicts and civil wars, fuelled by tribalism and ethnicity, the recent yesteryear example in the Great Lakes Region of Rwanda and Burundi of conflicts between Hutu's and Tsutsi's, has amounted to the world's greatest human catastrophe. Ethnicity and tribalism have proven to be negative and cannot be condoned by accident or intention. Resources allocation and appointments equitably in any given country or society are the best integral tools to advance human development.

Our country after fifteen years has seen unbalanced appointments in the Civil Service, the Defence, the Police, the State-Owned Enterprises and Parastatals, the allocation of various tenders and business concessions in the Fishing and Mining has made every Namibian to question whether we have tribalism or ethnicity by accident or by intention. The eroding scenario seems to have invaded even sub-clans of certain ethnic groups and classification by Region.

I thus Move that this Assembly recommends the following:

- Appoint a national group that would research the impact of ethnicity and tribalism in modern society;

Prepare a national conference on ethnicity and tribalism as a dialogue that

24 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

must attempt to fight ethnicity and tribalism in all its forms;

- Establish an *ad hoc* Parliamentary Committee that shall investigate how other countries have fought against tribalism and ethnicity - Nigeria is a point of reference – and ultimately to establish and adopt a national policy on tribalism and ethnicity.

Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Friday, 20 May 2005, the Question before the House was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Justice adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. In what is going to be my fifteenth opportunity, I feel honoured to be able to rise to contribute to the ongoing Debate on the recently tabled Budget for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period of 2005 to 2008 and in doing so, I congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance and her Deputy and indeed, their staff for a well-balanced Budget.

In preparing my contribution, I pondered on how valuable the Budget will be to our electorate. Does the electorate understand the complexity with which general policy, including fiscal, interacts with their direct needs? Do we as policy-makers fully apprehend the quagmire in which the majority of our electorate find themselves *vis-à-vis* the policies we formulate and the role we expect our populace to play?

However, before I delve in the subject matter of my conscience, permit me to utter a few words of congratulations to you, Honourable Speaker, on your unanimous election to chair this Assembly during the Fourth Parliament. No more than a capable individual, moulded by decades of engagement in diplomacy, could replace the first Speaker of an Independent Namibia, Dr Mosé Tjitendero. Equally deserving appoints are those of ladies now occupying the positions of Deputy Speaker and Deputy Prime Minister. I congratulate you, Comrades.

I have saved for last the best congratulations to you, Comrade Prime Minister. I look forward to working with you as part of your team, as I have done previously in various capacities during or under the guidance of the luminary sons of Namibia preceding you, both Honourable Members of this august House. I also welcome all the new parliamentarians in both Houses, particularly those representing the SWAPO Party and I look forward to working with them too.

Comrade Speaker, while I do not want to sidestep my thoughts for too long, I feel duty-bound as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to call upon this House to feel a sense of pride in its contribution to democratic norms, more visibly exhibited on the 21st of March this year when President Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma handed over the reins of the Republic to our President, Comrade Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba. The adoption of national reconciliation, the understanding of the rule of law, the cultivation of a culture

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

of democratic discourse, the respect for human rights, the restoration of dignity to a previously denied Nation, the laying of a foundation of future generations, to name but a few, are feats that this august House can take credit for in the assistance of the Head of State and Government in steering the course of this Nation. We bid the former President's farewell and welcomed an equally capable cadre to build on the legacy of his predecessor and I have the utmost expectation of this House to rise to the occasion and continue to work tirelessly for the Namibian people.

In returning to my thoughts of the day, I will start off by saying that the Budget, as presented, continues in the tradition of seeking to translate the political agendas into financial terms. On the priority list of this Government is the creation of solutions to the problems akin to Third World developing countries, which are poverty, unemployment, disease such as HIV/AIDS, political and economic instability, low human development rates, access to education and training, low levels of literacy and so forth.

Over fifteen years Government emphasis has been placed on these areas. Every politician would tune his or her speech to include catch phrases such as poverty alleviation, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, capacity-building and all the things on the to-do list have been done. We have a democratic Government with regular elections, we place much of the public spending on education and health, we have adopted all the recommended policies, we have resources and even EPZ regimes.

One must, therefore, do introspection and ask what is missing. Not being endowed with unlimited wisdom, I did self-teaching in a number of disciplines and I read some authors, only to find what I already knew, but never organised in thought to publish. Namibia has arable land suitable for agriculture, yet the bulk of our fresh consumables are imported. Namibia has a healthy deposit of various minerals, yet only few, if at all, Namibians have been lifted from poverty as a result of these minerals.

In his book, Hernando De Soto published his conclusions from research conducted in Asia, Africa, Latin-America and some former Socialist countries and finds that there is evidence to support the contention that poverty invariably recycles itself in the Third World order despite the existence of resources. The data collected demonstrates that poor countries and their

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

citizens have accumulated all the assets needed for these countries to achieve the economic level of the developed world.

The value of savings among these poor nations and the poor is said to be forty times all the foreign aid received throughout the world since 1945. For instance, in Egypt alone the assets of the poor are said to be fifty-five times greater than all foreign investments recorded, including the funding of the Suez Canal and the Aswan Dam. In Haiti, recorded as the poorest Nation in Latin-America, the total assets of the poor are more than 150 times greater than all foreign investment received since Haiti's Independence in 1804 from France.

In Namibia invariably the poorest and more of the poor live in Rural Areas. Given the remnants of the apartheid system's migrant labour system, many of us have at least two residences, one in suburbia Namibia for our participation in the so-called first economy and the other in rural Namibia for our relatives and extended families locked in the so-called second economy.

The first economy is the formal skilled labour economy in which many of us participate, whereas the second economy caters for the informal, marginalised and unskilled economy populated by Namibia's unemployed and unemployable in the formal sector. Rural Namibia is dawned with impressive modern-day houses, which participants in the first economy have built. There are shopping complexes, not to mention the countless other buildings primarily for Cuca Shops, business and shops. By and large the second economy participants and the business there exist by linkage to the first economy with money transfers sent by family members who have been able to secure regular employment as well as social grants from the State. In other words, there is an umbilical trickle-down sustaining these less prestigious facets of the economy. Independently and notwithstanding programmes such as rural electrification, the second economy is unable to generate sufficient internal savings to lift it to high rates and levels of investment with returns as it needs. It is, therefore, unlikely to attain the rates of growth that would in the end eradicate the inherent underdevelopment and poverty.

What happens to the savings, one may ask. They are used to buy coffins as AIDS takes it toll, buy food for the children as there are no youth to cultivate the crops. The cattle died in the last drought, so there are less and less assets to bail the household out when the school fees need to be paid for high school and further education. This is the reality, yet the fancy bakkies emerge from their

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

garages every Sunday to take the villagers to church – a paradoxical dichotomy, if there ever was one. Yet the villages have lit up and the skylines are red with paint-covered roofs of homes and business houses.

In my view, and I concur with many in this regard, the problem is that all such infrastructural developments have gone unrecorded and are thus not transformed into economic value to the credit of the owners. These expensive houses and homesteads do not belong to the individual owner, but to the collective owners of the communal rural land, in actual terms, a contradiction to the situation offered to the beneficiaries of the civil law system where immovable property is registered in the name of the individual by registration of the Title Deed.

The traditional customary law system, on the other hand, only recognises occupational permission and not ownership, which is not assignable in commercial terms. Therefore, the house does not become an asset on the Balance Sheet of the owner as opposed to the Title Deed.

With ownership comes a legal relationship with the entire world. A Title Deed is a memorialisation of that legal relationship and you can thus pledge your Title, mortgage it or hypothecate as a collateral and so forth.

These are benefits unavailable to two-thirds of our population which lives in the rural communal areas, according to the population census conducted by the National Planning Commission recently.

Many of our people, therefore, possess dead capital and the State is unable to derive any revenue benefits from these properties. Only N\$75,2 million accrued to the State Revenue Fund from taxes on property in the last Financial Year. My guess is that more could have been derived from property in the rural areas. Equally, the communal property owners are deprived from the potential enormous resources which would accrue to them and vast possibilities to turn their properties into capital if only they had any inalienable rights to them.

Any asset whose economical and social aspects are not fixed in a formal property system is extremely hard to move in the market and immovable property assumes value only when it represents an economic asset. This is not the unwillingness on the part of the inhabitants of the communal areas to have

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

their properties registered, but the inherent nature of the legal pluralism they have been subjected to since the days of the Administrator General.

In our efforts to develop Namibia by the year 2030, the doing away of legal pluralism in this respect ought to be considered a necessary ingredient.

Comrade Speaker, to further unlock value in the second economy, Government is expected to intervene and make roads, built Clinics, Police Stations, etcetera, so that the business community can also expand its market, resulting in more economic activities and more income. To expect the profit-motive Private Sector to do so has taught us that it is only an exercise to increase the cost of capital. Financial institutions are hesitant to fund the SME sector on account of its inherent high default risk and as such, intermediaries ought to be identified and opportunities created for private equity stepping in to build businesses and stepping out to vest ownership in the previously marginalised.

To span employment, people-centred development projects, such as the Green Scheme, should be conceived and as a follow-through, further policies should be placed with intent to facilitate the credit worthiness of the rural inhabitants as potential borrowers to kick-start the second economy to higher levels. I have in mind lower taxes, but perhaps also canvassing the tax category of income for wider revenue dedicated to SMEs financing and job creation.

Comrade Speaker, with a view to curb the health bill, it would have been a welcome introduction if traditional brews were also taxable. *Omdevere*, *tombo*, *shipeshu*, *Kashipembe* and other home brews should first be registered with the health authorities. Liquor licences should be granted and heavy sin taxes should be imposed to reverse the trend to alcoholism in the communal areas. The workforce is less capable of performing the developmental projects when coming from the *kambashus*. We can no longer continue to blame tradition for our drinking. During feasts people drink moderately, but for commercial purposes, let us take these decisions however unpopular, but in the long-run in the wider interest of our people and unlocking their value in the economy.

Comrade Speaker, I have said all this just to express my support for the Budget. I thank you.

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAMWI**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Kamwi.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. We meet here this afternoon exactly two months and three days after the Founding President of the Namibian Nation, a hero of our people and a freedom fighter who all through his life worked tirelessly and selflessly to make our country great bade us farewell. I shall forever remain indebted to this great man for having brought me into active politics.

In the same vein, I would like to thank Comrade President Hifikepunye Pohamba for the confidence shown in me by entrusting me to be accountable to one of the most complex Ministries, that of Health and Social Services.

I also wish to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, for the challenge that had been bestowed on you and your Deputy to chair this august House.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill for the 2005/2006 Budget. From the onset, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy and indeed, her efficient staff for presenting such a balanced Budget for the 2005/2006 Financial Year in such a clear and eloquent manner. I commend her efforts in reaching this fine balance in view of so many competing needs and challenges. She took us through fiscal policy as a tool for economic management as well as through the objectives of fiscal policy. She presented to us the economic performance at global, regional and domestic levels. She, indeed, highlighted important national projects and critical services that need priority funding.

The Budget reflects the priorities of the country. Key to the statement for the 2005/2006 made by the Honourable Minister are the measures to eliminate wastage and abuses and, indeed, to increase revenue. All of us have to work hard and ensure that these measures are, indeed implemented in our sectors.

It is to some extent encouraging to note that the Budget also provides for an

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAMWI**

increase attention to be paid to the need to address our shared common concern about the efficiency of the agencies in charge of public safety, particularly the Police Services, as well as maintaining the priority social services sector.

We have had criticism from quarters that the Government has its priorities mixed up. I reject this line of reasoning. Mr Speaker, one of my friends once told me that, *“in soccer the best players are not the twenty-two on the pitch, but the hundreds who are spectators.”* This statement holds true in respect of those critics, including those in the Opposition benches. It is easy to criticise, but it is difficult to offer alternatives.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia asserts that health is a fundamental human right. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has a constitutional mandate to provide health services to the public in order to ensure that they lead a healthy and productive life. I am pleased that the Honourable Minister of Finance has made resources available for the improvement of our infrastructure and medical equipment in order for us to provide safe and quality services. This will save the Government a lot of money and thus there will be no need for us to refer patients to private health facilities, which are very expensive by any proportion. I am also happy that priority programmes have received attention, amongst others the programme for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission, the programme for Anti-Retroviral Therapy, malaria and TB control programmes, including reproductive health programme.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I just returned from the World Health Assembly which took place in Geneva from the 16th to today, the 24th May 2005. During this Assembly, the main focus was on the health of mothers and children. A special resolution was adopted which commits Governments to avail resources for the improvement of health of mothers and children.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, on the 27th of April 2001, the Heads of State and Government of the then Organisation of African Unity adopted the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases at a Special Summit devoted specifically to address the exceptional challenge of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases. Paragraph 26 of this Declaration states *inter alia*:

“We commit ourselves to take all necessary measures to ensure that the

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAMWI**

needed resources are made available from all sources and they are efficiently utilised. In addition, we pledge to set a target of allocating at least 15% of our budgets to the improvement of the Health Sector.”

We at the Ministry of Health and Social Services, together with the Ministry of Finance, will work together towards the attainment of that target which was set by the Heads of State and Government, including our own Founding President.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, in a society as unequal as our own and particularly in one that was deeply divided along racial, gender and class lines, a critical measure of the success of Government remains the degree to which it managed to narrow the gaps between the rich and the poor. I would like to say quite clearly that our Government stands firm for transformation to achieve social justice, particularly through services like health that touches the lives of those who are most deprived, predominantly the black majority.

Over the past years of our Independence we have made some significant progress and registered some clear successes in many critical areas of our work, but there are other areas of delivery where we are falling short of the results we seek. Most of the people who use our public health facilities, for example, are poor. In addition, many are unemployed and they live without adequate shelter, nutrition or clean water. Their health is thus undermined by their social circumstances and at the same time, social development is retarded by their ill-health. Therefore, quality health care is critical in breaking this cycle.

What do I mean by the quality of care? I believe that there are some key components to it. First of all, there is the area of the values and attitudes of health workers. This encompasses compassion, empathy, respect for human dignity and a general orientation towards a human rights culture. Secondly, there is the area of professional skills and clinical competence. Here we are talking about effective health care that achieves good clinical results and thirdly, there is the area of personnel management, including effective disciplinary procedures.

In terms of providing quality of care, I believe that we have made some major gains, including a patient charter in all our hospitals. However, despite our efforts in this regard, I am aware that some patients still complain about the services they receive in the public health system. We get reports, for example,

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAMWI**

of some staff stealing resources at the very time when our hospitals are struggling to make ends meet. Similarly, there are some private doctors in this country who are guilty of abuse of the medical aid scheme. Some reliable information suggests that there are some general practitioners in this country who allege to examine twenty patients per hour, meaning spending approximately three minutes per patient. This, in medical jargon, simply means conveyor-belt medicine. In this case, Government does not get value for money. For this reason, I vow to support the Honourable Minister of Finance in her efforts to strengthen checks and balances to bring the evil practice to an end.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I know that there are many health workers, professional and non-professional, who do their work with skill, dedication and compassion, often under the most difficult or challenging circumstances. For this they have to be commended, but I would have failed in my duty if I would not scrutinise the conduct of all health workers and more especially, that of the sub-culture where there are people who are dishonest, callous and lazy. I also recognise the depth of the problems that undermine quality care. In some instances resources constraints are a factor and so in poor or ineffective management, but these constraints cannot excuse fraud, abuse or negligence. I believe that the most appropriate answer to this problem is consistent application of disciplinary and appropriate punitive measures against offenders by the employers, the relevant professional councils and the law enforcement arm of our Government.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, with this statement I support the Appropriation Bill for the 2005/2006 Budget. Thank you for your kind attention.

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

24 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBINGA

HON NAMBINGA: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I am rising to contribute to the Budget Debate, but before I do so, I would like to sincerely congratulate His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for having been elected as the second Republic of our beautiful Republic, the Land of the Brave, Namibia. In the same breath, I would also like to congratulate the Right Honourable Nahas Angula and Honourable Libertine Amathila for having been appointed as Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, respectively.

I would also like to congratulate the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Speaker and Comrade Doreen Sioka on their respective appointments as Speaker and Deputy of this august House. I wish you all the patience of Job and the wisdom of Salomon to guide us in Parliamentary proceedings, which at times could be heated.

To all Honourable Members who have been elected and to the newly-elected Members, congratulations. May you have a productive term of office and may the Good Lord grant you serenity, dedication and unwavering commitment to the interests and aspirations of those who elected you to this august House in order to meet their expectations.

Comrade Speaker, I will fail in my duty, if I do not thank the Namibian electorate, in particular members of the SWAPO Party, for having made it possible for me to return to this Chamber. I would like to assure them that I shall try my level best to live up to their expectations.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, from the very onset I would like to express my support for the noble efforts by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, to curb the escalating Budget deficits. Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila's austerity Budget deserves the support of every Honourable Member in this august House. In the wake of dwindling resources we need all austerity measures to curb extravagant public spending in order to ensure that the current generation and posterity do not slip into a vicious circle of uncontrollable debt with grave implications for our economic and fiscal stability. The austerity measures might prove painful and might cause some economic discomfort, but the economic discomfort would, no doubt, have deferred gratification.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, at this very initial stage of our term

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBINGA**

of office as a lawmaking body I would like to draw your attention to some critical issues of National importance. Our Government, as we are all aware, has initiated and put in place a development plan which is known as Vision 2030. This development plan requires everybody's involvement and commitment in order for us to succeed. If the Namibian people do not do what it takes for the plan to succeed, it will surely remain a pipedream. It specifically requires from us as leaders, irrespective of political persuasion, to drive it. If we do not, I fear that the year 2030 might come and go and Namibia would be at the same level of development.

We as a Nation need to periodically review the progress we make towards our development objectives and put signposts in place to enable us to determine the rate of progress. The progress review would enable us to determine the rate of progress and if need be, to readjust our plan implementation strategies for the accelerated progress.

In the light of what I said, I would like to call upon every Member of this august House and the entire Namibian public to actively participate in all developmental activities in furtherance of the objectives of Vision 2030.

This, Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members, brings me to the most important development prerequisite, the human capital.

Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members, we know that no country can hope to develop if its human resources are not developed to the level which would enable them to make things happen, that is to say to create material wealth which would raise the standard of living of our people, to improve our level of productivity as a country in order to make our country competitive with the rest of the world. We as a Nation have to take the issue of our human resources development very, very seriously.

On a critical note, I would want to regret the fact that 15 years after Independence we do not have a national human resources development plan in place, a concrete plan to guide us as a Nation to develop our human material in especially critical fields of study and ultimately to build up a critical mass of technocrats and skilled professionals to drive our developmental efforts. The need for a national human resources plan has become critically urgent as a first concrete and a serious step to start our journey of development towards the year 2030 and we could hope with absolute confidence that we shall attain our

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

set goals.

Comrade Speaker, with these few words, I support the Budget and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Nambinga. I give the Floor to Honourable Nambahu. It is a maiden address and you will be protected.

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, first and foremost, allow me to most sincerely congratulate the SWAPO Party for their landslide victory in the November elections and to extend my special congratulations to Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of Namibia, Vice-President of the SWAPO Party and the Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force for the confidence and trust bestowed in him by the Namibian people who have so overwhelmingly voted him into the highest office of the land. May God bless him with more good health, longevity and wisdom.

A special word of congratulation is equally due to the Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas Angula and the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Libertine Amathila, for their appointments into the highest positions, whilst I entreat them to rally firmly behind the President in the anti-corruption drive. I, for one, and as a matter of principle and conviction am pledging my unwavering support to this drive.

Another word of congratulation and salute is also due to you, Comrade Speaker, as well as your Deputy for your unanimous election to be at the helm of this august House. Surely your vast experience and capabilities, as recognised by the Nation and the international community and the SWAPO Party who in the first instance elected you to this august House and by the Members of this House who elected you as the Speaker, will undoubtedly add much value to the strengthening and transformation and decentralisation of parliamentary work in Namibia.

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

Furthermore, my congratulations to all fellow Members of Parliament for the honour and trust bestowed in you by the electorate. I have no doubt in my mind that the sense of duty and patriotic devotion to serve our country and people will be the common denominators to all of us, irrespective of party affiliation, colour, creed or the quest to address the needs and aspirations of our people.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, let me spend a few seconds talking about myself. I spent all of my youthful years in and under the care of SWAPO. As a lawyer by profession, I owe my education to SWAPO. Back to Namibia in 1989, I did not come before, as jobless returnee like many of my colleagues, my working life took me to all the different corners of this country, the Caprivi, Kavango, Omaheke, Karas, Otjozondjupa and Erongo Regions. There and then my work ranged from de-bushing or bush clearance of the cultivation fields of Omega, Mashare, Berg Aukas, Katounyana and where the famous Green Scheme projects and the National Youth Services are currently taking place. During weekends and month-ends, I commuted between Windhoek and my village in Oshikoto, probably near where Honourable Viljoen once got stuck and it is a community where tarred and gravel roads are non-existent and members of my community and myself have lost count of how many times we got stuck.

My work and contribution during my short years in this House will be informed by my background, technocratic and professional experience, the philosophy and vision of my Party which brought me up and bequeathed and inspired by the anti-colonial spirit of the heroes, such as Marenga, Greenwell Matongo, Kaptein Witbooi, Nehale Iya Npingane, Mandume Ndemufayo, Sam Nujoma and the noble ideals of national solidarity, anti-imperialism as a friendship amongst people.

As a young professional who grew up looking after cattle in rural areas and who has been political moulded and raised through the SWAPO Youth League, my endeavours are towards the alleviation of poverty, but through projects and programmes, non-tolerance to any forms of tribalism, corruption or negative regionalism. I am an advocate of nationalism founded upon ideas of one Namibia, one Nation and eager to see a speedy realisation of Vision 2030. Therefore, fellow Honourable Members, you do not need to guess in favour of what I will be speaking.

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

For now and in the immediate future, issues that are closest to my heart are those that are affecting the Namibian citizens and are summarised as follows:

The Youth: My heart yearns to see more employment creation for the youth, introduction and strengthening of social development programmes through positive, diversified recreational facilities and home-based or brewed socialising programmes and institutions in Namibia. I would, therefore, give my wholehearted support to Comrade Mutorwa and Comrade Pohamba in their endeavours in this regard. In this connection, I am delighted to note that the National Youth Service Bill, which provides a legal framework for youth developing Government agency is passed and should any regulatory framework be necessary, I will be just at arm's length.

Rural Development: I am further delighted that rural development is one of the Government's major functions currently under the auspices of Comrade Deputy Secretary General of SWAPO Party, Minister John Pandeni, deputised by Comrade Kazenambo. You have no doubt, I will definitely support you and my advice is that you elevate the function of rural development into a fully-fledged directorate which is capable of analysing the impact of all programmes and projects that are implemented by various Offices, Ministries and Agencies that are intended for rural development. Only then will we be in the know that development is reaching the poorest of the poor in the Rural Areas.

Legal Profession: Comrade Speaker, being a lawyer by profession and having worked under the judicial system of our country, I will advocate for improved working conditions of the people that are entrusted with the administration of justice and the enforcement of law in this country. I will be a great supporter of our Minister of Justice and Attorney General and Minister of Safety and Security, respectively, in their efforts to improve the working conditions of Police Officers, especially the investigators and detectives, Prosecutors and Magistrates, for a weak link in the chain will definitely have repercussions for the other.

In the same area, I will not do justice if I were to leave the area of justice without making mention of the issue of juvenile justice. I am sure, Honourable Members, that the rising phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and anti-social behaviour is rising amongst our youth. (Intervention)

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON NAMBAHU: I have also noticed in this respect the uncoordinated and sometimes, fragmented efforts that are actually addressing this phenomenon.

During my last visit to the National Youth Council I have seen a section that is dealing with juvenile justice and I am sure, and I have seen this at the Juvenile Courts, that there are programmes dealing with juvenile justice and I was a bit puzzled, because I was not able to find any item so specified in the Budget that is dealing with the juvenile justice or juvenile delinquency. Therefore, I appeal that next time this issue be seriously addressed. You would be shocked if you were to visit the juvenile courts and also some of the socialising programmes taking place which our youth attend on Saturdays and Sundays. You will be shocked, as these are the future leaders of our country.

Defence: We all ought to have seen or heard about the blood-curdling findings contained in the Report by a committee of this House on the state of the infrastructure of the NDF and the Minister has just heeded and adequately addressed that in the Budget. For that I congratulate her. Therefore, Comrade Namoloh and Comrade Simunja need our support for them not only to improve but further modernise our NDF equipment and capabilities for the Force to be up to speed with the developments in modern warfare and be in tandem with modern military arts and technology, fighting philosophy and combat readiness, for the Force needs to meet challenges and to prepare in line with its fighting doctrine.

Comrade Speaker, I am not trying to be bellicose, nor advocating overspending in this area, but simply being realistic and pragmatic. I am sometimes puzzled to hear comments calling for the Army to budget and operate on the bare minimum. If your Army is so archaic in weaponry and operates on the bare minimum, the reality might be too ghastly to contemplate and history is full of such examples. Comrade Speaker, all I am saying, is for us to give our men and women in uniform, whose job carries the permanent risk of paying with their most precious of God's gift, their lives, the same due understanding and support we need to accord to those in comfort in their offices who need money to upgrade their computers from Windows 97 to Windows 2000 or Internet

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

because of modern office requirements. Moreover, we are known to have many diamonds and this fact has not been only a blessing, but a curse for those who inhabit on top of the deposits.

Health: Allow me to applaud the Anti-Retroviral Programme under our Ministry of Health and Social Services. The Government and the civil society are praised for their efforts in curbing the spread and effect of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Namibia. I single out Lironga Eparu and the civil society the International University of Management for the initiative in teaching and developing AIDS teaching into a subject.

Notwithstanding the above and the efforts to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS, I want Comrades Kamwi and Haingura to also encourage more campaigns against other dreadful diseases, such as TB and also malaria and to encourage all sectors and leaders to have HIV programmes, such as Traditional Leaders, churches, etcetera, where they do not yet exist.

Human Resource Development: The Namibian Nation has realised that there are few individuals with specialised qualifications, especially in most specialised fields. As such, the Government and other organisations do make use of expatriates to fill the gaps and the fact that we see the same advisors still advising us since 1990 should compel us to ask ourselves as to whether the policy of understudying these experts is really yielding the fruits as we expect them to or should it not be in need of drastic re-examination? Therefore, I concur with other fellow-Namibians, including the Government, that yes, we should import skills where we lack them, but we should put practical mechanisms in place to ensure that Namibians are sent or encouraged to study the subjects and fields that we lack, so that we avoid creating a dependency syndrome.

Comrade Speaker, I strongly feel that there should also be a database for retired and retrenched Namibians so that their experience is not in vain. Experience has taught us that some of the expatriates we make use of are retired personnel in their own home countries. What then makes it difficult for us to use our own retired staff, of course those who are capable and able to deliver. Therefore, I once again urge all of our Government planners, the National Planning Commission in particular, to keep statistics of how many Namibians are studying what and where, for us to be in the know of what specialised skills we have developed and what is yet to be developed.

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

May I also suggest that the Government should consider introducing skills-scouting programmes that would be geared towards identifying creative students, gifted students and bright students, then have a programme in place for them to help them reach their goals, because even God who have gifted them with such extraordinary talent will not be too happy if we are to lose these talents. There are too many bright students who have gone through our schools, but due to the lack of such needed programmes, I have seen many unable to live up to their expectations and special potential with which they were blessed. This programme could be coordinated by one office and implemented through all Government Ministries and institutions.

Education: Given the continuous and ever-changing dynamics of education, based on the need to always adjust to ever-changing worlds of technology, economic order and political systems, I have no doubt that our educators, Comrade Mbumba and Dr Ndjoze-Ojo, would rise to the challenge. Having said the above, one ought to note that besides many other items and different subjects our learners ought to be taught, there is always one subject matter which has never been taught properly in schools up to any significant level of education in Universities and that is financial literacy. Many of us do graduate, leave school or drop out without having a clue on how finances operate and work in the real work. How many of us have not been enticed by sales media, the media, both print and electronic, to enter into deals we should not have, had we been financially informed and that is you and I, holders of Masters and PhD Degrees and we will be self-comforting by saying it is the market economy. My elder brother somewhere around here would say it would have been different had you not chosen capitalism. Someone would say that is how it is even in America and someone here would say, did you not foresee it when you chose the system you chose? We, the freshmen to this House, would probably say that we were not there. Every generation blames the other before and in the meantime Rome is burning. Where does this kind of debate take us?

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, how many pensioners do you know that go from United Africa straight to the Gambling House? How many teachers do you know in the previously disadvantaged areas who have more than five insurance policies, because the broker spoke to the principal who later told them to take the policy and they believed the principal was right?

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in the absence of efforts in the direction where sound financial advisor services can relatively easily be made available to the previously disadvantaged, the creation of jobs we so much talk about will automatically not translate into wealth creation. My question is, does it really have to be like that just because it is like that somewhere else? Does the pensioner not have the right to be provided with alternative advice to that which he gets from the local radio that he can buy more, that his credit has now been increased and he can now buy more for this? Who is going to tell our people to invest and to save? Where is the social and civic duty of these entities? Is it right that they should have none? How can one expect the country to grow if its populace is so badly debt-ridden and without a cent left to save? Let alone invest.

Financial literacy, complemented by entrepreneurial education, is a challenge to be faced not only by Government but all stakeholders who directly or indirectly are involved in the financial service provision. It would enable our youth and the general citizenry to focus more on being financially informed and independent and to be great investors rather than great spenders of the world, like the commercials are continuously telling us to be. Since the last word is not said and cannot be said in this kind of speech, may I invite more dialogue in this regard, for I believe it can be done. It only depends upon our attitude to this effect and remember your attitude can be your best asset or your worst liability. The effort can possibly complement the coalition recently suggested by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Angola.

Government Assets: Comrade Speaker, fellow Honourable Members, I am sure that most of you in this august House could drive into any town and immediately be able to distinguish the Government properties from private ones. This is not because of any GRN mark placed on them or because of a striking architectural or aesthetic attraction, but contrasting state of negligence and dilapidation. This applies to all kinds of properties, including the maintenance of gardens and other plants at most of our Government properties.

Honourable Kazenambo and I have very recently visited one of such institutions which pose a life hazard to those who frequent it. Therefore, I urge the responsible line Ministry not to hesitate in their efforts to eradicate wastage and carelessness of our Government assets. I am confident that they will not waste their efforts to ensure that all the properties are not only well taken care of but also made to be attractive and habitable for purposes of increasing the

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

value thereof should Government one day wish to dispose of them. Next time I will be asking the question, as to what value has the budgeted for money brought about and that is true for all other Votes.

Land Question: I would like to further add on the issue of immovable properties registered under companies or close corporations. It is public policy that we as a Nation are in the process of trying to get the Namibians to own land and due to these objectives, we do not allow the farmlands to be purchased by foreigners any longer. However, a possibility exists for foreigners to bypass us through purchasing companies that own farms, hence purchasing the land. Having made that observation which I am sure the Government Legal Advisor Service will certainly take care of and put under secure control, I cannot emphasise enough and call for reinforced vigilance and enhanced inter-ministerial cooperation between the Ministries of Lands and Resettlement, Trade and Industry and Justice and Attorney General, respective, to pre-empt such deals, for once gone through, Government will have to fork out substantial funds to remedy the situation in the courts of law.

The Economy: Vision 2030 is not a far-fetched vision and the year 2030 is just 24 years away. I trust many in this House will live to see that day.

However, a journey of many miles is started by the first steps. Therefore, I believe that for us to be an industrialised Nation we should not wait for the year 2030, we ought to start taking steps right now. The steps should include import substitutions, development of primary industries, a paradigm shift from foreign-based to home-owned economy and that includes financial institutions. Exportation of value-addition products, importation of raw materials not available in Namibia for processing, utilisation of Namibian products and services as opposed to foreign ones, promotion of Namibian products and services, including tourism and locally-made products and exchange experience with small countries that are success stories, such as the Caribbean Islands. Voice development aimed at encouraging technology development. IT research development and research and development of any other services or products in general and dream to make Namibia the Silicone Valley of Africa.

Therefore, I would give my overall support to Comrade Ngatjizeko and Comrade Esau in their quest to establish a directorate responsible for coordination in industrial development. It is through developing of such

24 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

industry from the grassroots that we can be able to maximise utilisation of available resources and industrialise our country speedily.

In the area of black economic empowerment our policies should be considerate of the following: Existing or formerly disadvantaged groups or businesses should be part of the equation. If we are creating new economic empowerment groups, we should think of the Nambingas, we should think how these are going to be affected. If we are to bring in investors, we should compare as to what competition are we subjecting our businesses to. Existing or black or formerly disadvantaged businesses as to how they are performing. What competition are we subjecting them to? How established and how ready are they for such competition? Are we signing a death sentence for them by unfairly opening up an industry we have no competitive advantage on? Are the new businesses coming to Namibia to sell *vetkoekies* that we are good at making? Is the competition between a company that has just obtained a certificate to commence business and a trans-national that has a centuries-old business tradition and a considerable asset base and a wealth of experience a fair competition or is it competition between a cheetah and a fox?

If a partner in black economic empowerment is a community, are the mechanisms in place for fruits to be delivered to really reach and be spread across for all members of the community is being used or misused to benefit? These are questions that we must be in a position to ask ourselves.

Finally, Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members, I would like to congratulate Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Comrade Tweya for the 2005/2006 Budget and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the period ending 2007/2008 that was tabled in this august House. Surely you had difficult decisions to make, especially in this globalised world and being under pressure from the need to provide funding for needed programmes and projects of Government. However, at the end of it all, you look at the need not only of today but also of the future generations. That may be difficult decisions and choices of cutting Budget proposals from different Offices, Ministries and Agencies and probably have earned yourself not so warm a relation between yourself, your staff, on the one hand, and those of other Ministries, more so when cutting their spending and yet you project for a surplus. I would then say, that is leadership *par excellence*.

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO

I believe your projection of Budget surplus could be achieved provided financial prudence, discipline and discretion are always encouraged. It is in this spirit and with the above background in mind that I support the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his masculine maiden address. I know the Minister of Finance has taken note of his specific questions addressed to the Executive through her Ministry. I now give the Floor to Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo, equally a maiden address.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. It is by His grace and favour and by His authority and power we have the opportunity to serve and by example to lead the Namibian people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, firstly, I wish to thank my Lord Almighty with whom I found favour in order to find favour with man. Secondly, knowing that God Himself does not come down, but uses people with a listening ear and a willing heart to be used as instruments, I wish to sincerely thank those who in their own special ways played an overt or a covered role in this regard. May the Lord God Almighty who sees in secret and from whom no secrets are hidden, bless and reward those who played a significant hidden role and I do not know them, in my appointment to this position of honour, respect and huge responsibility. I wish to assure them that with God's help I shall do my very best.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, at this juncture it is important to note that since the establishment of the Republic of Namibia in 1990, there has never been a second President, I therefore wish to use this once in a lifetime opportunity to thank the Namibian Nation for the mandate given to the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba,

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO

to take over the reign of governing the Namibian people as the first one and only second President of our beloved Republic, Namibia.

His Excellency the President, out of a total of 833,165 registered voters obtained 625,605 votes, representing an overwhelming win of 75,1%, as officially declared following the recount. I wish to congratulate and sincerely thank the second President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba who, as per the powers vested in him according to Article 32(3)(i)(ee) of the Namibian Constitution, appointed me to join this august House. I am eternally grateful to him and all other well-meaning Namibians who played a role in my appointment to this House and I pledge my allegiance to perform my duties to the best of my abilities. So help me God.

It is pertinent to note that it is only in a stable and peaceful environment that opportunities for a second President arise. I, therefore, wish to thank the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma, for his selfless service and dedication to the Namibian struggle, freedom, liberation and nationhood. He, no doubt, created a stable, peaceful and conducive environment that facilitated an enviable peaceful transition. He has become the embodiment of the Namibian struggle. The Namibian Nation shall forever remain eternally grateful and I wish him and his family a productive life of retirement that is worth of being tired.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, this is my maiden address and I am honoured and privileged to share some thoughts on the national Budget Debate.

First of all, I wish to use this opportunity also to congratulate the Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General who combines the tough job of being an Attorney General and Minister of Justice as well as the Minister of Finance who provided an avenue for me to talk about this afternoon.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, for those who might have read a story in the *New Era* newspaper, entitled “*Women of Substance Meet Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, the Child of the Universe*”, may recall that I presented myself as a child at different levels. As you know, a child is always willing to learn and in her innocence and limited ability is always willing to help and is inquisitive to

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO

ask questions with answers. Adults often assume to be given answers. As a child of God, of course, I have this opportunity to say to the Honourable Members of this House that it is extremely important to acknowledge God in all we think, do and say, not only as a routine prayer but as our genuine desire to serve the Namibian people to the best of our abilities under God's umbrella of authority and power. It is similarly true, as the saying goes, that one should never be able to take care of what is under one's authority unless and until one has taken care of those in authority above one. Hence, we as Members of Parliament, unless and until we humble ourselves and take care of those in authority above us, namely God, the President and the Namibian people, we shall never be able to take care of what is under our authority in our various Ministries and callings. In other words, we must at all times realise that we have authority by virtue of, and because we are under authority.

This lineal progression is not only good for the running of the Kingdom of God's people in those nations where God is acknowledged appropriately, but it is also good for good governance in general. The Bible says that a Nation without God is a reproach not only to God himself, but to its neighbours near and far. However, a Nation with God on his side accomplishes much, for with God nothing is impossible.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, it is, therefore pertinent to put God first at all times and I thank you all in anticipation of that. Those who humble themselves shall be exulted, but those who exult themselves shall be humbled. We are servants of the Namibian people and we need God's speed and we continue to govern as Honourable Members under authority and, therefore, having power and authority to execute our duties with honour, rather than with dishonour. We shall in no way be found wanting in our service to the Namibian Nation as servants of the people, but as bosses we shall surely be found.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, it is pertinent to stress that Article 1(1) of the Constitution of Namibia established the Republic of Namibia as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State, founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. Therefore, sovereignty, secularism, democracy and unity of Namibia are sacred. Furthermore, Article 1(6) states: "*The Constitution shall be the supreme law of Namibia.*"

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO

Wisdom cries out in the street, let him who seeks it find it, for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, whether you like it or not and where there is wisdom, there is justice. Let wisdom and justice, therefore, prevail at all strata of the Namibian society.

As a child of politics, a newcomer to this House, I wish to state that my eyes and my ears are open, my mouth remained shut till now, my mind is alert and my heart is receptive. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: We have to respect the time allocation. It is a maiden address, if it is the pleasure of the House we shall be flexible, but it cannot be an open-ended extension. Can we have a compromise, four minutes to please wrap up. The Constitution we know, just stick to the essence of what you want to contribute.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, education is a complex phenomenon. It is this complexity highlighted, as I discuss in my paper, which you could not listen to and I consulted quite a number of philosophers to give us a philosophical aspect to education, which I did not have time to read through, but nonetheless, education is very complex and that is why people are coerced to speak about education even when they want to speak about something else. We would have noted that the Ministry of Education has been given a huge responsibility to ensure that the Namibian people are educated. In fact, you would have already noted that every Honourable Member who spoke seemingly about something else but education, ended up speaking about education and training, nonetheless. This is because education is everything and everything is education. Education is, therefore, the key to our cognitive potential, more so as it is the key to opening physical doors on our sojourn.

The philosopher, R S Peters, argues that education is not to have arrived at a destination, but to travel with a different view which I will travel with henceforth after I have delivered my maiden speech.

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON DR GEINGOB

Education, as we have noted, takes us from the cradle to the grave, but what we leave behind remains beyond the grave for generations yet unborn. From the first moment of life, men ought to begin learning to deserve to live and at the instant of birth we partake of the rights of citizenship. That instant ought to be a beginning of the exercise of our duty.

I want to conclude with a reading from Rosseau who lived between 1755 to now and he is saying: *“If there are laws for the age of maturity, there ought to be laws for infancy, teaching obedience to others and as the reason of each man is not left to be the sole arbiter of his duties, Government ought the less indiscriminately to abandon to the intelligence and prejudices of fathers the education of their children as that education is of still greater importance to the State than to the fathers, for according to the course of nature, the death of the father often deprives him of the final fruits of education, but his country sooner or later perceives its effects. Families dissolve, but the State remains.”*

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, it is for the Namibian State, we must educate the Namibian people and I thank you sincerely for this shortened opportunity.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, it is on a constitutional matter and I did not want to do it to Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase, I was waiting for the President of CoD to speak, but he is not ready, so this Point of Order is very fundamental. It deals with Article 46 of the Constitution.

“(1) The composition of the National Assembly shall be as follows: 72 members to be elected by registered voters by general, direct and secret ballot.

(2) Subject to the principles referred to in Article 49 hereof, the Members

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON DR GEINGOB

of the National Assembly referred to in sub-article (1)(a) hereof shall be elected in accordance with procedures to be determined by Act of Parliament.”

That Act is in place, it is known as the Electoral Act. Under that Act we had Presidential and National Assembly elections. These elections were declared free and fair and CoD and the Republican Party contested and went to court, which is their right, of course. While I was just about to address a meeting in New York at the United Nations to go and boast that I was just elected to the Parliament, I heard that I am no longer an elected member because the courts of Namibia set aside the results. I was so happy that we have an independent Judiciary and I went and changed my speech by saying, yes, you are right, you have introduced me as a Member of Parliament, but just an hour ago, our independent courts set aside the results and ordered a recount. A recount was done and still the two Parties are contesting.

My Point of Order is, Comrade Speaker, on what basis are the CoD and the Republicans now in this Parliament, participating? Are they implying by this that they are going to withdraw the case and then we can go ahead? We should not unnecessarily tarnish our good democratic name. That is the Point of Order.

HON SPEAKER: The Point of Order of Honourable Geingob is weighty, it has constitutional and legal implications, but we are at a point in time when all the Honourable Members seated here have been duly sworn in and are deemed to be legitimately constituted as individual members. The matter can, nevertheless, be taken up in the appropriate Standing Committee of the House, but for now I shall ask Honourable Schimming-Chase to continue.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. If anything happens which is illegal and unconstitutional, are we really safe? That is the point. If we are here we have to continue and who is going to be responsible if this kind of thing I mentioned happens? I need thorough explanations and for that matter, if this quoting of the Constitution happens to continue, how did we get this continuity and we are supposed to regard any constitutional matters as already solved?

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON SPEAKER: We shall look at that matter at an appropriate time in one of the Standing Committees.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have already congratulated everybody, so I will now rise to contribute to the Second Reading Debate of the 2005/2006 Budget in the spirit of a new beginning, a new beginning not because it is the slogan of CoD, but because it heralds what history will one day record as “*the beginning of the Pohamba era.*” We have a new President, a new Parliament, a fairly new Cabinet, a new Budget and a new Official Opposition.

It is common practice in most democracies to give a new Government a grace period of a hundred days to settle in and pronounce its plans before starting to criticise it. Mr Speaker, the hundred days are not yet over and in keeping with this noble convention, my contribution will concentrate not on criticising as such, but in an attempt on analysing the promises made in a realistic manner, also in an attempt, where necessary, to offer alternatives.

In order to do so as objectively as possible, Mr Speaker, I will use as the basis of my contribution or analysis the following documents: Firstly, statements by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba on issues of national interest; secondly, the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2004. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask a small question?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, it is regrettable that CoD has 45 minutes and UDF has 45 minutes and we do not have 45 minutes left. Therefore, Honourable Jerry, within the next five years, any time, not today.

Thirdly, the Budget Statement presented by the Honourable Minister.

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I am not really sure that we are doing things legally. Why can we not solve the problem that is between us once and for all? I am confused whether we are a legal Government. Let us solve the problem first. We have a court case and this is a matter that bothers me, to listen to somebody else who is in court. Let us solve the problem first before we continue.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, as I earlier indicated, we have procedures and structures of the National Assembly to look into any matter of substance, like this issue brought before the House and the Speaker ruled that an appropriate time we will consider this matter in one of the Standing Committees.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: His Excellency, President Pohamba, held his first consultative meeting with Cabinet and during that meeting, His Excellency called for effective and efficient service delivery to the Nation without fail. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. I think we have reached a very critical moment in the history of this Parliament and without having paid serious consideration to this issue, now that it is raised and now that the Speaker has given some guidelines, can I propose an Amendment to the proposed procedure to be followed? We know that the case challenging the National Assembly elections is pending before Court and I would, therefore, propose that while this case is pending, the Honourable Members who do not see the validity of this Chamber get their salaries suspended and wait for the outcome of the court case. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker will not entertain that Amendment and more so in that the Attorney-General herself has said that this matter is before

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

the Court and I would propose, therefore, that we leave it before the Court and not debate it here in this House. The Speaker's idea was that if there are matters to be raised, we shall consider this matter in the appropriate Standing Committee of the House.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, His Excellency, the President, stressed that such consultation is important in order for Government to live up to its promises to the Nation, as contained in his Party's Election Manifesto for 2004. The President further enjoined all political office-bearers.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Speaker, is it really fair that those who participated in the Presidential Election and who were defeated to sit here in this august House? I think in future if a person is a presidential candidate, he should not be at the top of the list, because that is what SWAPO is doing. That issue should also be considered in the Standing Committee.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, there is a relevant section of Standing Rules and Orders that allows the Honourable Speaker to ask Members who are extraneous to the issue to sit down. Maybe we should start using that now.

The President enjoined all political office-bearers to work hard as a team and not to compromise on efficiency, effectiveness and accountability to the people they serve. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. I am still trying to look for clarity on what Comrade Hage Geingob said. Are we doing it correctly? If we are doing

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

it wrongly, are we going to be able to rectify it? I, therefore, propose that the Colleagues from the CoD and RP should be sent to the Committee and when they are clear, they can come back and speak.

HON SPEAKER: That is not for this very moment. Honourable Schimming Chase, you may continue.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Parliament, in terms of our Constitution and division of power, is the place where this efficiency, effectiveness and accountability will be tested as we, the legislators, exercise our oversight function.

Mr Speaker, His Excellency, President Pohamba, strongly emphasised the urgent need to monitor and decisively deal with corrupt practices in Offices, Ministries, Agencies and State-Owned Enterprises. It is significant to note at this juncture that since the inauguration of His Excellency, the President, more and more instances of corruption in these bodies have come to light. We have passed the halfway mark in the hundred days and look forward to the manner in which Government will deal decisively with these corrupt practices. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, is it not corruption to question the legitimacy of the House and still participate in it?

HON SPEAKER: It expands the definition of “corruption” rather broadly, but for now you may continue.

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, as far as I know, the Right Honourable Prime Minister did not study in America, so I am surprised that he is joining Honourable Hage Geingob and the Speaker in filibustering. Oh, I have just been corrected, he studied there, he was a good student. Keep on filibustering, Sir.

Allow me to quote from His Excellency's statement on the role of the Legislature, this august House: *"The primary role of the Legislature in our system of Government is well-known and cannot be over-emphasised. Lawmakers are elected to articulate the people's needs, aspirations and hopes."* (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, seriously speaking, I was not filibustering and it is nothing to have studied in America. I was seriously asking on a constitutional issue. Therefore, for the Honourable Member to say I am filibustering is a bit unfair. I am concerned about the image of this country. It has been tarnished by that action that the two Parties have taken.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I withdraw in all humility and please, if people interrupt, at least not while I am quoting the President, it is so disrespectful to the President.

"They have a duty to turn those hopes into workable pieces of legislation, as demanded by the mandate given to them by the electorate. This is a duty that our lawmakers must take to heart. The Namibian people are looking up to you with great anticipation and high expectations to live up to the undertakings and promises that were made by all Political Parties during the election campaign. Therefore, I call upon all Parliamentarians to work together and put the interest of all citizens first." (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Which Parliamentarians?

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Ask the President, I quoted from his speech. He stressed the duty of all of us to promote and entrench democracy in our country, not only as a system of governance but as a way of life. If we as Members of this august House pay serious attention to the President's clarion call, then the Opposition will be respected as an integral part of our democracy and not as an element of nuisance value.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as we debate the Budget, I am deeply encouraged by the views His Excellency, the President has on participatory democracy and the increased involvement of our citizens as vital ingredients for the attainment of Namibia's political and socio-economic development. If we are to attain these important objectives, we must urgently empower all our people economically. No citizen of our population should be left out should all of us become active participants in the development of our country. I quote in conclusion from His Excellency, the President: "No citizen of our Republic should remain a passive spectator in this process" and I will look analytically to the extent to which this Budget tabled by the Executive conforms with the expressed views of His Excellency, the President.

Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency, the President stated the short-term and immediate priorities that require urgent attention. These include the disparities in socio-economic development, unemployment, poverty and the provision of social amenities, such as safe drinking water, electricity, housing, health services and education. Once again in looking at the Budget we will have to see whether the allocation of the Votes in terms of finances take into account these immediate priorities, especially the stressed commitment to peruse sound macro-economic policies to achieve highest levels of economic growth. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I do not want to rob the UDF from its democratic right to speak. Maybe the SWAPO members do, I do not.

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, is it not corruption if one pretends to be a democrat and in the meantime do not want to accept questions? Is it not corruption?

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker finds the definition of corruption a bit tricky to give any Ruling on it.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Once again in looking at the Budget, we will have to see whether the allocation of the Votes, in terms of finances take into account these immediate priorities, especially the stressed commitment to pursue sound macro-economic policies to achieve highest level of economic growth in order to stimulate the creation of employment opportunities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency, the President further emphasised Government's commitment to the implementation of land reform programmes based on the established constitutional and legislative procedures and guidelines, as well as a united approach to "*uproot corruption and embezzlement of public funds and assets*" and called upon Parliament to ensure that "*our commitment to the attainment of our goal must be total and our political will must be harder than steel.*"

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. We would like to hear more from the Opposition, the speech of the President has already been delivered eloquently. Can it be shortened to be more part of the CoD rather than of the speech of the President?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Indeed, Mr Speaker, political will is paramount in representing and implementing a Budget which may not be popular, but of cardinal import if the Government's programme is to be implemented. Indeed, political will is imperative if changes will have to be

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

made so that the Budget serves as the enabling instrument in this regard.

These, Mr Speaker, are the stated priorities of the beginning of the Pohamba era and it goes without saying, forms the basis of SWAPO's Election Manifesto. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is articulating issues of budgetary importance, but the question in everybody's mind is the implication of what they are attempting to do. Comrade Speaker, what is it that these two Parties would like to achieve by their court application? Can the Honourable Member tell us in her speech? She now has the opportunity to tell this House what the scenario will be should the Court declare the elections of last year null and void. Let them tell the House, they have the opportunity.

HON SPEAKER: The two Parties are represented here, should they choose to do so, they are free to do so.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As I said, I will now focus on the SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto which is the contract that SWAPO made with the Namibian electorate and to see in how far the Budget of the SWAPO Government conforms with the national priorities as spelled out in its Manifesto.

Mr Speaker, Sir, considering the time at my disposal – quite apart from the interruptions – allow me to concentrate on just some of the promises in the Manifesto.

On democracy and good governance, SWAPO states that “*democracy, accountability, honesty and commitment to service are major requirements.*” However, if accountability is what was demonstrated by the answer of the Honourable Deputy Minister Dinyando last week on moneys handed out by Government, then their definition of accountability is definitely what is

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

contained in the Oxford Dictionary. No, Mr Speaker, not if Members of this House... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, exactly on the point of the money given out. Is it not a contradiction that Budget is discussing money and yet two Political Parties have decided to spend money on lawyers, on things already decided by the voters?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: No, Mr Speaker – not in answer to your questions, in terms of my speech – not if Members of this House are advised to seek information on Government spending from organisation or companies outside of this House, when it is the duty of this House to have the oversight function on moneys spent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, further states its commitment to social justice, including opportunity to work. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, is it not the highest order of hypocrisy when certain Members of this House know just too well that what they are doing is truly to derail and confuse the world? They sit here, receiving salaries, yet they apparently know that they are here illegally. Is that not corruption?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, SWAPO states its commitment to social justice, including opportunity to work, to have decent housing, access to decent education and health services, amongst others. SWAPO promises to pay particular attention to the needs of our senior citizens and Namibians with disabilities. To summarise, Mr Speaker, clearly emphasises social welfare and development. (Intervention)

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. In relation to CoD and RP, is it possible to eat your cake and have it?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Mr Speaker, I looked at the Budget to see whether the social and developmental sectors indeed benefited most, as promised in the Manifesto. If one looks at the Votes of exactly these Ministries, amongst others Education, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Health and Social Services, Labour and Social Welfare, one finds that in fact, contrary to the priorities as put forward in the SWAPO Manifesto, less is set aside for these social ministries. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order. We are not getting clarity from the Speaker, may I ask Honourable Henk Mudge a question, please?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mudge is not on the Floor at the moment and he is not on the Speaker's list.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: For example, Honourable Speaker, the fight against corruption is one of the top priorities of the SWAPO Manifesto as well as the President's statement, yet this Budget paints a totally differently picture. N\$100 million are set aside for the new State House, almost fifty times as much as is allocated to the Anti-Corruption Commission at N\$2,5 million. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, on a serious note, I would like to Move that this House passes a resolution that forbids the two Parties to be present in this august House until the Court has pronounced itself, because it is hypocrisy for

24 May 2005

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

people not to recognise the result of the election and at the same time to be present here and participate in the deliberations of this august House. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, all the Honourable Members seated in this House were duly sworn in by none other than the Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia. His Excellency, President Pohamba addressed this House as one properly constituted and the matter about which so many questions have been raised is *sub judice*. It would serve this House well for us to concentrate on the business and that is the Debate on the Appropriation Bill.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: In fact, Mr Speaker, apart from State House being fifty times as much as is allocated to the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the Founding President and President of the SWAPO Party will receive N\$5,7 million, more than twice the amount set aside to fight corruption.

Mr Speaker, the SWAPO Manifesto promises to take care of our senior citizens. In spite of this promise, there is no increase in their pensions, even though they will now be expected to pay Value Added Tax, which, apart from the rising cost of living, will mean even less money available to them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the list of broken promises goes on, but time does not allow me to itemise all of them. Let me, therefore, get to the Budget motivation speech of the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, who should be congratulated for sticking to her promise to have a three-year rolling Budget and more especially for her resolve not to table an Additional Appropriation Bill last year. I hope this practice in fiscal discipline will be institutionalised.

I would further like to commend the Honourable Minister for two bold statements she made in the motivation. Firstly, the Honourable Minister stated that the national cake must be divided differently. I support her most strongly in this. For the last five years this was the light motif of all my contributions to the Budget Debate. The national cake will not increase significantly, neither

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

will donor aid. That is why we must not only prioritise, but we must...
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. I Move that we invoke Rule 99, because the Honourable Member is not properly attired.

HON SPEAKER: In the Speaker's view the Member is properly attired.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: We must not only prioritise, but we must implement such prioritisation.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, the Minister promised that the Auditor General's Reports on Government spending will be presented timeously. For the past five years Parliament had to receive and debate audited reports of Offices, Ministries and Agencies years after the moneys were expended, making a mockery of its oversight function. Again, I congratulate the Honourable Minister on making an effort to introduce accountability and fiscal discipline in keeping with His Excellency, the President's entreaties.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Minister of Finance has through her motivation speech unfortunately raised more questions than answers. As stated above, much of the Budget, firstly, does not conform with the SWAPO Manifesto. Despite its commitment to fighting crime, to improve primary education and health care and taking care of the elderly, this Budget reflects decreases in spending in all those areas. The Police Budget has been decreased, education and health care has been decreased and there is no improvement in the pension. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order. I give Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase credit not to be distracted even by me. Now we have heard enough

24 May 2005

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

about the SWAPO Manifesto, the Opposition is supposed to give us alternatives. We would like to hear now about the CoD Manifesto.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Furthermore, Honourable Speaker, the Budget contains promises which, based on past experience, I am afraid will once again remain nothing but hollow promises. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Comrade Speaker, I would like to provide the following information that will confirm that the Budget does reflect the priorities as set out in the 2004 SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto. On page 32 of the Minister's statement the following is stated: The allocations to the various sectors, social sector, 32,4%, administrative sectors, 21%, public safety sector 16,3%, economic and infrastructure sectors 10% and this is what we have stated in the Election Manifesto, not the other way around.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Mr Speaker, once again, actual revenues seem higher than revenues forecast in the Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks with the exception of 2003/2004. Once again expenditures seem higher than those forecast in the Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks. Once again, actual Budget deficits for the most part seem higher than forecast in the Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks. The latest Medium Term Expenditure Framework forecasts declining revenue, declining expenditure and a declining deficit, which does not seem to be realised or has not been seen to be realised in the past, possibly and especially in the light of the fact that since 2001 a spending target of 30% of the GDP has been promised and still in reality we have constantly spent above 35%. The question arises, what miracle is planned by the Ministry of Finance to turn this trend around?

This question, Mr Speaker, becomes even more important considering the promise of an increase in revenue of almost 35%. There is definitely a need for more clarity when the Honourable Minister, on the one hand, promises an increase in revenue while projecting, on the other hand, a decrease of diamond

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

royalties of over N\$240 million from N\$500 million in spite of increased production. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order. I am following the speech of Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase. When we met at the induction course, I made an appeal that the Colleagues of the Opposition should not come and repeat the statement of Mr Sherbourne. It is exactly the same speech as Mr Sherbourne. Is it allowed that we go for induction and we take those speeches?

HON SPEAKER: If it is a constructive contribution, it should be allowed.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: It would also be useful if the Honourable Minister of Finance could provide some information on expected revenue, because it is not contained in her speech.

Let me now turn to questions on some of the individual Votes without wanting to pre-empt the Committee Stage of the Debate.

Vote 01 on the Presidency: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba for, in spite of his busy schedule, having found time to meet with us and discuss matters of national interest. The President has put me in a difficult position, because the President has stated... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order while the Honourable Member is right on that point. Is it allowed for the Honourable Members of the Official Opposition and others to promise something to His Excellency, the President and to come out in the public and deny exactly what they have promised? Is it allowed?

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON SPEAKER: It may not be allowed, but it is unhelpful.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, the Budget Debate is once a year and I think this is the time especially the Official Opposition should come up with alternatives and tell the electorate out there that the Government-in-waiting can offer alternatives. Instead they are just crying and crying without offering alternatives. Are they allowed to cry here instead of coming with alternatives? I think it is now high time that a workshop be arranged for the Opposition Parties, because for the past fifteen years they have just been crying instead of coming with alternatives.

HON SPEAKER: There were 25 interruptions so far, the Honourable Member has seven minutes to go.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I have not spoken for 45 minutes, I started at 16:55, I wrote it down.

Honourable Speaker, His Excellency, the President has put me in a difficult position, because he has invited us and told us State House belongs to all of us. However, for the past five years I have objected to the moneys spent on State House and if I do not object now, people will think that the President has bribed me. I am therefore still asking the Honourable Minister, could she please explain how it happens that State House is budgeted under so-called "*protection and defence of the Constitution*" and why there is a discrepancy of N\$10 million between the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document and the Main Budget? I must concede, Honourable Speaker that I understand protection and defence of the Constitution as being a totally different kettle of fish, but one is never too old to learn, so I will wait until the Minister replies.
(Intervention)

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Is it allowed that the Honourable Member misleads the Nation that she was bribed by His Excellency, the President?

HON SPEAKER: Has Honourable Schimming-Chase accepted the question? Question declined. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: All stupid questions are declined.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I ask further, Honourable Speaker, if fiscal discipline is to be kept, why should we spend N\$1,1 million on a Minister in the President's Office when there is a Prime Minister, a Permanent Secretary and a Cabinet to advise the Minister? What is the need for a Minister without a job or is it without portfolio? Why the increase in spending of more than N\$14 million on intelligence? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed that the Honourable Member attempts to plant into the minds of the public that our President is capable of bribing the CoD?

HON SPEAKER: That is a serious allegation, I am sure.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, since the concept of poetic language is not known in this House, I withdraw.

Honourable Speaker, on Vote 02, namely that of the Prime Minister, I would

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

like to take the opportunity to congratulate him most warmly for setting an example as the first-amongst-equals on fiscal discipline. I am sure we would all be pleasantly surprised to hear how large the savings are that will result from the decrease of cars, outriders, etcetera, in the Prime Minister's motorcade, not to mention the savings of the public, because they do not have to stop with idling cars, using more petrol whilst at the same time polluting the air. Honourable Prime Minister, you are congratulated.

On the National Assembly, Honourable Speaker, for securing an increase in our Library Services. Those of us who take the time to conduct research – and not just interjections – know how badly off our library is and we hope that this increase will improve the Library Services.

On the Vote of the Police, Honourable Speaker, I still have to ask why almost half of the Police Constables are guarding VIPs when even the Prime Minister has decreased his guards. When there are not enough constables to fight crime, why are there more than twice the number of Special Field Force members than Police? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On the issue the Honourable Member is raising, is the Honourable Member aware whether or not the Police Officers have completed their investigation on the Okahandja ballot case?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, why do we allocate another N\$116 million to Air Namibia despite protestations and promises that since the sale of the Boeing things will improve and for how long will we continue this propping-up financial practice?

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge and you do not need to have Mr Sherbourne's paper to know this, that major airlines, like Lufthansa, KLM, British Airways and even South African Airways, can only manage to stay afloat through forming joint partnerships. What miracle do we then expect from Air Namibia?

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

Mr Speaker, Sir, as you have just noticed during my presentation, the Opposition Parties are always accused of only criticising and not offering an alternative Budget. Honourable Speaker, here is mine:

Like the Honourable Minister stated, let us re-cut the national cake. Let us increase revenue by collecting revenue from Ministries, as mentioned above. Let us increase revenue by forcing those who defrauded Government to pay back all the moneys stolen. We will be surprised, there will be enough money to raise old-age pensions. Let us decrease State expenditure by decreasing the size of the Cabinet, especially if the Honourable Minister in State House can only interject instead of making positive proposals. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, Sir, the President was elected by the majority of the people of Namibia and is entitled to appoint, firstly, his own Prime Minister, secondly, Deputy Prime Minister and any other number of Ministers as he sees fit, provided he is appointing them from Parliament. Now we want to be wiser than the President and there is no issue here in the Budget as to the right of the President to appoint or not to appoint.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, we can re-cut the slice for Defence by spending less money on military toys and white elephants and increase the salaries and benefits of the Defence Force and spend more money on training to improve the quality of the Force. (Intervention)

HON KAIYAMO: On a serious Point of Order. I am an African born and bred, I do not want to interrupt my seniors, but with all respect, Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase was part and parcel of the Committee that went to all the military installations and the Report tabled in this Parliament was approved by her.

24 May 2005

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I will make an exception and reply to my junior. I stand fully behind that Report. In fact, I must say it here; in any other country you would have had a *Coup d'etat* if you look at the salaries and benefits of our army. We should be proud that they have not done so. That is why I am appealing..... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is contradicting herself. She says she supports the Report and the Report suggests an increase in the Budget of the Defence and at the same time she wants the Budget to be cut. Is it not corruption?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. An Honourable Minister and ex-teacher does not know the difference between re-cut and cut and I do not have the time to give a grammar lesson now. Re-cut the slice of Education, Honourable Speaker, by spending more money on quality education, especially at pre-primary education and take a serious look at equalising the salaries and benefits of teachers. Cut down on workshops and S&T and put the money to provide teaching materials and classrooms. Re-cut the slice for Health and spend more money on preventative medicines. Increase revenue by increasing the medical aid contribution of political office-bearers – us! N\$50 per person for us when good medical health contributions in the private sector amount to more than N\$500, whilst at the same time the cost of medical treatment for us is increasing, that is immoral, it is obscene. Let us all exercise fiscal discipline and punish Accounting Officers who default.

Let us re-cut the Police slice, spend more money on training the Special Field Force so that they can quality to be incorporated into the normal Police Force. Improve supervision of property in the Police Force and improve the salaries and benefits of qualified, committed and dedicated Police personnel so that we can fight corruption in the Force.

Spend more money on social Ministries to help the poor, to decrease the

24 May 2005

ADJOURNMENT

disparities in income and less on white elephants like an Airport at Okahao or a feasibility study for Cape Fria. These are not priorities as reflected in the statement by His Excellency, the President or the SWAPO Election Manifesto and it will definitely not improve social services to the advantage of the poor and the marginalised.

In conclusion, therefore, after having presented my alternative Budget, let me thank the Honourable Members on that side for trying to enliven the Debate and to show how little respect they have for free speech and give the Honourable Minister the assurance that the support or rejection of the Budget by the CoD will depend on answers to the issues of national concern that we have raised. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: After this very productive, thought-provoking debate, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, 31 May 2005.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned under Rule 90, automatic adjournment, until 31 May 2005 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2005.05.31 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
31 MAY 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, photographs will be taken of all Members of the National Assembly of Namibia for use in Government Gazettes, posters and publications on the following dates: 31st of May 2005 to the 3rd of June 2005 in Room 59 of the National Assembly.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of –

- Regional Council for the Oshikoto Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 1999;
- Ministry of Health and Social Services for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2000;
- Regional Council for the Otjozondjupa Region for the Financial Year ended 31st March 1999;

31 May 2005

TABLING: REPORTS AND PAPERS
HON DR L AMATHILA

- Namibian Tourism Board for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2004.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

**TABLING: REPORTS OF OFFICE OF
THE PRIME MINISTER**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I lay upon the Table from the Office of the Prime Minister, the “*Government of Namibia goes Digital*” and also document of “*E-Governance in Namibia.*”

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill.*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 24 May, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Honourable Prime Minister adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the House. My contribution to the Budget 2005/2006 is on the theme, *“Moving Namibia into position of a developmental state.”*

Honourable Members, the Budget Debate of 2005/2006 is being conducted in the context of the democratic transition which took place on March 21, 2005. In his inaugural speech as the second President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, among others stated as follows:

“We pledge to you, the people of Namibia, that we will continue to devise programmes and projects aimed at meeting the expectations and aspirations of our people who have consistently given the SWAPO Party the mandate to govern since Independence.”

Indeed, the democratic transition has raised high expectations and heightened the aspirations of our people towards a better life. Our people expect democracy to translate into employment, better wages, good health, improved housing and enhanced quality of life. This Budget attempts to lay the foundation for meeting these expectations and aspirations. A Budget, as we all know, is a fiscal policy statement which indicates strategies for resource mobilisation and priorities for resource allocation. Resource mobilisation depends on economic growth. Economic growth, on its part, depends on investment and economic development.

Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said the following about the Namibian economy in her Budget speech:

“In the period between 2001 and 2003, the Namibian economy enjoyed a stable micro-economic environment which has led to an average expansion of real GDP by 2,9% per year. The estimates indicate a strong increase in real GDP growth to 4,4% in 2004, receiving a major boost from a surge in mining activities.”

Honourable Members, let us be optimistic for the moment and agree with Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila that our economy is growing by 4,4% in the face of high oil prices and over-valued Namibian Dollar. Could this growth meet the expectations and aspirations of all our people? Will such growth enable us to redistribute wealth and redress the social deficits in our

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

midst? Clearly this aspired growth is necessary, but not sufficient condition to meet the aspirations of our people within the context of our democratic transition.

Besides the expectations and aspirations created by the democratic transition, we are generally a Nation of dreams and visions. Vision 2030 dreams of a prosperous and industrialised Namibia, developed by her human resources, enjoying peace, harmony and political stability by the year 2030. Are we in a position to grow the economy during the next 25 years beyond 4,4%? If our visions and dreams are going to transfer into reality, we must start to devise a long-term investment strategy, engaged in strategic thinking and develop innovative strategies. We must map out a national plan for investment, economic growth and social development. Such a plan should be the road map to Vision 2030. The over-arching strategy for economic growth is to move Namibia to the level of a developmental state.

Honourable Members, a developmental state uses economic growth and development as a function of specific combination of economic, political and institutional structures. Economic stagnation, for example, is a consequence of constraints imposed by history, political, economic and global integration. These constraints can only be overcome by reinventing the State through re-tooling. The State must be re-tooled to see itself as an agent for development. The State as an agent for socio-economic development should embrace in its belief systems and attitudes the notion of dynamic and integrated thinking. Integrated thinking enables a country to enhance its sources of advantage, namely human resource development, competitiveness through high productivity and cultivation of social capital, that is trust and justice.

A developmental State grounds its development strategy in the learning processes. It is tuned to borrow technologies, it promotes active development strategies such as the creation of entrepreneur winners, developing industrial policies, training in technologies, indigenous financing and strategic State intervention. In its actions the State develops strategic alliances with the private sector. In this way the State develops long-term relations between the political power and the Private Sector.

In the context of Namibia, the State should promote a developmental coalition consisting of the Public Service, the Private Sector, labour and the workers.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

These people in a coalition will serve as an alliance for progress and economic growth.

The role of the State is to provide a stable political environment, political leadership, institutional support, infrastructure development, innovative policy environment, investment framework and empowerment. Political and micro-economic stability are the foundations for economic and social development. Democratic participation and fair distribution of natural resources are the ingredients for political stability. Fiscal responsibility, on the other hand, promotes macro-economic stability. Institutional development entails consolidation of structures of governance and the legal framework. The innovative policy is promoted through research and development. The State should create capabilities for product development, industrial capacity, product design and standardisation, technology selection, adaptation and technology adoption.

Moreover, the State should develop a national inclusive economic empowerment framework. The national inclusive economic empowerment framework should aim at redress and redistribution. Such a framework should promote indigenous business development, financing and support and integration of the subsistence and informal economies into mainstream formal economy. The national inclusive economic empowerment framework should avoid the trappings of patronage, cronyism and a culture of entitlement.

The Public Service should support the State by providing efficient and effective service in an accountable manner. In a developmental State the Public Service is expected to enjoy a measure of professional autonomy. It will be independent and meritocratic. Continuous learning and capacity-building should be the norm rather than the exception. In this regard, plans are in an advanced stage to establish the National Institute of Public Administration and Management. Public Service delivery will further be enhanced by the promotion of e-Government in the Public Sector.

The role of the private sector in the developmental coalition is to create wealth through innovation and business acumen. Wealth creation in a country like ours should better be enhanced through inter-firm collaboration, networking and media support. The Private Sector should embrace the notion of competitive advantage by way of learning, leveraging of new technologies, integration of firms through international collaboration and market

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

development. The Private Sector should also promote organic links between firms and banks and research institutions. The goals are to cultivate an indigenous Private Sector.

Both the public and Private Sectors should develop alliances with labour. Such alliances should be grounded in the principle of common good. On the basis of the principle of common good, a social contract between the employers and employees should be agreed upon. Such a social contract should promote social capital development through just and fair labour practices on the part of employers and productivity and industrial peace on the side of employees. In this way Namibia will enhance its competitiveness.

The role of the knowledge workers cannot be over-emphasised. Research and development should form the basis of our competitive advantage. The training of a sophisticated human resource is another source of advantage.

Investment in human capital is clearly the basis of any development. Human beings, as we know, are the innovators. The development of the intellectual capacity is crucial to the success of their lives or progress.

The developmental coalition creates the conditions for economic growth and development. Growth will, however, only come about through investment. Once conditions for development are created, we should unleash the drive to ensure that every cent of Namibian savings is invested in this country. Our Development Bank as well as AgriBank should play the crucial role of investment promotion. We have enough savings in this country to kick-start economic development and growth.

Government should match private investment by allocating resources, for example for research and development, product incubation, kick-starting the innovation process, product marketing and communication infrastructure.

Honourable Members, this is the new revolution we must carry out. As Simon Bolivar, the liberator of Latin-America once said: "*Whosoever has worked for a revolution has ploughed the seed*"; we must plough the seed and sow the seeds for growth. In addition we should heed the voice of Frans Fanon who said the following: "*You can fall asleep to dream or you can dream to change the world.*"

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TWEYA

Africa has hitherto fallen asleep to dream, it is now time for Africa to dream to change its conditions. If we can do so in Namibia, our dreams and visions will surely become true. This challenge is for all of us – the Public Sector, the Private Sector and civil society must join in the coalition or alliance for progress. The Namibian State should embrace the role of being developmental. Our current Budget should be seen as a transitional arrangement in preparing the State to play its role in the development process. Honourable Members, we must all, support the Budget 2005/2006. I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, first and foremost, I would like to congratulate His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba on his election as the second President of our Republic.

Secondly, to congratulate the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly and his Deputy, Comrade Doreen Sioka and the Right Honourable Prime Minister and his Deputy and thirdly, to you all, Members of this august House, congratulations. I wish you all calm, emotions-free, focussed and, therefore, successful deliberations during your entire term of office. Fourthly, I thank all the Namibians who have elected SWAPO Party candidates of which I am part. Our job is to represent all Namibians and we shall never scale down on their legitimate expectations.

The SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto of 2004 is a contract of agreement between the Namibian electorate and us as people represented in Parliament. The Opposition Parties can rest assured that the SWAPO Party-led Government is by all the people for all the people.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I have specifically taken the Floor to add my voice of support to the prudent Budget tabled on the 12th of May 2005 by our very able and prudent Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TWEYA**

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. The mandate given to us by the electorate, with specific reference to the Ministry of Finance, is to jealously safeguard the resources and assets of the Namibian people and to manage them in a way that would create a conducive environment for investment, to create stable and enabling conditions which would stimulate business to flourish and ultimately, to promote economic growth which would result in the improved standard of living of all our people.

Against this background, Deputy Speaker, I would now like to address myself briefly on some specific issues of cardinal importance.

TAXES AND EXCHANGE CONTROL:

The main objective of the Ministry of Finance is to significantly grow the Namibian economy in order to achieve the objectives of Vision 2030, which is a 7% growth rate. Some of the actions sought after by the Ministry through its agents to achieve this would be to allocate sufficient resources to improve the collection of revenue, improve compliance with tax legislation, strengthening of tax administration, minimised unauthorised expenditure in Government or parastatals, improve on exports and where necessary, strengthen the exchange regulations to make sure that the resources of Namibia benefits the local economy.

Currently only about 80,000 taxpayers are registered for tax purposes. Could this be the reality when one looks at all the active trading activities in the country? Having said that, the Ministry will revisit the administration of the current tax system and come up with ways to improve it. Ways of doing this would be to increase the human resources capacity of the Receiver by acquiring people with the relevant competencies to work within the Ministry; a more focused approach to improve efficiency and effective service delivery to all stakeholders of the Ministry. The improved service delivery should be an objective of all tax-collection regional offices of the Ministry.

FOCUS ON CROSS-BORDER TRADE:

In order to promote economic development in our country under the principles of an open economy, we shall continue to encourage free trade activities and operations. In our endeavours to facilitate these activities, we have implemented control measures on cross-border trade through the establishment

of the Namibian border posts. One of the primary objectives of this establishment is to ensure the implementation and maintenance of applicable regulatory controls over cross-border transactions.

Despite the efforts of our Government to create these opportunities, some members of our society are engaged in illegal activities that eventually result in Government losing huge amounts of revenue. Goods from abroad enter our local markets without being declared at the Government authorities. Some Government authorities, including our officials, are being pulled into bribery activities. Value of goods is highly deflated and goods are imported through uncontrolled entry points, among others. To the individuals and entities involved in these activities, this is our message to you: *“You are thieves, you are criminals, you have left trails through your dubious dealings, it is these trails that we will use to trace you and when we get you, we shall not only punish you, but you will be exposed publicly”*.

IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX:

Some individuals have long been engaged in self-enrichment schemes through fraudulent income tax refund claims. We are aware that in some instances, staff from the Office of the Receiver of Revenue get directly involved in these fraudulent activities. These claims are all on record, we have all the files of registered taxpayers. Just bear in mind that these records are subject to audit and review, no matter how far back the transactions have been processed. We shall investigate the implementation of the individual income tax system that will minimise income tax refunds in future or even completely do away with income tax refunds. Such system may require that the employers will unfortunately have to be subject to 100 percent compliance with our measures.

FOCUS ON THE VAT RETURNS:

In terms of the provisions of the VAT Act, all VAT registered suppliers of goods and services are required to submit their VAT returns to the Office of the Receiver of Revenue in accordance with the registration conditions.

In addition, the Ministry of Finance prescribes a minimum requirement for VAT registration, that is, a business with annual revenue of less than N\$200,000 is not required to register, but there are businesses which are not registered with VAT. However, these businesses are fraudulently charging

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

HON TWEYA

customers VAT. In addition, the VAT so collected is not paid over to the Receiver of Revenue. This practice is illegal and shall not be allowed and most definitely the culprits shall be brought to book.

In the same vein, there are businesses that are, for example, awarded tenders elsewhere, involving thousands and millions of dollars. The businesses then claim payments, including VAT, but this VAT income is never paid over to the Receiver of Revenue. Just look at the scenario, the business paying the tendering entity claims the VAT from the Receiver, the tendering business or entity does not pay over to the Receiver. The result is simple, the Receiver keep paying claims and loses VAT income from the entity. As we are aware of this fraudulent behaviour, VAT claims by businesses will be traced back to the entity who received the supplies. Other control measures will be implemented in this regard due to the fact that not all payments may result into VAT refund claims.

We must remember that taxes are the major source of Government revenue and, therefore, it must be upheld and protected at all times. Tax evasion in whatever form is a criminal activity and must be avoided at all cost. Once liable to such activity, offenders will be brought to book in accordance with the applicable Namibian laws.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is difficult for the Ministry to improve the tax collection to a higher level when we have people acting as tax advisors for the Ministry and at the same time as tax consultants for taxpayers. This presents serious conflict of interest and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. In future we may have all tax consultants register with the Ministry of Finance separate from the tax advisers.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, kindly allow me to quote His Excellency, the President of the Republic during his speech on the occasion of consultation with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers and Deputy Ministers:

“I believe that when a situation calls for the change of direction in a policy arena, we must have the courage of our convictions to do the right thing in the interest of our people.”

You may have noticed, Honourable Members that over the past few years the Auditor-General’s Office has reported a number of unauthorised and/or

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TWEYA

overspending. It is unfortunate to notice that unauthorised and overspending has become the norm in some Government institutions, a situation which is heavily contributing to the Government deficit and portrays an image that Government cannot manage its affairs. As per the SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto of 2004, all programmes listed in the Manifesto should be matched with a cost. Any unbudgeted ad hoc expenditures should be disallowed, unless it is of national importance and/or will contribute to economic growth. Motivations for such expenditures need to be quantified before they are approved and incurred. The curbing of overspending will be one of the areas that will be high on the Ministry's agenda and all accounting officers in the Ministries should be prepared for any changes that will be introduced by the Ministry of Finance to address this issue.

I will address myself to parastatals. All parastatal board members should be representative of the demographics of regions of Namibia to diversify the safeguarding of Namibian assets. The current norm is that the same people seem to serve on different boards. This situation tends to create a culture of board members delivering under-par services due to the work pressure required. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, you agreed with the Chief Whip of SWAPO on ten minutes time limit and now you have gone up to quarter past.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, in fact I was never consulted, I did not know. We were informed that maiden speeches can be delivered. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are putting me in a difficult situation as one cannot put a time limit to a maiden speech. Honourable Deputy Minister, your time is up because it happened last week to Honourable Ojo. We should not take sides and we have already set a precedent.

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TWEYA

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is a House of Honourable Members, and Members who are making their maiden speeches must be given ample time, because Members prepare themselves and then they are only allowed to speak a few minutes.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot talk on behalf of the Chief Whip of SWAPO, that is the time they agreed on.

HON B AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am really sorry that we have to take these measures. SWAPO has been allocated only 85 minutes and there are many people who would like to take the Floor and if we do not put this measure into place, a lot of Members will be cut out. We have invited Members to indicate who are going to speak today and it is on that basis that we compiled the list in front of you. It is unfortunate that maiden speeches are also being made today, but for the sake of those other Members who would like to take the Floor today, it is very unfortunate. We have to adhere to that or otherwise we are not going to manage the affairs of the House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with the Chief Whip, otherwise may go on recess without some Members contributing.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I know it is a maiden speech, but unfortunately there are methods of operations. I hope the Chief Whip made it quite clear to him before he spoke. It is only ten minutes but he has bypassed that.

HON BOOYS: It was not my intention to rise on this issue, but according to Honourable Venaani's statement, the Budget discussions are always within the timeframe and all the maiden speeches can also be made during the discussion

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

of other Motions. In order to respect traditions of Budget discussions, give way to others if you have a maiden speech. Your maiden speech can also be made during other Bills or Motions.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I rise to add my support to all those Colleagues who saluted the Honourable Ministers and welcomed the Members of Parliament to this House.

In the last fifteen years since our first Budget in this House, SWAPO has been loyal and remained true to the reconstruction and development goals it set itself for years. It has been gratifying on my part to listen to the speeches of all the former Ministers of Finance, but I must single out the current young Minister, Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, who has been loyal and distinct in advancing the fear of her predecessors.

The Budget is a story of a powerful transformation. It is a story of a Nation which has worked passionately to make its own history. The Budget is a clear testimony of the success of this process. However, we must be mindful of the fact that the transformation is a process to redress the past imbalances. Those who do not understand the a, b, c of this process should see Honourable Viljoen who is a former teacher and all other teachers to get their update course online.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Budget tells a story of a proud and young democracy hard at work, endeavouring to improve the lives of its people. This Budget brings to this House the collective wisdom of the SWAPO Party, not only of the Minister. The Budget has been designed to ensure that the greatest share of the cake goes to the key priorities – education, health, etcetera – targeting the poorest of the poor, although the other classes are also benefiting. These key areas serve, without doubt, to sustain our future. Namibia, indeed, serves as a model case for Africa and other parts of the world.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, most of those who spoke before me made

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

reference to Vote 10 – Education, which highlights quality education, functional literate citizens and scientific knowledge. Technology has of late sprung to the forefront of development by assisting the Nation to effectively and efficiently address cardinal developmental issues. Well-educated citizens in digitalisation will help our country to information. In this light, our people have to embrace the digital revolution, otherwise we will not survive.

In this vein, it may be advisable to have at the back of our minds the present Commission of Education, Culture and Training Report of 1999. Our Founding President should be commended, not only for making available the report to this Nation, but also for his visionary leadership. One of the recommendations in this report is that one Education Ministry should be created. President Pohamba has listened to the recommendation, therefore it is in the interest of progress that we sometimes interpret the report in conjunction with Vote 10. Whenever we think about Vote 10, we should have that Report at the back of our minds.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as long as the division of labour is not clearly defined between all the stakeholders, the objective will remain a pipedream. The parents should play their role in education, the teachers should play their role in the system, the learners should play their role and the councillors and Members of Parliament should stay away from the *kambashus* and do their work. The community should also be tasked to look into the issue of education. Political leaders should assist our education system to improve.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as elected leaders of our respective parties, it is in the interest of those who elected us to, whenever we visit our constituencies, to establish where is the school board and the Education Forum, because the Act talks about an Education Forum. Talk about these things when you walk around in your areas, not only talk about *kambashus*. Talk about the parents attending school meetings where issues are being discussed.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, early childhood development should have been part and parcel of this Vote if we are serious with quality education. The reason why our kids have failed to read and write properly is because the foundation is shaky. In certain communities in Namibia some kids are attending ill-equipped pre-schools, with the result that when the child comes to Grade 1, he or she is hardly in a position to grasp the a, b, c of reading. I am not quite sure if Vote 12, page 153 of the Budget, is doing that. In my humble

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

view, it should in future be part and parcel of the school system. In my view and that of the people I represent, the pre-school should be part and parcel of the system in future.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, during my visit to the Regions in my capacity as Chairman of the Library Council, I found that libraries in our respective Regions are being neglected. The books are collecting dust in the storerooms.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is charged with dissemination of Government information. It is the experience that there are quite a number of Government policies that are still unknown to the majority of our people. Mechanisms in place should be beefed up for information to reach the remote areas.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would further like to point out that during my visit to the Regions, I noticed that the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare succeeded to build Women Centres in all the Regions and I hope they will continue to do this good work.

In my speech last year I commended the National Blindness Prevention Programme led by Comrade Ndume, which continues to make the SWAPO Party and Government proud as this is a most welcome project among our people in all the Regions. I also learned that Comrade Ndume has extended this programme to Angola.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Namibia continues to make history. We have in our Turnhalle Building the SADC Tribunal. In conclusion, Namibia remains a capitalist society with deepening gender and class inequalities. Let us jointly continue to harmonise the class antagonisms. I support the Bill.

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

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IILONGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Deputy Speaker, once again in the year 2005 we are here to debate the fifteenth National Budget in independent Namibia in the Fourth Parliament, with a new Government, with a new President, with new Prime Ministers, new Speakers and many new Members of Parliament. I congratulate you.

Thanks need to be given to Comrade Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her Deputy. (Intervention)

HON //GAROËB: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, with due respect to your high office, would you kindly consider allocating speaking turns zebra style, one from the Ruling Party, one from the Opposition Parties? Otherwise it will be very unfair. My second request is that if the Honourable Deputy Speaker insists on giving us only ten minutes, would you kindly consider Ruling that the rest of the written speeches be taken up in the HANSARD?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, let us do things the way the world does, we do not have to do things the way we want. You are here to learn and you have to blend the speakers and not be one-sided.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is the time allocated to SWAPO members, it does not affect you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Congratulations to all Honourable Members of this august House. Thanks has to be given to Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, Comrade Tjekero Tweya, Director General of the National Planning Commission and the entire staff members.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IILONGA**

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is wasting his time congratulating everybody.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, you are Out of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, thanks has to be given to our Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for his dynamic leadership which he has demonstrated during the time of our liberation struggle for Independence and freedom of our motherland, Namibia, and for the past fifteen years of Namibia's sovereignty and Independence. All these achievements made it possible for Namibians to enjoy peace, security, stability and prosperity. I salute him and wish him new strength on his 76th anniversary as well as for his successful studies in Geology at the University of Namibia. Aluta continua, Comrade Founding President of our Republic. Your decision to study Geology with the University of Namibia ... (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Order. I am not sure whether I have followed the Member correctly. Was the saying the former President has already completed his studies?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, he did not say so. Continue, Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: His decision to study Geology at the University of Namibia must serve as encouragement to our young people. I also want to appreciate and salute his successor, the second President of the Republic of Namibia and the Vice-President of SWAPO Party, His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba,

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IILONGA**

for having accepted the symbol of power on the 21st of March 2005 which was symbolised by the smooth, peaceful transformation. His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, needs our unconditional support for him to continue with the fight in the second phase of our struggle, the fight for economic Independence, with the same vigour and determination as we did in liberating this country. Aluta continua, Comrade President.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, when we are talking about the Budget, we are talking about estimated figures which will be used in a particular period of time. This Budget of the Fourth Parliament has coincided with a number of events, especially in the fishing industry and in the employment field in general. Workers are retrenched under the pretext of restructuring of companies, the Labour Act is ignored. This situation needs mediation to facilitate the harmonisation of labour relations in order to enhance sustainable economic growth. Therefore, there is an urgent need for us to revisit the existing tripartism that is the employer, employee and Government, working relations.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, only through direct communication between the social partners the situation of labour unrest will be avoided and healthy economic growth will be achieved and will benefit not only the haves, the have-nots will also benefit and the purchasing power of the country will automatically be visible and prevent adverse effects to the social fabric of our society.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the goals mentioned above can only be achieve if the Government of the Republic of Namibia aggressively participates in productive projects, not to depend on the Private Sector because the latter is for profit. Our Government should improve the management and control of its Parastatals, Ministries and Agencies. There should be no privatisation of State-owned assets. Technical schools should be introduced in all 13 Regions so that Namibia has its own mechanics and technicians.

Vision 2030 will only become a reality if we and the Government tighten our belts and invest not only in education, but also in production. The myth of saying the Government is there to make laws only will be a suicidal exercise. The imperialist capitalist system, in the face of new liberal globalisation, can no longer offer any solution for the huge problems facing humanity, which has quadrupled over many centuries. The system has no future, it destroys nature

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

and expand hunger. For example, look at what happened in Iraq where the system is built on greed.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, when a person calls for Government to spearhead the economic development, the capitalist-minded people rush to conclude that you are a Communist, but Article 98 of Namibia's Constitution states clearly that the economy of this country is based on the principle of mixed economy, but we only hear that joint ventures must be entered into in parastatals, but you never hear of any development to take place on Honourable De Waal's farm which is underdeveloped.

In conclusion, through you Comrade Deputy Speaker, I call upon the Minister of Environment and Tourism to see to it that our National Parks must be protected for the benefit of our children and their children and not to be given to the few, as they want to do now. Aluta continua.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON GORESEB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is a good sign to see that the Budget deficit is down to 2,4% from the previous 7,5% of the Gross Domestic Product and it has been estimated that it is going to drop further. Only strict adherence and implementation of the laid-down policy guidelines and collective endeavour and political will, will make this Budget a success story and it will enable us to see the other side of the coin after five years, which is a Budget surplus. Over-consuming what you cannot afford is an evil, it causes non-ending debt and poverty, which is sometimes very difficult to relinquish.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, more than 60% of Namibians are living below the breadline level, which is poverty. The key to poverty alleviation is job creation. People must find jobs, particularly those who are willing to work, who have that much-needed buying power. However, the Namibian economy rests heavily on primary industries, such as mining and agriculture. The time is overdue for vigorous by the Government to stimulate

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

and attract more secondary industries. We need more companies in this country of whatever nature it might be to address this problem of unemployment. The primary sector is more labour intensive and unfortunately cannot absorb all unemployed people, in particular the graduates and school-leavers. That brings us to the issue of education, which is referred to by many as non-functional.

We need, unfortunately, educated and skilled people in this country to achieve our Millennium Goals of Vision 2030. The United Nations Development Report of 1990, paragraph 10, reads: *“It is not the redistribution or the growth of income as such that is important. What is crucial is the development of the people, their potentials and their abilities to experience a self-reliant human existence and to use their increasing power of disposal over economic means or resources to satisfy their needs.”* You can have a lot of money, even a thousand dollars, but if that money ends up in gambling houses, that is not going to change your living conditions or your status.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, firstly, this implies that significant portion of the current expenditure which goes towards education and medical services, which build human capacity and development individual human potential, can be a powerful source of progress, development and economic growth at the end. Secondly, social expenditure on housing, schools and hospitals will also provide an economic injection and domestic economic opportunities for all. Hence my plea for more funds than currently budgeted for education and health. Let us re-prioritise the Nation’s needs.

To demonstrate my point for more human development, let me use our vocational training centres where people’s skills are imparted on our school-leavers. COSDEC is one such an example.

The studies conducted at Omaruru COSDEC on graduates, shows a COSDEC graduate become a trainer at the same centre. Today she has secured a permanent job at Nawachab Gold Mine which requires university or college graduation, due to the skills she acquired at that Vocational Centre.

Another graduate is today working for the Bank of Namibia. Those who were previously unemployed are today permanently employed and are able to provide decent meals for their families due to the skills they acquired. My thanks in this regard go to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

Angula, for his COSDEC initiatives.

Furthermore, to make our education system more vibrant and successful than it is at present, I will advocate for a contractual relationship among all stakeholders – parents, learners, teachers and the line Ministry. For example, the top managers of a school must enter into a contractual relationship with the Ministry for a period of say five years in which they promise, if appointed in such position, to change the face of that particular institution they head and to deliver stated but realistic results at that timeframe. Achieving these objectives will mean review of their contracts and failure means vice versa. This will put an end to lifelong contracts with little performance.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the cost of living is rising in Namibia due to many factors, one of which is inflation. The Honourable Minister of Finance cannot stop it, inflation is here to stay. However, the comparatively high domestic inflation has a very negative impact on Namibia's regional and international competitiveness. This is the opinion of all local economists and I support their viewpoint for the simple reason that it impairs exports, which Namibia needs the most and encourages import expenditure, which Namibia is well-known for, and thereby creating dependency.

Having said that, Honourable Deputy Speaker, a closer look at our income tax system reveals many interesting issues. In a progressive income tax system like ours, bracket-creep harms income taxpayers, one of which I am. Why? Honourable Members of the House, you are just now going to hear from the Union members fighting for salary increases for their members. An adjustment to wages and salaries to keep abreast with inflation puts people into higher tax brackets where they have to pay higher tax rates even though their income has not increased in real terms. Bracket-creep, therefore, has serious disadvantages which warrant its elimination.

It constitutes a dangerous licence for uncontrolled growth in Government expenditure. Moreover, the question is whether it is fiscally ethical and democratic to increase taxation in such an unannounced and non-transparent manner. The extra tax burden, due to bracket-creep, falls on the personal income taxpayers only and not on the corporate and mining sectors. This distorts the structure of taxation. The extra burden usually falls more heavily on low and middle-income households than on a high

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

income household. Bracket-creep therefore distorts the equity dimension of the taxation and causes severe inequities. It may be too late to address the predicament in which our line Ministries might find themselves at that stage, but my humble plea goes to my fellow lawmakers to come up with human-friendly laws in this regard.

As I am concluding, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I will side with His Excellency, the President Hifikepunye Pohamba towards the eradication of all corrupt practices in our society and in particular civil servants. Corruption reduces social and economic development, corruption favours the individual and not all.

There is a great need for fiscal prudence and discipline to ensure macro-economic performance, as advocated in the Budget. I concur with the Minister of Finance. Strict adherence to policy directions with allocated funds to the Ministry is a must. It calls for implementation of stipulated policies. Sometimes we make good and beautiful policies, but without implementation it is worthless.

Stringent measures must be put in place to cut Government spending, in particular current expenses. Lift income threshold at which the individuals have to start paying income tax to N\$35,000 from the current N\$24,000 per annum to help the poor. I am mindful of the current dilemma of limited revenue base. Cut down on that, in particular overspending, increase spending on the development of people, education and health.

With these few remarks, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am satisfied with the draft Budget of the Minister. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is with a deep sense of profound humility and honour as well as a sincere privilege and gratitude that I have risen to make my very first statement in this august House. In the same vein, I would like to extend my deepest

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

gratitude to my fellow comrades in the SWAPO Party, as well as the Members of the Opposition Parties for openly, warmly welcoming me into this august House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am a dreamer and I have dreamt of achieving a lot of great things in my life, but never, ever in my wildest dreams have I dreamt of one day becoming a Member of Parliament and if I can paraphrase the world renowned quote of the late American civil rights fighter and big-time dreamer, Dr Martin Luther King (Jnr), then I would like to say, “*Member of Parliament at last, Member of Parliament at last*” and I thank God Almighty I am Member of Parliament at last.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my presentation will be empty if I do not acknowledge a man of total substance, a brave and unwavering man who sacrificed almost his entire lifetime to the struggle of the Namibian people for freedom and Independence, a man who vigorously and victoriously spearheaded the armed struggle through the liberation movement, SWAPO of Namibia, and hoisted the banner of liberty on the 21st of March 1990, marking the birth of a new Namibian Nation, a man who is the Founding Father of the Nation and the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia. Madam Deputy Speaker, talking about this man can take ages, but I am talking about nobody else but our former President, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma. I thank you, Comrade Nujoma, for your visionary leadership and the firm foundation you laid during your term of office. I also thank you particularly for so many positive changes and developments you brought in the lives of people with disabilities in the past fifteen years. May you enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the second President of the Republic of Namibia who took over the reins from the Founding Father of the Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma, on the 21st of March 2005, is one of the great sons of the Namibian soil and one of the foremost freedom fighters of Namibia’s liberation struggle for freedom and Independence. Right after Independence on the 21st of March 1990, Comrade Pohamba continued to serve the Namibian Nation under various ministerial portfolios and capacities in the Government as well as in the Ruling Party, SWAPO of Namibia until his landslide victory during the 2004 Presidential election that made him the second President of the Republic of Namibia.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Madam Deputy Speaker, the people with disabilities in Namibia will be permanently indebted and thankful to His Excellency, President Pohamba, who was, before becoming the Head of State, the Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, a portfolio where he was responsible for people with disabilities.

Having worked and interacted with them, His Excellency, the President personally discovered and experienced the capabilities of people with disabilities and what contribution they can make towards the socio-economic development of the country at all levels. It is for that reason that he finally breaks the ice and takes the bold step to appoint the very first person with a disability as a Member of Parliament. Through this noble gesture, His Excellency, the President established a voice for the voiceless and marginalised members of our society, people with disabilities.

In a nutshell, Honourable Deputy Speaker, on behalf of people with disabilities and also on my own behalf, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and thanks to our two former Prime Ministers, the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, who initiated the establishment of the Disability Advisory Office in the Office of the Prime Minister as well as the second Prime Minister, Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab who is now the Speaker of this House who further extended the noble idea and I congratulate him also in his new portfolio and his Deputy as well.

I thank you, Honourable Members, for the instrumental role you played for the betterment of the living conditions of people with disabilities during your respective terms of office.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as for the current Prime Minister, Right Honourable Nahas Angula, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila, I congratulate them with their appointments and I have no doubt that they are very much competent and capable and will further build on the foundations established by their predecessors.

I also thank the former Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Hendrik Witbooi, and also the former Ministers as well as the incumbent Government Ministers for the contribution they make in their various capacities and ways to make life easier for people with disabilities in Namibia.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as for the Minister of Finance, the first time I knew the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, was when she was appointed as the Director of the National Planning Commission by the former President, Dr Sam Nujoma. Right at that point in time I realised that this woman is a force to be reckoned with, destined for great things in her life. Being a woman and also in the light of our quest for gender equality, the Honourable Madam Kuugongelwa-Amadhila proved beyond any reasonable doubt that women are more than capable of taking on any big challenge, especially when she was appointed Minister of Finance, a job she has been doing excellently up to now. Her recently tabled Budget for 2005/2006 Financial Year speaks volumes thereof, mindful of the very difficult financial background against which she is operating. I congratulate the Honourable Minister for a Budget well-researched, well-planned and well-structured and, of course, well-presented.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, regardless of the fact that this is my first time ever to comment on a national Budget, I would like to make the following brief comments on the Budget with reference to its overall outlook as well as the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the following three Financial Years.

With regard to the overall outlook of the Budget, having studied the Honourable Minister's Budgetary statement as well as the Appropriation Bill, I am quite convinced that our financial position is still within manageable and sustainable levels and I have no reason to doubt that we will do our utmost best to stay within these levels and at the same time try to reduce the Budget deficit and public debt burden, as well as striking a balance between the revenue and expenditure ratio of Government. I believe that the Honourable Minister, as she pointed out in her Budget statement, will take all the necessary measures to address the negative trend.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, as projected by the Honourable Minister for 2005/2006, 2007/2008 contains a considerable amount of hope for the future of Namibia. I am particularly confident that the proposed move from line item budgeting to programme-based budgeting, as provided for within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, will be achieved and that Government Ministries will base their programmes and activities on medium-term plans and not the usual one Financial Year to another Financial Year operations.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

However, I believe that people with disabilities will not be overlooked in these programmes and activities as clearly spelled out in the National Policy on Disability, the National Disability Council Act, No. 26, the United Nations Standard Rules on Disability, the Continental Plan of Action and National, Regional and International Legal and Policy Instruments which promote inclusion as opposed to exclusion. Therefore, the need to include the needs of persons with disabilities in all activities as a means to attain an equal society for all and people with disabilities should be catered for in all sectors of private and public life. I believe that the Ministries will refer to the specifications as spelled out in the policy framework and legal instruments that I just mentioned.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, during the colonial era before Independence people with disabilities were subjected to a situation where the notion of dependency and stereotype views were the order of the day. Programmes and activities aimed at raising awareness about their plight as well as upgrading their poor living conditions were non-existent. Thus people with disabilities were mostly regarded as people who could not think, act or talk on their own behalf. Therefore, people with disabilities were either hidden in backyards or kept in special institutions. Education, training and employment for people with disabilities were basically regarded as a non-issue and either very little or no efforts were made to educate and train them, not even to mention employing them.

However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Independence on 21 March 1990 brought about some positive changes, especially in terms of the general acceptance of people with disabilities as integral and equal members of our society. Right from the word go the SWAPO Government made considerable efforts to address the plight of people with disabilities in Namibia. During the past fifteen years the Government achieved quite a lot to uplift the living conditions of people with disabilities. If I can mention but a few, these achievements are, amongst others, comprehensive campaigns aimed at raising public disability awareness, establishment of disability resource centres, drafting and approval of the National Policy on Disability, drafting and enactment of the National Disability Council Act 26 of 2004 and the subsequent establishment of the National Disability Council, establishment of the Advisory Office in the Office of the Prime Minister, creation of employment opportunities for people with disabilities, especially within Government institutions as well as introduction of the Affirmative Action Act and the exemption of duty on people with disabilities which was done by the

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Ministry of Finance.

However, there are still existing barriers and loopholes hindering people with disabilities from fully participating in the activities of the society. People with disabilities are to an extent still excluded from the mainstream activities and programmes and there are still various forms of abuse of their rights and human dignity that they are subjected to. The inaccessibility of public places and facilities as well as the lack of financial or material support further cripple people with disabilities to embark upon income generating projects to develop themselves. The negative views of the general public that people with disabilities are not able to work and sustain themselves, as well as the ongoing discrimination on the basis of their physical, sensory or mental disabilities still hamper the full participation of people with disabilities in the activities of our society.

Another obvious barrier is the lack of education and training for people with disabilities, especially in the fields that will enable them to compete on the labour market.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as we Members of Parliament have an obligation to ensure equal opportunities in education, health, employment, information and development for all our people without discriminating against people with disabilities and that we can accomplish only if we ensure that all Bills and legal instruments passed in Parliament are inclusive of the needs of people with disabilities.

Nevertheless, Madam Deputy Speaker, it needs to be mentioned that a few people with disabilities challenged the status quo and succeeded against all odds to realise their dreams. These people with disabilities proved beyond any reasonable doubt that no matter a person's difficult physical, sensory or mental condition, he or she can achieve anything that anyone else can achieve if given the necessary assistance and opportunity.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as I am moving closer to the end of my presentation, I would like to pinpoint and briefly elaborate on a few budgetary allocations by virtue of the fact that they directly or indirectly reflect on the lives of people with disabilities.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Firstly, the Ministry of Health and Social Services: As much as the Ministry of Health and Social Services try to do its level best to provide proper health care and social services to the Namibian people, the situation for people with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas, is a matter of grave concern. The vast majority of people with disabilities in rural areas, especially those in very remote areas, do not have any access to health facilities and should they have access to health services and devices to assist them, they are not in a position to pay for these services. In view of the fact that Albinism is also a disability, I urge the Ministry of Health and Social Services to put necessary mechanisms in place to educate and inform people with Albinism how best to protect themselves against skin diseases and also avail the skin cream to protect themselves, especially those living in the rural areas. I, therefore, kindly request the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services to look into this matter.

In the same vein, I will call upon the Honourable Minister to see to it that the National Disability Council, as provided for in the National Disability Act (No. 26 of 2004), is catered for in the Ministry's Budget allocation.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS: Training is an area where people with disabilities are grossly left behind. People with disabilities are mostly catered for through segregated institutions that do not provide the necessary level of education that will make them competitive in the labour market. I, therefore, call upon the Honourable Minister of Education to level the playing field and take the necessary steps for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the formal education and training institutions, so as to enable them to obtain quality education and sustain themselves.

Cognisant of the fact that the formal education and training institutions lack the necessary specially trained teaching staff and required special equipment, I am adamant that if we are indeed serious with the notion of inclusive education and education for all, these obstacles can be overcome.

SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES: Especially the disability grant given to people with disabilities needs to be revised in the light of the rising cost of living and high prices charged on basic commodities. I would appreciate if the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare urgently considers increasing the disability grant.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, lands and resettlement is currently a big bone of contention to the entire Namibian Nation. I can only humbly call upon the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement to look at people with disabilities with an inclusive point of view when he implements the Act and legal frameworks that has thus far been established by Government to acquire land and resettle the land-hungry masses. People with disabilities should also have access to the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme of Government through the AgriBank.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Especially housing and rural development is a matter of grave concern to persons with disabilities due to the fact that they cannot afford proper housing. People with disabilities have no other option but to squat under harsh conditions on the outskirts of our cities, towns and villages. My humble request to the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is to try his utmost best to ensure the provision of proper housing for these marginalised members of our society.

Honourable Minister, I will suggest that through the Build-Together joint loans can be allocated to people with disabilities to build houses for themselves. The National Housing Enterprise should also cater for people with disabilities in terms of provision of low-cost housing. Commercial banks and other home loan institutions should also review bond insurance policies by insuring people with disabilities who buy houses through their schemes to cater for them in cases where they are no longer in a position to work.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: The two Chambers of the Namibian Parliament need to be made easily accessible to people with disabilities so as to enable them to attend Sessions and listen to Debates. I have no doubt that the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly and the Honourable Chairman of the National Council will look into this important issue as they now have some Members who are physically challenged. By doing so, they will level the playing field for those Members and through that, enable them to perform their duties productively.

To the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication whose primary responsibility is the construction of public buildings as well as overseeing the construction of private building activities should make sure that such places are

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO**

accessible for people with disabilities.

Honourable Speaker, I am generally confident that under the seasoned leadership of the SWAPO Party, our Government achieved quite a lot and is not only establishing firm foundations, concrete policy frameworks and laws, good governing principles, visionary development plans and frameworks, but also in terms of the implementation of actual developmental activities and programmes aimed at the provision of basic necessities to our people, eradication of poverty, establishment of the necessary health care, education and housing facilities, employment opportunities and infrastructure development, to mention but a few.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe that the Development Goals, fiscal control measures in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework proposed by the Honourable Minister of Finance are viable and can be implemented if we all unite and work together as a team.

I wholeheartedly support the Appropriation Bill for 2005/2006 as well as the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. I conclude by quoting the very popular sentiments of our Founding Father, Dr Sam Nujoma: *"A people united will always emerge victorious."* I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Ncube. I now call on Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, it is indeed my humble pleasure to reflect on the National Budget which is a central tool for socio-economic growth and distribution of wealth for the benefit of all Namibians and not a few Namibians.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in our analysis of the Budget under review we just coupled it against various factors constructing our social and economic realities. While applauding the Honourable Minister for such an impressive

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO**

presentation, we are sceptical what such a fiscal plan practically holds for the populace, particularly the poor. They need to be known, as my Colleague Ncube said.

The Honourable Minister is trying to bring about a zero deficit by next year. This is an ambitious plan in the midst of complex factors presented by social ills, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, unemployment and abject poverty, a seemingly ill-conceived indicator system and growing culture of corruption in all institutions of society, including Government parastatals and the corporate world is in cahoots.

Over the years we have observed in dismay the tendency by Government Ministries to overspend or under-spend in their budgetary allocations. This is an abnormality which the Honourable Minister will have to address to realise her goal.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, when approved by this august House and subsequently signed by the Minister, the Budget becomes a law. Hence, punitive measures must be heavily enforced against those who contravene the law. Accounting officers, Permanent Secretary and directors must be brought to book for breaking the law if we are to nip this practice in the bud, but first you will have to overcome the habit and attitude of these institutions and individuals working in those positions. You know what I am talking about. We are aware that many of them are fulltime politicians and at the same time guised as Civil Servants, positioned to carefully sift allocation of resources to the people, based on certain criteria to satisfy their political agendas. I am not here to beat about the bush.

That partly explains why some Ministries constantly record deficits in their public spending. There is a reason for it. There is no doubt that Namibia faces a daunting challenges, particularly in the context of globalised market economy and the effect of information and communication technology.

While it remains imperative to observe the global market indicators, such as the weakening currency, prices of crude oil and inflation, it is our responsibility as lawmakers to analyse the impact of these factors on our citizens and to create responsive measures that protect their interests in a highly competitive global market.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO**

We shift big companies to the North to outweigh those businessmen who are supposed to be in their own country for their own existence. They are wiped out by so-called non-partisans. I do not know whether it is fair to put a bull and a cow in the boxing ring. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Chief a question? Can the Chief just clarify to this House because I am now confused than before by you saying that you put a bull and a cow in a boxing ring. What does the Chief mean?

HON RIRUAKO: In the pretext of creating job opportunities and stimulating economic growth, you shift Shoprite to the North and all the giant companies to wipe out the existing industries in the North. To be honest, I am saddened. I do not want that to happen. There must be a balance, there should be joint ventures with those business people instead of throwing them outside the ring. Let us face the fact, we have fair competition and that competition must be balanced. As a result, there is a new form of discrimination, which is to take those people out of business in the disguise of the stimulation of the economy in the North.

Right now in our backyard a case in point is Ramatex, a Textile Industry where workers' rights are barely recognised, not by us as the Government, not by the so-called trade unionists, their mouths were shut, they could not do anything. It is important to reflect on this trend as it influences the quality of household livelihood.

Industrialisation can become an economic monster if not interpreted properly. Tools and policies of globalisation must hence be contextualised to reflect and cater for local realities if they are to be successful. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Please ask the Chief to speak without using his left hand, because Honourable Viljoen just wants to

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO

run away.

HON RIRUAKO: We have to tackle one another, that is the name of the game. The current level of unemployment of 35% to 40% is a growing threat to our economy and political stability. The current Budget is still silent on providing concrete measures to particularly resolve this crisis. What is of grave concern is the fact that every year the number is swelling and more graduates and those who cannot find place in institutions of higher learning join the group of the unemployed and we allow them to just remain without jobs and they cannot go back to school because it is forbidden. It is said that they have to go back to school if they fail their education, but if they are going to be punished to join the unemployed, that is another issue.

We chase people to earn something to live on, at the same time we bar them to reach their goal where they are heading to. With “we” I mean this Government of ours and I am part of it and you are part of it. While education remains a important ingredient to nation-building and economic growth, lack of proper planning has often led to resources being wasted in this sector. The reality is that we expect a lot from unequipped institutions. We all know of school administrators without books, proper laboratory facilities and equipment, particularly in Rural Areas. That we know. The schools are expected to deliver the same results as those in urban areas while they are denied the rights that other people enjoy and that is why they fail. You made them to fail because you did not provide training.

Honourable Members, it is needless to say there is a need to overhaul our education system in line with our national agenda. Our education system must be in line with our human capital development, to produce and supply the kind of human capital relevant to the demand of the country.

The country can have a capital human being trade and once those humans are not found, where are they going to be placed once they accomplish the objectives? We are in zero.

The investment in hostel administration and maintenance has heavy costs on the State and unless a proper functional system is in place, we will continue to suffer heavy losses in this area. Most of the hostels at schools, particularly in the rural areas, are dilapidated and in an insecure state for habitation. These

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO

people are not in a good condition where they have to think properly under leaking roofs when it is raining, hot areas, cold areas while they are studying.

Fifteen years after Independence our recurrent budgetary allocations continue to require more resources than capital projects. This can partly be ascribed to a swelling civil service and greed. The provision of health-for-all in the country remains rhetorical. Many health centres around the country do not have proper basic life-support facilities, such as ambulances, medicines and many people succumb to their sickness because they can simply not be assisted with the current HIV/AIDS pandemic. Many cannot afford to reach centres where they can receive certain medications, such as anti-retroviral. This belongs to the rich and the poor have to die. (Interjections). I have to say this, I have a vision and my vision has never been incorrect. I am saying this for good reasons. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Information, Comrade Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Chief is not being truthful, neither to the House, nor to the public. The former Minister of Health who is now the Deputy Prime Minister has placed before this august House a programme of Anti-Retroviral medicine to be given free of charge to expecting mothers in particular hospitals. Therefore, the Honourable Chief cannot be allowed to tell an untruth in the Honourable House. I think he must withdraw that statement.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is true. The Chief had a break last time. I think when the pledge was put forward, the Chief was not there.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not playing with the law, I am playing the truth. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chief should stick to the Budget. I am commanding you to withdraw.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO**

HON RIRUAKO: It is part of the Budget, you cannot erase health from the Budget.

Due to long distances they have to travel to reach medical centres. That is one reason. Proper nutrition, not only for infants, the intake of medicine but also the maintenance of good health one has to bear in mind. This is impossible in the situation where 75,9% of our population live below the breadline. I have to say that.

As a result of HIV/AIDS the number of orphans is growing at an alarming rate. That condition demands our collective solidarity to solve the problem.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a need to continue to develop our physical infrastructure as a way of stimulating economic growth. The improvement and maintenance of roads, particularly in Rural Areas, rural electrification, water, banking, telecommunications and postal facilities need to be expedited for all citizens to participate equally in the growth of their economy. You cannot confine your economic growth to a certain area, we have to expand our economy to our own citizens. We are compelled by the rules of law to do so. Without that we are not fair to ourselves and to our citizens.

The agricultural sector must be used as a vehicle for poverty reduction by creating markets for agricultural products. There must be alternatives for agricultural products in the rural areas that we have to develop. We do not have to argue on the fact, I said we have to use our collective thinking to achieve what we think is right for the country as a whole.

There is a need to train farmers to diversify their practice from subsistence to commercial farming through access to land, capital and marketing incentives. There is a need for programmes to assist local farmers to compete with their counterparts in the international markets. There is a need for the support of emerging farmers through affirmative action programmes, but we do not have to preach the words without implementing it.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the land issue remains a bone of contention. Our land tenure system compounded by our management structure makes the land an issue that needs urgent attention to avoid civil strife. When you look at the Traditional Authority system in the context of land distribution, then you do

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO

not need to be an expert in land management to know we are sitting on a time-bomb because of the land issue. We have many traditional leaders, supposedly the custodians of land, who are not recognised by the Government and there is a need for national dialogue on the land issue as a matter of urgency with all stakeholders. If you do not do that, you should know that you are prolonging their birthright not to be seen or to be known by generations to come.

The crime statistics and safety of citizens is an important prerequisite for investment and promotion of Namibia as a tourist destination. It is disappointing that safety and security has not been viewed as a priority under the current Budget. In fact, the allocation to the Defence portfolio raises eyebrows as there is no external threat to our country's sovereignty and security. What I mean by that, if we are threatened by anyone, we will be ready any time. We have to have a priority that is a need now. More investment could have been put on human security and the training of law enforcement agencies for the effective maintenance of law and order. That is a priority.

In conclusion, we welcome the campaign against graft.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I am very sorry, but the Honourable Chief said something very sensitive. May I ask him a question, please? Does the Honourable Chief imply that we should sit quietly and when a threat comes, we start running around to train our soldiers and order weapons or what is he trying to say that there is no threat?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, we are trained twenty-four hours, you and me. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: I do not really want to raise a Point of Order, Chief Riruako knows I respect him, but I became worried when Chief Riruako told us that he is trained and we know what are the training institutions in this

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON RIRUAKO

country for law enforcement agencies and the record does not show that Chief Riruako has been there. Maybe he can inform the House where he was trained.

HON RIRUAKO: Let me put it this way. We have more than fifty farm owners whose cattle were stolen and the Police does not know what to do and how to get them back.

We welcome the campaign against graft and corruption spearheaded by the President, however such campaign should be reinforced with concrete actions to root out corrupt officials and not just to tackle and pat them on their backs. Institutionalisation of any campaign in all Government agencies, including parastatals, will be crucial for the credibility of the campaign.

The fight against graft and corruption is a prerequisite for good governance. Accountability and transparency must start within the State House and end in the dusty streets of Katutura. No stone must be left unturned in this regard. Fairness and transparency starts with the State House until in the common area where we live.

Good words do not mean anything to me, in the final analysis the Budget leaves a lot to be desired and I hope that the Honourable Minister will make the necessary adjustments in her next fiscal plan to accommodate the social and economic indicators as reflected by two different national instruments, such as the Medium Term Plan and our Population Demography, Unemployment and Inflation Rate which are at hand. That must be brought to the books how we ought to handle it. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Tsheehama.

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TSHEEHAMA**

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will be very brief indeed.

First and foremost, let me congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy and the entire staff members of her Ministry associated with drawing up the Budget for having tabled the National Budget for the Financial Year 2005/2006 at last. We all know what is in stock for us and what is expected of us in order to achieve the desired economic growth and attain a better living standard of our people. I feel obliged, like just any other Member of Parliament, to make comments on the just tabled National Budget.

I am particularly touched by comments by some members of the Opposition Parties in regard to the funds allocated to the Ministry of Defence. It is high time that after fifteen years of Independence, some Opposition Members must appreciate peace, tranquillity and unit. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. Nobody is against security. I said the law enforcement agencies must be trained as a priority. The Defence can continue, but those who are defending people on a daily basis should be properly trained. We are for that, but only the balance should be adjusted.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I repeat, it is high time that after 15 years of Independence, some Opposition Members must appreciate peace, tranquillity, unity and sustainable economic development brought about by the SWAPO-Party Government. I feel offended that some Opposition Members still fail to appreciate and applaud the noble duties being carried out by our loyal men and women in the Namibian Defence Force, Namibian Police and the Namibian Central Intelligence Service. All Namibians must acknowledge the role that has been played by these three Government institutions. Without them Namibia could not be able to achieve the current relative peace that we are enjoying today. Security is a first priority and a national goal to be achieved despite the meagre resources allocated to

31 May 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TSHEEHAMA

these law enforcement agencies which are the Namibian Defence Force, Namibian Police and the Namibian Central Intelligence Services. They have been able to make Namibia a safer haven for both its citizens and non-citizens alike, therefore creating a conducive environment for economic investment.

It is high time that some Honourable Members of the Opposition must be told to be patriotic citizens of this country and need to know that Namibia is their only country and no other country. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. I do not believe in the notion that is advanced by the Ruling Party members, saying that if we do not spend enough money on Defence, we will not be able to protect our country. We have relevant examples of countries such as Japan that have been rich for more than centuries and do not have Defence Ministries, they just have para-military police. (Interjections).

HON MEMBER: Japan has soldiers in Iraq!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Honourable Members! If you are offended by what he said, the Floor is open and you can still respond to him.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. We arrested those people who intruded our country, we told the Police to go and arrest them, they did not and I will tell you where they are. They happened to be arrested by us.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy

31 May 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TSHEEHAMA**

Speaker, I think the Honourable Member Venaani has limited historical knowledge on Japan.

We must all join hands and be united to work towards a better Namibia, irrespective of our different political opinions.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, has on many occasions informed the Nation about the priorities of his Government. There is a need, therefore, to realign this Budget in order to address issues of national interest articulated in the SWAPO-Party Manifesto, NDP2, Vision 2030 and the Millennium Goals.

My other concern is with regard to affirmative action. Is affirmative action really working in this country? I think we need to put more pressure to invigorate this policy. After 15 years of Independence we still see foreigners occupying jobs that can be done by Namibians and not only specialised jobs. These non-citizens do not want to impart knowledge to Namibians, but have their own self-interest. I am confident that Namibians, after 15 years of Independence, are now able to do most of the work in this country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, while Namibia has achieved a lot on the economic field, I think there is a need to revise our investment policy. Here I have in mind the Export Processing Zone policy. Are we really benefiting from the current EPZ policy? I feel we need to bring some changes that can benefit this country economically.

I would like to support the Honourable Minister of Finance in her endeavours to expand the tax collection base. Tax revenue is the main pillar of Government's revenue resources. This country is full of tax evaders and the Ministry of Safety and Security would like to pledge our support to the Minister of Finance in fighting these evils. We need to strengthen the capacity to administer tax laws in order to improve revenue collection and to reduce the current practice of tax evasion.

In addition, I would also like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for a significant reduction in the Budget deficit and the need to reduce it further, mainly as a result of improved revenue collection and stricter expenditure control, amongst others. Keep it up Honourable Minister, you are doing a good job.

31 May 2005

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I fully support the policy of national reconciliation. It is a fan belt towards Nation-building and an investment in national security, but I would want to voice my concern that after 15 years of Independence, there are still people in this country who are abusing what should be a two-way process. I would, therefore, like to call upon some of our white citizens – and I am not being racist – to do their level best to make this policy a success. I know for sure that the previously disadvantaged society has done a lot and continue to open their arms in embracing this philosophy of national reconciliation. I am saying this because I have in mind the land reform process in this country. Some white citizens of this country should understand the sensitivity of the land reform and do their level best to see to it that as Namibians they must recognise that is a problem and a time bomb – as the Chief has said.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 90, automatic adjournment, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2005.06.01 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
01 JUNE 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to Move an unopposed Motion. Honourable Deputy Speaker, as Political Parties represented in this House can recall, at our meeting of the Standing Rules and Orders of 18 May 2005, it was established and agreed that the time allocated to the SWAPO Party for the Second Reading Debate did not correspond with the number of members of the SWAPO Party in this House.

After having consulted the other Parties in this matter, it is, therefore, moved that the time allocated to SWAPO Party for the Second Reading Debate be increased to a total of 120 minutes each day for today, the 1st of June 2005 and tomorrow, the 2nd of June 2005, until 18:25. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TSHEEHAMA**

RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill*.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday in terms of Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Minister of Finance that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Safety and Security had the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. When the House adjourned yesterday, I was not very far from concluding my remarks on the Budget. However, I was dealing with the issue of national reconciliation.

I fully support the policy of national reconciliation. It is a fan belt towards Nation-building and an investment in national security, but I would want to voice my concern that after 15 years of Independence, there are still people in this country who are abusing what should be a two-way process. I would, therefore, like to call upon some of our white citizens – not being a racist – to do their level best to make this policy a success. I know for sure that the previously disadvantaged society has done a lot and continues to open their arms in embracing this philosophy of national reconciliation. I am saying this because I have in mind the land reform process in this country.

Some white citizens of this country should understand the sensitivity of the land reform and do their level best to see to it that as Namibians they must recognise that land is a problem and a time bomb. Sooner or later, if they do not address this problem, they will have nobody to blame, but themselves.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TSHEEHAMA**

I, therefore, call on some of our white citizens who own more land than necessary, to come up and embrace the policy of national reconciliation and in this process share whatever they have with the formerly disadvantaged Namibians.

On crime I must just say in short that crime is one of the major threats in this country apart from poverty, unemployment, hunger, disease, etcetera, but when one looks at this Budget, I wonder whether this Budget adequately addresses a total fight against crime. It is my humble belief that whatever little properties Namibian citizens have need to be protected. Violent crimes are on the increase. The Namibian Police will only be able to tackle crime if they are well-trained, equipped and motivated. How on earth can the Namibian Police and other security agencies be able to fight crime with the meagre resources allocated to them? Only when adequate funds are allocated to the Police will these operations be hundred percent successful. I am saying this because I believe that the reason why the Police do not respond as promptly as the public would wish to see, lies in the absence of proper equipment and operational ability to successfully combat crime. Such equipment and capabilities cost money and can only be secured through adequate funding.

I would want to conclude by saying that there is a need to have a proper balance between State security and human security. State security and human security will continue to complement each other and there is no way you can separate them. These two are brother and sister, therefore whenever we fight it as a country, we need to have a Budget that strategically addresses both State security and human security. State security is the foundation of any Nation upon which human security is built and only when these two are in balance will be guaranteed of ever-lasting peace and security, stability, unity, tranquillity and sustainable economic development.

Finally, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this Parliament, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for tabling the 2005/2006 Budget and assure her that we will do our level best to support her and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Kaapanda.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAAPANDA**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to address this august House and allow me, first of all, to congratulate His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba on his election and victory as the second democratically elected President of the Republic of Namibia.

In the same vein, I would like to express my profound appreciation and esteem for enormous work and selfless devotion by the Founding Father of the Nation, His Excellency, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, who steeped and anchored us with the shared values and sentiments, shared struggle and solidarity, to liberate our motherland and to continue to inspire us to carry forward the reconstruction plans of our country.

In Namibia today we continue to enjoy peace and stability due to the diligent leadership of our Founding Father and the policy of national reconciliation which advanced a democratic culture of peace, tolerance and unity. I am proud to be part of the process that ushers in a new era of realism and unity of purpose and transformation of our society. I am also equally proud of having been a part of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the gallant fighters who inflicted heavy military blows on the war machines of apartheid forces and contributed significantly to the liberation of Namibia from the shackles of apartheid and colonialism.

Honourable Members, let me also extend my compliments and facilitations to the Honourable Speaker and his Deputy, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and his Deputy for their unanimous election to provide leadership in this august House. I am convinced that this combination of capable SWAPO cadres will inject a new ethos that will take our parliamentary system to new heights.

I would also like to congratulate the new Members for having been elected and appointed to this august House to present their various Political Parties. Honourable Members, you are welcome. Let us work together in harmony with the common agenda for serving the interest of people and help Namibia to become a prosperous Nation.

Moreover, allow me to thank the Finance Minister, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, and her entire staff for having presented a balanced

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAAPANDA**

Budget. In a political symbolism this Budget demonstrates our democratic culture of equity and sharing, while in economic terms it is pro-business and economic development. The Honourable Minister must be congratulated for her efforts to inculcate a new culture of living within our means and to eradicate the propensity of overspending.

With the consumption level exceeding investment, the development level will drop and NDP2 and Vision 2030 will be in jeopardy. However, with this anti-inflationary Budget the astute Minister will steer Namibia in the right direction to beat deficit and accelerate growth so as to attain a good status of credit-worthiness and attract investors in Namibia. I am pleased that Namibia is on the right course of socio-economic development and moving towards to the attainment of our national goals as stipulated in NDP2 and Vision 2030.

Honourable Members, Oliver Wendell Holes: *“The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.”* Namibia is on the right course of transformation, both politically, economically, socially and technologically and this constructive transformation has been possible owing to the participatory democratic Government that prevails in Namibia. The notion of democratic transformation and political tolerance became visible when the Opposition Party demanded the recount of ballot papers early this year. The recount, fortunately for SWAPO, did not yield the desired result as expected by the Opposition Parties. Notwithstanding that the recount process was transparent and fair, the two Parties had gone again and opened a new case, demanding another recount of the very same ballot papers. During the recount process SWAPO Party members displayed great character and integrity in the face of blatant provocation and insinuation. These alone proved beyond reasonable doubt that democracy in Namibia has come a long way and in spite of Opposition provocations, the Namibian people remained calm and allowed the judicial process to take its course.

While Opposition Parties, particularly RP and CoD, convince the Court to accede to recount, the SWAPO-Party Government is continuing and will carry on with delivery of services and products to the people of Namibia to accelerate the implementation of the capital projects covered by the Budget before this august House.

Honourable Members, it is imperative that we all reflect on the fifteen years of Independence. Let us celebrate our success, review our failures and strive to

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAAPANDA**

turn them into the renewed strength necessary to pursue our noble objectives. To the Opposition Parties, it is futile to continue brooding and howling on the many elections you have lost. Rather start to seriously think how you can make meaningful contributions towards the economic development of your country.

To you my Colleagues, Honourable Members of SWAPO Party, let us not lose sight, the SWAPO-Party Manifesto is our road map. Let us make sure we implement it for the economic success of our Nation and our people. Implementing the SWAPO-Party Manifesto, we must ensure that Namibia is a fair, generous, caring and committed Nation in which all citizens are able to realise their full potential in a safe and decent environment. We must create and consolidate legitimate, effective and a democratic political system, an enabling environment for an equitable and free society that is characterised by a sustainable and effective civil institution. We must transform Namibia into an industrial country of equal opportunities, which is globally competitive and find a niche in the world economy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, since his accession to the highest office of the land, has made a clarion call for renewal and change of mindset, to embrace honesty, transparency, openness and fairness in the execution of our duties. In upholding these core values, we will transform our country into a just and equitable society where resources will benefit everyone. Hence, it is incumbent upon our Civil Servants to translate these words of wisdom into reality.

In the same vein, politicians should intensify the oversight responsibilities to ensure that resources are prudently distributed. We must be proud of our impeccable record of good domestic policies which are pro-poor and at the same creating a conducive business environment and protecting our environment.

As we care for our people by providing all essentials to promote their quality of life, we also put in considerable effort to ascertain environment longevity. We are indebted to the world community who generously contributed to our freedom struggle for emancipation from colonial bondage. Our participation in peacekeeping operations, which is more often criticised by the Opposition Parties, is a noble way of paying back what the international community has

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL

done for us. Our brave men and women in uniform who have participated in international duties have made us proud and must be congratulated. In this context, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for increasing the Budget allocation for the Ministry of Defence. I sincerely hope that this increment will go a long way in improving the conditions of our military personnel, as well as refining their equipment and logistics in order to enable them to face any threat to our national security.

As we move forward in implementing our National Development Programmes with financial resources at our disposal, we should always ask ourselves from time to time if indeed we are on course with our specific targets and take corrective measures where necessary.

We, the leaders of today, have in our individual and collective hands the historic opportunity to ensure that Namibia does not regress in those areas we have made good strides and to improve them further and give our people hope for a better tomorrow.

In conclusion, the Namibian people look at us for leadership and a practical solution to problems. I am very confident that under the able leadership of His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba Namibia will continue to enjoy economic growth and sustainable development.

With these few words, let me once again endorse and support the National Budget tabled before Parliament. I thank you for your attention and I look forward to our future collaboration.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. First of all, I want to congratulate the new Members of the House and hope that we will work together in the spirit of mutual trust and understanding. We all know that we sometimes have different political perspectives, but one thing we should never forget is that we are here in the

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL

interest of the Namibian Nation and our actions should thus be for the common good of all of them and not only for a section of the population.

Our former President, His Excellency, President Nujoma, once warned us that if the ship sinks, all of us will drown. If all of us always keep this very old saying in the back of our minds, we will find it easier to understand one another and it will become easier to reach consensus instead of confrontation. The power of constructive, open and sincere dialogue should never be underestimated.

We are, indeed, very fortunate to live in a country like Namibia where there is still peace and tranquillity, where the streets are clean, where water and electricity supply is taken for granted, where unrest and civil strife are practically unknown, where you can walk the streets without being robbed and where anyone who wants to work, can in most cases make a decent living. We should, however, not take this good fortune for granted, for it is easy to break something down, it is much more difficult, sometimes impossible, to rebuild it to its former glory. One only needs to travel north into Africa to see what Namibia should not be. We should, therefore, always take time off to assess our own situation and in doing so, we need to be brutally honest with ourselves. We sometimes tend to defend negative indicators by explaining them and by giving very good reasons why we are moving backwards, why we are letting the country slip. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: In the spirit of national reconciliation and the Motion moved in this House, is it not going to be fair for the two who were late not to be allowed to finish their speeches?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Members, no matter how good our reasons are, the fact of the matter is that if our country is slipping, it is slipping.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, five years ago we never heard of electricity and water that were cut off because municipalities did not pay their accounts, yet

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

today it is common to open the newspaper and find that water and electricity of some or other town have been cut off over the weekend because they did not pay their account. Honourable Deputy Speaker, these are the negative indicators that I am talking about. If five years ago water and electricity were not cut off and it is cut off today because accounts are not paid, then we are slipping and no explanation can change the fact that we are slipping.

The easy answer to this problem is to kill it with money from the Central Revenue Fund, but this is like rubbing Deep Heat on the chest of somebody who just had a heart attack. We need to find the reason for the problem and correct the reasons, if it means cutting open the chest in order to perform a bypass operation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is not a sin to slip, but what is a sin is to ignore the reasons for the slip and to do nothing about those reasons.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, someone who prevented this country from slipping in a big way was the Founding President of our country, President Nujoma. If President Nujoma had decided to stand for another term of office, no one in this country could have stopped him, yet the damage that such a step would have inflicted on our country would have been immeasurable, not only in terms of the reputation of our fledgling democracy, but also in terms of peace, stability and human rights. Therefore, next time when we complain about the money that is spent yearly on him and his new office, let us consider the alternative and we are brutally honest, we will agree that it is a small price to pay for peace and stability.

Recently Honourable Dinyando and I attended an ACP/EU conference in Mali and how proud we were when fellow Members of Parliament came to us and asked us how we did it, how we managed to move to have a smooth transition from one president to another. It is then that one realises that Namibia is indeed a country worth fighting for, not with weapons but with words and deeds. It is then that one realises that people who are instrumental to our country slipping have no place in positions of power and should be removed as soon as possible.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we support the anti-corruption campaign of His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula. I want to assure them that they have our full support

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

in this endeavour. I also want to commend the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his handling of his motorcade. It might seem a simple thing, but people want to see action and not listen to the same old stories over and over again. The Right Honourable Prime Minister took action and people admire him for that.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do, however, want us to make a distinction between corruption, inefficiency, work ethics, theft, carelessness and outright laziness. What do you call the clerk who spends hours on the telephone, calling friends, family, neighbours and whoever else in order to pass the time of day? Is he or she corrupt? What do you call the Civil Servant who always comes late for meetings? Is he or she corrupt? What do you call the civil servant who for hours and hours play computer games? Is he or she corrupt? I feel, not Sir. I believe that corruption in general terms is seen as, *“the abuse of public office for private gain through bribery, blackmail, embezzlement, fraud and extortion.”* The World Bank uses an even shorter definition, namely that, *“corruption is simply the abuse of public power for private gain.”*

Honourable Speaker, in order to tackle the problem of corruption effectively and successfully, we need to make a further distinction between political or high-level corruption and administrative or low-level corruption. High-level corruption is the kind of corruption that takes place at the level of Ministers, deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Managing Directors, chairpersons of Boards of directors and tender board. Low-level or administrative corruption, on the other hand, is also sometimes referred to as *“street-level corruption”* and is the kind of corruption that, *“citizens will experience daily at times in their encounters with public administration and services, like hospitals, schools, local licensing authorities, Police, taxing authorities, etcetera.”*

An effective anti-corruption strategy will thus, as a first step, ensure that no political or high-level corruption is taking place in the country, because the number of people in this category is relatively small, it is easy to achieve this target. It must also be said that until we have stamped out high-level corruption, it will not be possible to stamp out low-level corruption, for obvious reasons. Once the top of the pyramid is clean, we can start on administrative or low-level corruption with a clean top level spearheading the fight. Apart from what I have discussed above, we have another phenomenon. (Intervention)

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? I think you are doing fine so far, you mentioned about the high-level and low-level corruption, but I fail to hear where you put the corruption conducted by Members of Parliament or are Members of Parliament of that category?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Minister, if there is corruption, it is high-level corruption, but let me tell you why I did not mention them, because they have no executive powers. The backbencher has no executive powers, I cannot influence even a Tender Board decision, but the Minister can. However if there is, it is high-level corruption.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, apart from what I have discussed above, we have a another phenomenon in our Civil Service which is equally dangerous and is committed, luckily, by a minority of Civil Servants, but with devastating effects for efficient Government. This category of mindsets, which I want to classify under the general term "*work ethic*", cannot be classified as corruption under the narrow definition used above, for it includes, inefficiency, work ethic, theft, carelessness and laziness. The problem with this type of behaviour, apart from its direct effect on the efficient Government, is that it stimulates administrative or low-level corruption. Work ethics stimulate low-level corruption. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. You do not want to point out who. The Permanent Secretaries deal with every day operations and the Ministers are there to be told by the Permanent Secretaries. Why do you not name them?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, what I am saying is that bad work ethics stimulate low-level corruption. If I, personally, need a certain document which must be issued by a certain Government office, but I know for sure that if it goes through the normal procedures, I will not get it within the

next three months, what do I do? I identify the supervisor of the office and approach him or her with a long story and most importantly, something more tangible than just the story. This can take the form of a bag of biltong, a hunting trip on my farm, an expensive dinner party and in severe case, a bundle of Namibian Dollars. Bad work ethics, therefore, stimulate low-level corruption because the supervisor knows very well that the longer the waiting list, the more people will be forced to pay for the service – *Vraag en aanbod* - demand and supply, the higher the demand, the better the supply. The clerks, on the other hand, soon know that their boss likes long waiting lists and that the only thing that they really need to do is to see that his special requests are executed forthwith. For the rest they can take life easy, do a bit of work, go shopping, play computer games or while away the time of day by chatting on the telephone, as long as they execute the request from the supervisor instantly.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, low-level corruption is further stimulated by the fact that the person who is bribing the supervisor from the private sector will never blow the cover of his contact, because next month he might need another permit. In fact, he is only too eager to tell his friends about the fantastic contact. How often do we hear the following: *“That document is not a problem, do you have a pen? Write down this guy’s name, his cell phone number is such and such, phone him and tell him that I have referred you to him. He will help you, just make sure that you give him something. Invite him to your farm or give him N\$500.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this is one of the reasons why we welcome the new form of budgeting where success is measured against targets. We welcome this new form of Budget.

In the case described above and there are many other forms of this same problem, if we can get the waiting list down to a level where it is no longer worthwhile to bribe, because you are in any case getting your document within two days’ time, then we have effectively put the supervisor out of business.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the setting of targets must, however, be precise and worthwhile if we want to reduce the waiting list to a level where bribery is no longer going to take place. As an example I want us to look at page 74 and I am just using this as an example, I am not pointing a finger. As an example I want us to look at page 74 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document under column 6 – Measure 7. We find the target for the average age

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

of application for identity documents. It is stated that the current forecast for the year 2005/2006 is 333 days waiting time and that this will come down to 180 days for the years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my first problem with this target is the word “days”, 333 days. If days refer to weekdays, then 333 days are less than a year. However, if days refer to working days, then we are talking of a period well over a year. The target is thus not specific enough to be useful.

My second problem with this target is the fact that the envisaged end-result will not put the supervisor out of business and I will explain to you why. If we take the case of a Grade 12 student who wants to go to university, the following scenario is not uncommon: Many of these students turn 18 during their Grade 12 year and are immediately confronted with a problem. They cannot get an ID before they are 18 years old, so they have to wait until they turn 18, let us say during July of the year, before they apply. However, with a target of 180 weekdays, they will get their IDs only in December or January of the next year. If the target refers to working days and taking into account all the public holidays, they will probably get their documents during March or April the next year, while the student who turns 18 during November, will only get his document during July or August of the next year, but the student needs an ID to enrol.

The problem now is that you cannot enrol at university without an identity document and because parents do not want their children to lose a year while waiting for an identity document, our fictitious supervisor can still be happily in business.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there are many more problems with the current targets, like the target of the staff turnover of the Police on page 84 of the abovementioned document or the many blank targets that appear all over the document. In order to help the question of target setting, we recommend that the standing committees of Parliament take the targets of the Ministries for which they are responsible and go through them with a fine comb. Let us make sure that they are specific, understandable and worthwhile to follow.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for the many positive measures that she announced in this year's Budget regarding effective public finance management. The expenditure

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

control policies and the debt policies on page 15, 16 and 17 of the Main Budget document serve as proof of her commitment to get public expenditure under control and it is welcomed by us. It is, however, a fact that these commitments will not be implemented unless they are wholeheartedly supported by the whole Cabinet and especially by the Chairman of the Cabinet. Until proven otherwise, we however remain confident that the new team will in fact stick to their commitments and that we will follow through on them and we will see the result next time when we talk about the Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, time is not on my side, so I am going to touch on a number of issues that are important to us. We were happy to see that no Additional Budget was introduced last year. However, this positive step can only be properly evaluated once we know how Ministries actually overspent last year's Budget and with how much. We might decide not to have an Additional Appropriation Bill, but if the Permanent Secretaries have their own Additional Appropriation Bill, called overspending, then we have not gained anything. I hope by now the Ministry of Finance should have a good idea what the spending patterns were for the last year and we will appreciate if the Honourable Minister in her answer to the Debate can shed some light on this issue.

Another issue on which we would like clarity from the Honourable Minister of Finance is why no estimates are provided for land tax in this Budget. I went through the whole document and I could nowhere find an estimate of how much we are going to get out of land tax and I similarly want the Honourable Minister to reply to that.

The Honourable Minister quite correctly warned about a number of negative trends. One of these is that our international reserves, expressed in Namibian Dollar, have declined over the last two years and is now only enough to cover 1,5 months of imports, well below the internationally accepted standard of three months of imports set by the IMF. In order to rectify this problem we need to import less and export more. To achieve this, we want to make some proposals:

First of all, we need to look at the cost of importing fuel. As we all know, the price of crude oil has increased dramatically over the past year or so and will probably not decline in the future. For this reason we want to propose that Government takes the initiative to work with the University of Namibia, our

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

own Technicon and the private sector to further develop the use of sun energy as a substitute for diesel, especially for the pumping of water in the Agricultural Sector. The technology and the equipment are already available in Namibia, the problem is that the existing systems are expensive and in some cases not reliable enough. However, I am convinced because I did some research on this, that with a bit of funding and against the background of the current diesel price, sun energy – of which we have so much in this country – will become a viable alternative to diesel and that will bring down our import costs.

Coupled to this project, we need to look at the further development of the sterling cycle engine. This technology was first invented in the 1800s but because of the low price of fossil fuel, it was never developed to its new potential. It is only now with the high price of fuel that many people over the world are taking a new look at this technology. We should, however, not wait until the Germans or somebody else develops a properly sterling engine and then import it, because then we have achieved absolutely nothing. Let us do our own research and development and produce our own version of the sterling cycle engine.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the beauty of this engine is that it uses heat as fuel and this heat can be produced by almost anything, including the heat of the sun or by simply making a fire under the engine, using *swarthaak* of which we have too much to handle. One of the many websites where Members can have a look at an operational sterling engine can be found at www.sterling/tech.com. It is something that we need to do and we need to do it now. We should stop wasting money on other nonsense and invest in things like the sterling engine. If we can develop a properly working sterling engine, our imports of diesel could be dramatically reduced.

Another issue which we need to take a closer look at is the countries from which we import our cars. If Japan is cheaper than South Africa, then we should import from Japan. It is simply just a logical assessment. In addition, Honourable Speaker, we must be careful that we are not being used to subsidise the export of South African manufactured cars to other markets. I think we are being used. The arguments that I have heard so far are really not very convincing. The Standing Committee on Economics, under the very good chairperson, will do well to investigate this issue, so that we can know what is actually happening in the new car market between South Africa and our

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL

country. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order. I am a very senior and founding Member of this Assembly, but the Honourable Member does not know my name.

HON DE WAAL: I was looking for the English words for, “*die baie goeie voorsitter van die kommittee*.” Honourable Deputy Speaker, on the export side of the equation that the Honourable Minister of Finance warned us about we also want to make some recommendations. We want to recommend that our Ministry of Agriculture takes a much more serious look at bush encroachment. Some years back I also spoke about this issue and I want to address it again today. The simple fact is that bush encroachment has affected large parts of our country, so much so that the carrying capacity of our farmland has been drastically reduced. To illustrate the negative effect of this phenomenon on the production and thus, the export of beef, we can look at the following figures:

An average farm in the one head of cattle for twelve hectares area of our country in the olden days could easily carry 400 head of cattle on 5,000 hectares. However, after bush encroachment, many of these farms can now only carry 250 head of cattle.

If you take an area the size of two thousand farms, it means that currently on those farms you can farm with 500,000 head of cattle. If you took the bush away, you can farm with 800,000 cattle and it is not something which we do not know how to do, Sir, the technology is there, you can buy it from Bayer Agri-Chem in Germany, but if you buy that substance, 99% of the things you are importing is waste, because the effective product in that tin is only one percent of the weight. Let us make a contract with Bayer Agri-Chem or with somebody in India or Pakistan and import the active ingredients and then put the waste together and sell it to our farmers at a reasonable price and even subsidise the killing of bush in the communal areas, because I can tell you, the way we are going now, we are going to have drought forever in the communal areas whether it rains or not, because there is no more grass, only bush. We must stop this trend now.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the issue regarding Air Namibia is still unresolved. Unfortunately I completed this speech about 12:00 this morning and I received this Report at about 14:15 and I can already tell you that what is in this Report and what is in the Budget document is not exactly the same thing. There are a number of typing errors, but we will talk about this. I will scrap this part of my speech because I wanted to ask you to table this Report before we discuss the Vote on the Ministry of Finance and now I have it.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is an old saying, “*moenie maak soos ek maak nie, maak soos ek sê jy moet maak*”, which means, do not do as I do, do as I say.” (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? Honourable De Waal, everything is so well put, what about the farm prices which are so high and which must be reduced in order to fit the conditions of this country.

HON DE WAAL: I have no problem, but if you can tell me why the prices of houses in Windhoek are so high, then maybe I can give you the other answer.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I said, do not do as I do, do as I say. The success of this Budget will depend on whether the President of this country, the Prime Minister of this country and all the Members of Cabinet are going to practise what they preach or whether they are going to tell their people, do not do as I do, do as I say. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call on Honourable Lucas?

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise in this august House this afternoon for the first time since I was sworn in as a new Member of the Fourth Parliament of Namibia. At the very outset, allow me, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to add my voice to many of my Colleagues who spoke before me to congratulate Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, the Founding President of Namibia, a brave son of the Namibian soil, who with his tested and dynamic leadership created a conducive environment for peace, stability and national reconciliation which prevailed in the entire Land of the Brave over the past 15 years. This great man will not only be a role model for the present generation, but he will surely be remembered by future generations of this continent yet to be born.

Allow me at this juncture, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to wish the Founding President all the best success in his future career as a Geologist-to-be as well as a well-deserved rest.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to make use of this opportunity once again to register my thanks and appreciation to His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, for the trust and confidence that he has put in me by appointing me to one of the important, but challenging portfolios of the Government structure, that of Foreign Affairs. We all know the critical role the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can play in any given state or Government. I would like to refer my Colleagues who are new in this august House and who are not conversant with what I am talking about to Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution and the White Paper on Namibia's Foreign Policy and Diplomats Management of 2004 to acquaint themselves as to what the said portfolio entails.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I did not intend to take the Floor, however I was provoked by some Honourable Members from the Opposition benches who need to be reminded that they are in this House because of the democratic principles the SWAPO Party has put in place. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I did not want to interrupt the Honourable Member Lucas, but we are here just on our own right and to share what we have in common in order to sustain the stability of this country.

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will fail in my duty if I do not congratulate Honourable John Mutorwa and his Deputy who were appointed to head the new Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. The challenge of youth development is a crucial social threat. Unemployment, poverty, crime, HIV/AIDS pandemic are threats to social cohesion. The youth are the segment of our population which is really affected by these social scourges.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the establishment of the National Youth Service needs to be applauded. The Youth Service programme is aimed at empowering the youth and integrating them into society. The National Youth Service recruitment programme is conducted on a voluntary basis and these recruits come from all the 107 Constituencies in the Republic of Namibia. The National Youth Service provides opportunities for young people to participate in Nation-building, production activities and skills acquisition. It should be noted that the institution has not only managed to provide skills and opportunities, it also helped to promote different cultures as well as achieve gender equity.

I wish to remind the Honourable House that the majority of Honourable Members in this Chamber are accountable to the Namibian electorate and especially the 75,8% who voted for the SWAPO Party after the recount. The SWAPO Party and its Government are committed to the social upliftment of the young people. It should be put on record that when SWAPO was waging the war for the liberation of this country, the Namibian youth were at the forefront of that struggle. It is high time that the youth of this country receive undivided support from all Honourable Members of this august House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we as a free and independent Nation acknowledge the founding struggles waged by our forebears. From that historical experience we have learned lifelong lessons for building this Nation which has turned 15 years on the 21st of March 2005. There is criticism by the Opposition that the SWAPO Party has failed to implement its promises as outlined in the SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto of 2004. I am proud to say that as a young Nation we have done much in the fifteen years gone by. Despite the meagre resources, the SWAPO Government has managed to build schools, colleges, polytechnics and universities. We have trained teachers and expanded education at primary, secondary and tertiary institutions throughout the country. Today most communities have a clinic of health centre on the

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS

basis of which the National Primary Health Care Programme has been designed.

However, as a Nation the biggest challenge we face is the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has really strained our health delivery system. Definite steps are being undertaken to address these challenges including the provision of Anti-Retroviral treatment to HIV/AIDS patients, as well as the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme. As a Government we are on the way forward in the years ahead. The responsibility of sustaining our people during the challenging periods is primarily that of the Government and we shall always live up to that responsibility.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the SWAPO Government has outlined a vision for rural development. The vision envisages the total eradication of poverty and skills development for all citizens. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I am talking about the 20 hectare to be given to those rural people who do not own land. It is only 2 hectare and if they refuse to accept it, they must go to hell, that land is confiscated by the Government and given to somebody else of that choice. Is that correct?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Rural development should be seen as growth and public investment is required in the rural infrastructure to unleash its growth potential.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, signed by Heads of State and Government in 1997 in Blantyre, Malawi, requires Member States of this Community to reach the target of at least 30% women representation in Parliament and decision-making structures by the year 2005. In this regard, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am proud to state that Namibia has made some strides in the last general and regional elections held in November 2004, thus achieving 66,9% in Parliament, which is a small margin from the 30% target. The SWAPO Government's

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NUJOMA**

commitment to gender equality is highly commended.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa, her Deputy Minister, her Permanent Secretary and the entire staff component of the Ministry of Finance who made it possible for the Appropriation Bill 2005/2006 to reach the Floor of Parliament. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Lucas, as an old man I was told women are in the majority everywhere in the world and we have democracy these days. Why can women not gang up against men and vote for women? Then there will be no need to beg them anymore.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I will answer the question by the Honourable Member during tea-time. With these few remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill and I thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now call on Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, thanks that at last I now have an opportunity to say something.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NUJOMA**

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for your election to this important august House, the Parliament. I would also like to make use of this opportunity to acknowledge, in his absence, the Honourable Speaker, Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, who has served this Nation in a distinguished capacity in various roles as an Ambassador of SWAPO of Namibia to the United Nations during the liberation struggle and post-apartheid as Namibia's Foreign Minister, Prime Minister and now Speaker. His exemplary leadership and that of his colleagues, the senior members of SWAPO Party, Comrade Nahas Angula, Comrade Libertine Amathila, Comrade Ben Amathila, Hage Geingob, Comrade Jerry Ekandjo, Comrade Marco Hausiku, Comrade Mbumba and many others have inspired us during the days of our youth to work hard, study and fight for the Independence of our beloved country, Namibia.

As a former fighter of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge my colleagues with whom I have shared the most difficult times of our youth in the vast jungles of Angola and Zambia, fighting relentlessly for the Independence of this country. In this instance I would like to make use of this opportunity to pay tribute to our senior, Comrade Peter Tshirumbu, Comrade Kaapanda, Comrade Namoloh, Comrade Albert Kawana, Comrade John Pandeni, Comrade Petrus Ilonga Ekanda, Comrade Erkki Nghimtina and the new younger MPs, Comrade Kapia, Comrade Kazenambo and Comrade Nambahu and many other former fighters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia who have been elected to this august House.

I would also like to pay tribute to those gallant sons and daughters who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the Independence, peace and democracy we are enjoying today. I would also like to recognise on the other side the senior Members of the Opposition, namely Chief Riruako and Comrade Ben Ulenga, in their absence, and I hope that they will soon join the SWAPO Party of Namibia.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, today marks my first day to make a maiden statement in this august Chamber. Before I pronounce myself on the subject matter under discussion, I would like to express my profound thanks to the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, who on the 16th of July 1998 appointed me to be the second Chairperson of the Law Reform and Development Commission. During my tenure, the Law Reform

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NUJOMA**

and Development Commission has developed a number of Bills, of which many were passed by this Parliament. Those Bills were subsequently assented to by the President and became laws, *inter alia*, the Combating of Rape Act, the Married Persons Equality Act, Domestic Violence Act, the Maintenance Act, and in the meantime the following reports were prepared and presented to the Minister and they are, among others, the Report on Small Claims Court, Customary Law Marriages and we will very soon ease the issue of divorce, so that we do not have to go through the painful processes and the Report on Publications and Public Gatherings.

As one of the Members of this august House, I further wish to express my sincere thanks to His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for appointing me as Deputy Minister of Justice. Being a Member of this august House I now have the privilege to make laws and debate on national issues, including the Debate on the National Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, as a statutory requirement, on the 12th of May 2005, the Honourable Minister of Finance has presented Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the Account of the State for the year ending on the 31st of March 2006. Considering the fact that Namibia is a relatively young economy, it may be difficult to prepare a budget which is applauded by every Namibian. Nevertheless, as a Nation, as Parliamentarians we have reasons to be proud of what the Honourable Minister of Finance presented to this Parliament and that it is a well-prepared Budget, a Budget which despite limited resources pays meticulous attention to the developmental needs of the country. Therefore, in contributing to the Budget Debate, I wish to address specific issues in the 2005/2006 Budget which, in my view, accords with NPD2 and Vision 2030.

Because of the time constraints and to conform with the consensus of the ten minutes, I would immediately move to the other areas. I wanted to speak on education, but I think my Colleagues have adequately addressed the issue of education in this country as well as health. Now I will move immediately to the other issues which I consider to be of importance.

In order for the economy to grow, one needs to invest in key sectors of the economy. The experience shows that small and medium enterprises industry becomes the backbone of the national economy because it provides job opportunities to many Namibians and if properly sustained, contributes

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NUJOMA**

colossal amounts of revenue to the fiscus in the form of income tax. In order to further develop this important sector, an amount of N\$45,081,000 is budgeted. I am grateful to see that an amount of N\$92 million is budgeted for the Development Bank of Namibia. This allocation will boost the capital base of the Development Bank of Namibia in providing finances to needy small and medium enterprises.

Other institutional frameworks such as the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust, has been put in place to provide advisory services and to guarantee borrowing to small and medium enterprises. It should, however, be emphasised that the private sector must also make the growth of this sector possible. This can be done by making financial resources, for example, loans with low interest rates, available to emerging entrepreneurs. The focus must be more on job creation than job seeking. We must encourage and, if possible, give incentives to those small and medium enterprises which are involved in manufacturing ventures, those which add value to our natural resources and those which export goods. A clear legal framework must be developed to address the small and medium enterprises and black economic empowerment.

In order to expand the economic base, which has the potential to contribute significantly to State revenues, the SWAPO Party Government has commercialised a number of former Government departments to become parastatals. It is, however, noted with concern that the total amount of dividends accrued to Government is not satisfactory. In this regard I fully agree with the Honourable Minister of Finance that measures be introduced to look into the dividend policies of parastatals.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I will also skip Air Namibia and move immediately to Defence. (Interjection)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Since I have only one minute left, let me move to Safety and Security.

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NUJOMA

In recognition of the significant role played by the Namibian Police, the Honourable Minister of Finance has budgeted an amount to the new Ministry of Safety and Security. The amount of N\$228,527,000 is earmarked for combating of crime. Although this august House has passed a number of legislations which provide stiff sentences against convicted criminals, the investigation capacity of the Namibian Police needs to be addressed. Therefore, this Budget will enable the Police to effectively investigate serious crimes. Crime poses a serious threat to every Namibian. Crime scares tourists who want to come to Namibia and explore the contrasting beauty of our landscape and coast. I know that the budgetary allocation for crime prevention will not be good news to criminals who have declared some parts of our beautiful towns as no-go areas for tourists.

The 2005/2006 Budget is a people's Budget, no Namibian citizen is left out. The allocation of N\$164,130,000 to the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture is a welcome development. The Budget caters for business innovations and entrepreneurship among youth, especially in agriculture, fish farming and aquaculture. In this way we offer best opportunities to unemployed youth and at the same time ensure that they acquire the skills needed on the market. We must support our National Youth Service programme and more particularly, the National Youth Service Bill which may come to Parliament this year or which has already been passed.

In order for us to alleviate unemployment and reduce poverty, we must invest resources in the rural areas. Many people labour under the impression that there is a better life in cities and towns. They are merely allured by the affluence associated with modern cities. However, not everything which glitters is gold. When people settle in the city, many find that life has become more unbearable. There is an urgent need to identify resources which the rural community may use to their benefit.

I visited some villages in Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati and observed a number of dilapidated water reservoirs, of which some were constructed before Independence. I strongly believe that without spending much of our scarce financial resources.... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, Honourable Member.

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in order to improve the situation at our lower courts, we need to expedite the finalisation of cases. The prosecution has to prove its case beyond any reasonable doubt, the Police need to bring witnesses in time. Lack of transport causes serious problems. The offshoot is that more money is spent on witnesses' fees and unnecessary postponements, which in turn prevent Courts to dispose of cases within a reasonable time. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I wish to congratulate all the Members of this House for being elected to serve the Namibian Nation, especially all the women. May God bless you all and as mothers of this Nation, I hope that we will be able to make a difference in this House. Please do not forget that we are women and mothers for the whole Nation. I also wish to congratulate the Minister of Finance for a job well done. I can see the hand of a woman in this Budget. It is only a woman who can make the impossible, possible.

I know that this Budget we received comes from the line Ministers. You are only the instrument used to make things go right. I will, therefore, address the different Ministers in my approach.

I want to start with Education, because as a former teacher, I know that we have problems. In general, the provision made for Education seems not to be an obvious problem, but please, Honourable Minister, allow me highlight some points.

The increments for the next consecutive three years seem very low and the reason is, how will the Minister cater for any developments for Education, the recruitment of new teachers and the upgrading of the salaries of the existing staff to be on par with the recommendations of WASCOM. This is raised in

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA

aid of the Ruling Party's cry for more responsibility and accountability within the Public Service, the more productive and efficient utilisation of the teachers recruited. I am of the opinion that within the Namibian borders there are teachers who are productive beyond the provision of teaching and learning in the classroom and are on the school premises after 13:00 until 17:00, keeping themselves busy with activities from which the school, the parents and the learners benefit a great deal.

This august House will agree that the provision of quality education is compromised by allowing the Honourable Minister of Finance to allocate more money to less important Ministries and Agencies, such as Electoral Commission. Is this sufficient money to ensure proper training programmes for the existing and outgoing staff of the Commission? (Interjections).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, do not provoke while making a maiden speech, but we should also respect a maiden speech.

HON DIENDA: The Education Act 60 of 2001, entrusts the parents with a greater responsibility to actively participate in the development of the schools where their children are enrolled. The confusion that exists amongst the wider Namibian community in general and the school parents in particular, pertaining to the definition and distinction between what a school fee and school development fund is, creates uncalled for misinterpretation and implementation of the Act at school level. Parents are blindly guided by the expressions made by the then Minister of Basic Education, Sport and Culture that such contributions are not compulsory. It is my hope that the new Minister of Education will clearly spell out to schools and through schools, public announcements on the need that parents should contribute to the development of the school. I am convinced that if less confusing statements are made, the development of schools will be boosted more vigorously, since the confusion created by politicians is now spearheaded by correctional statements that are aimed at minimising conflict between two school parties, the school management and the parents and would now enhance peace at the school that

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA**

will be beneficial to the vulnerable children in our schools.

In conclusion on education, Colleagues, allow me to wish the Minister of Education and especially his Deputy all the best for the future.

The Minister of Finance tried to cater for all the health needs in the current Budget, but she remained silent in addressing pertinent issues that the layman experiences when visiting any of the public health facilities in the country. In my observation, Honourable Members, I make the statement that mostly reflects the experience of the electorate when visiting the health facilities. I am convinced through my own observation of what is happening at the health facilities in Windhoek, in particular. Professional trained staff are keeping themselves busy with activities on State premises that contravene the stipulations of professional health ethics in the Ministry of Health and Social Services. On the one hand, there is a consistent claim made that the salaries and benefits for nurses are insufficient and one wonders whether the running of small businesses and income-generating ventures on the premises of the hospital is a result of the aforesaid or can it be ascribed to the lack of proper supervision by those staff members who have to lead by example?

I am, therefore, convinced that the second-hand health services that the most vulnerable members of the Namibian society receives at the hospital do not justify the need for further allocation of such huge amounts of money to the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Secondly, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Health and Social Services should be the leading Ministry to ensure that the basic right pertaining to health of all Namibians is always ensured.

I have noted with concern that a lot of money is reserved for marketing of condoms, counselling, testing and voluntary services and projects. Honourable Iilonga, this shows, that the Government is still making moneys available mostly for the prevention of infections when planning takes place in workshops. For how long would we as a Nation be in denial that HIV/AIDS is no longer confined to the prevention of the spread of the virus? When will we be proactive in our approach and start budgeting for easing the life of AIDS sufferers and orphans that are visible on streets, households and at the funerals in Namibia? These people once made a financial contribution to the economic development of Namibia and are now treated under our world acclaimed

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA**

Constitution as second-hand citizens. The approach that we as leaders adopt in this august House is reflected in the behavioural of the electorate. Our collective unwillingness to come out publicly in declaring our status and contribute to the remedial and supportive attempts would cost the country a lot more in years to come.

On the other hand, I salute that Namibians that came to the fore in declaring their status publicly. In the absence of shelters that could cater for specific needs of individuals as their health deteriorates as a result of the presence of the virus in their bodies, I wonder how much harder life becomes when one goes public in this support-unfriendly environment the people are subjected to in Namibia. The solution would be for us to lead by example and get ourselves tested and see whether we would like to be subjected to the current *status quo*.

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: The dream of the Founding Father to see the prisons be turned into places of remedy, where correctional services are priority, seems to have gone through the window and maybe out of the door of this august House. When I scrutinised the Budget allocated to this Ministry, it came to mind that money is being allocated for the renovation of State property and little or none for reform of the most valuable asset of Namibia, those that made choices, contravening the Acts that this House has passed. It seems to me that the set scenarios go parallel with each other and that the decisions taken in this House do not reach the implementation phase beyond the walls. Too much money is allocated to turn the current prisons into places of leisure and little is being reserved for the rehabilitation of the inmates. More money is being allocated for renovation and upgrading to make life in prisons more lucrative and attractive for the large number of unemployed Namibians.

It seems that 95% Christians that we claim to have in Namibia, look at this Budget and pray nowadays, “*and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*” This is, in my view, not all an effort to discourage the high crime rate in Namibia.

I am, therefore, not in support of the current budgetary allocation if it deliberately nullifies the intention of the Founding Father and encourages the Namibian Nation to seek places of safety where everything is provided by the revenue of the threatened innocent Namibians.

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA

FINANCE: The Budget of this Ministry makes provision to pay 50% thereof on interest on foreign and domestic loans. Good move, Honourable Minister. A second term made you realise that the earlier we start paying off our debts, the less we will pay on what we borrowed for so-called emergencies and what we do not necessarily need. Maybe your next move would be to ensure a budget that considers the inclusion of the most vulnerable in the mainstream of the economy by realising Namibians are suffering to maintain an economy that we cannot afford.

Honourable Minister, please explain to this august House your justification for another wishful thinking by allocating scarce financial resources to non-profit-making entities like Air Namibia. Be on the alert that the electorate is discouraged to pay taxes which will be used to bail out financial failures. I am just wondering how many Namibians are still flying Air Namibia and sleep in the Country Club, so-called national assets. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, be careful, I will not be able to protect you if you provoke. Your speech is supposed to be a neutral speech, not a provocative one. This is a maiden speech where I am supposed to protect. (Interjections) That is why I said you should be careful. “*So-called Government*” means that you do not recognise it. Can you withdraw the “*so-called Government?*”

HON DIENDA: I withdraw “*so-called national assets.*” **SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Minister, I have noted that you have budgeted for transport for the Police. Thank you so much for that. Like you I would like to see that they are more mobile to respond to the cries of the Nation. However, would we be sure of at least 50% value of these cars at the end of this financial cycle, since the *don't-care* attitude of some Police Officers might force the Windhoek City Traffic to report more accidents than the Police might claim successful Police arrests and custody cases? Please provide not only the tools, but provide the staff with the guidelines on how to use and care for the tools. This is indeed a matter of national pride that was neglected for too long.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA**

DEFENCE: The total Budget for this Ministry has increased with 4% of the total expenditure and it seems that the more lucrative way to go is to apply for a job in the Defence Ministry where you do not have to work hard to get a fat cheque. Honourable Minister, are we unsafe because we are safe or are we safe because we are unsafe?

AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Water is life follows the same exit ideologies of the Founding Father. 15 Years after Independence water is not accessible to all Namibians and Windhoek residents still seem to follow the Ramatex fiasco. Are we as a Nation so vulnerable that we can so easily be fooled by promising investments which results in the exploitation of our natural resources at the expense of the Namibian Nation? Please, we are paying for the salaries and benefits of the NamWater staff, we cannot afford water anymore.

ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: This Ministry is known to ensure an income and contribute, therefore, to the generation of revenue. However, the Budget Allocation is not encouraging to ensure the safety of tourists and other visitors to the Land of the Brave. Again, the Ministers concerned should please ensure that the facilities put in place meet the world standards of the countries the tourists come from. Only if we learn not to slap the hand that feeds us will we be able to provide the services that are desired.

FISHING AND MARINE RESOURCES: We commend the efforts taken by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and are pleased that the President kept those who make a difference where they are. However, Namibia is still keeping fish out of reach of the citizens. How long should we wait until the Nation would really have access to the nutritious natural resources available in this country? The Budget of this Ministry should not be justified on the exchange rate, but it is recommended that the Budget should pro-actively reflect the trends worldwide. The amount allocated for Namibia's membership to international bodies should seriously be trimmed down to those that make a useful and valuable difference to the lives of all Namibians. We should stop this comfort zone of thinking international at the expense of the citizens. Think local, not only global.

GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE: The move of changing the name of this Ministry from Women Affairs to Gender Affairs reflects the wisdom of the President to incorporate the changes that took place worldwide many, many

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIENDA

years ago. However, the confusion as a result of the introduction of this Ministry by its former name has left men on the defence. This Ministry is said to ensure that women have equal opportunity to fully participate in all sectors of the society and to ensure the well-being of children. Such an objective does not provoke men to change their behaviour in how they view and treat women. It is my hope that the Minister concerned will encourage the involvement of men in the development programmes they have. More money should, therefore, be used and special efforts be taken to reconcile the sexes and create a more pleasant environment for them to work collectively in the achievement of the objective of this Ministry.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: My concern is that the convincing statements made by the Ruling Party at the time of the recent inconclusive elections that there is a major increase in social pensions, made the elderly go in their thousands to queue for the elections. (Interjections)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dienda, I will leave you to be attacked if you continue. It is a maiden speech, but she should not be provocative. Honourable Members, if the Member has used a word which you are not satisfied with, you may take the Floor and attack her speech later on. Do not disturb the Honourable Member, it is a maiden speech, let us respect it. (Interjections)

HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister, the strikes we witness being conducted in this country are worrisome since it directly affects the foreign investments that we so direly need. Can the Honourable Minister concerned please inform the Nation that the slogan, "*an injury to one is an injury to all*" should be used on the right platform for the required needs.

REGIONAL, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING: The objective of this Ministry is "*to ensure access to acceptable shelter.*" Honourable Minister, I am concerned that this provision does not go down well with the electorate, since we are all aware that the low-income groups are still being

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO

victimised and evicted from the only houses they have known all their life. Are we serious when we set such objectives and the reality is that we put them on the street if they cannot pay? This House approved the definition of “*access to acceptable housing*” and set rules and regulations that provide for them.

The failure of the National Housing Enterprise and other shelter providers is not investigated to the extent that the electorate receives the outcome. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Dienda. Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank and congratulate our Founding President, Comrade Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for appointing me on the 21st of March 2000 as Minister of Works, Transport and Communication. During my time many projects have been implemented, such as the bridge over the Zambezi River, which has now been completed, and the Northern Railway construction from Tsumeb via Ondangwa and Oshikango, rehabilitation of the railway from Aus to Rosh Pinah and also the construction of the new Aus-Rosh Pinah road, the construction of the Outapi-Tsandi-Okahao road, Opuwo-Omakange and two helicopters, one being multi-purpose to be used for accidents. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I do not think the Honourable Minister is reading from the paper, he just composed something. He used to be a Minister, he should speak on the Budget.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chief is Out of Order.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

HON DR AMWEELO: We are talking about two helicopters, rehabilitation of the Katima-Kongola road and also Rundu-Mururani Gate road rehabilitation.

In the same vein, I would like to congratulate our second President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba. I wish him strength and good luck.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would now like to touch on HIV/AIDS in the workplace. Since 1981 when the first case of AIDS was reported in the United States, the prevalence of AIDS has continued to show an upwards trend globally. Most of adult HIV/AIDS cases are in the age group of 20 to 50 years. The employers, employees and organisations show a high level of anxiety in regard to the impact of the pandemic on the work environment. This population happens to be the gainfully employed and their morbidity and eventual death has serious implications on the socio-economic trends of the country.

Namibia is one of the developing countries where HIV/AIDS prevalence rates have reached grave proportions. In an effort to combat this upward trend, the SWAPO Party Government, in conjunction with the non-Governmental organisations and the donor community, are up in arms to fight the scourge.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and with wide tripartite consultations through the Labour Advisory Council, has formulate the National Code on HIV/AIDS and Employment for HIV/AIDS Prevention and AIDS Management.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the World Health Organisation, in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation, held consultations in Geneva in June, 1988 on AIDS in the Workplace. Experts from Governments, trade unions, employers, public health and medical, legal and education sectors all agreed unanimously that two fundamental principles should guide the global policies for workers with HIV-infection and AIDS. These principles were:

Firstly, workers with HIV-infection who are healthy should be treated the same way as any other worker at the workplace. Secondly, workers who are ill and HIV-infected, such as workers with AIDS, should be treated the same way as any other worker with any other illness.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

According to the National Code on HIV/AIDS and Employment, the same ethical principles that govern all health and medical conditions in the employment context, should apply equally to HIV/AIDS at workplaces.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the impacts of HIV/AIDS on workers:

The AIDS pandemic in our country is affecting the most productive group. The scourge, if unchecked, will have far-reaching socio-economic impacts in this country. Some of them are as follows:

1. Loss of productive life and hence, employers spending large amounts of money on the direct and indirect cost of caring for adult AIDS cases.
2. Man-hours lost due to workers taking sick leave or visiting the sick in hospitals, etcetera.

Some factors attributed to higher prevalence of AIDS amongst workers:

- The group is the most energetic and sexually active.
- High inflation rate, especially in urban areas where job opportunities are available. It is hard for workers to get decent accommodation where they can live with their families.
- Cost of living is also prohibitive for most workers to maintain their families in the urban areas. This forces the workers to seek the services of commercial sex workers who might infect them with HIV/AIDS. They in turn infect their regular spouses and the future children when they go home.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, what is being done to curb the escalating spread of HIV/AIDS at the workplace?

There is a need to form a task force under the Labour Advisory Council. The terms of reference of the task force are:

- To develop a strategy for reducing the socio-economic impact, fear and stigma associated with AIDS in the workplace.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

- Sensitise the workplace communities on the socio-economic implications of AIDS.
- Identify the key policy issues related to AIDS prevention and control in the workplace that will be required to be targeted for reform.
- Carry out advocacy and dialogue necessary for enlisting the community, political community, leaders and employers to support AIDS control activities in the workplace.
- Education and medical care in terms of allocating the necessary resources and the development of policy guidelines.

According to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 and the Revenue Income and Expenditure for 2005/2006 presented to Parliament, Page 23 is explaining the curse of HIV/AIDS and that it affects every sector of society. That is why the SWAPO Government decided that in general it should be a priority for the spending in every programme in every Ministry.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the future activities of the Government on HIV/AIDS at the workplace is to work out ways and means on how to organise group counselling sessions at the workplace, involving the management and the employees regardless of their HIV/AIDS status.

In conclusion, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, with these few words, I fully support the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

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

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAZENAMBO**

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

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, a human being is associated with emotions from birth to the grave. First and foremost, I would like to dedicate my maiden address in this august House to the brave sons and daughters of our great free Nation, some of whom I have shared the same trenches and dugouts, marched together on short and long distance combat missions where we penetrated thick woodland, crossed deep rivers, climbed challenging mountains, shared moments of joy and sorrow, shared reflections of despair and hope in exile during the protracted liberation struggle which brought the Independence of our beloved country.

My dedication goes to all the heroes and heroines of the Namibian revolution, more particularly to my fellow ex-PLAN combatants who have fallen in combat while fighting South African apartheid forces of occupation of the Botha-Malan regime which wrecked havoc and mayhem across our beautiful country before attainment of our national Independence and democracy which we all now enjoy. Their sacrifices were not in vein, therefore I shall always be guided by their revolutionary spirit of great patriotism, relentless dedication to national duty and high moral values and principles of anti-tribalism, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-regionalism, anti-nepotism and anti-corruption.

I also dedicate it to all the children of Namibia who were born in exile, like myself, and whose placentas were buried in foreign lands, like mine. Our parents and grandparents were forced into exile to countries like Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and many others across the world by colonial oppression and persecution, such as the evil extermination order which was issued against our Ovaherero people by General Von Trotha in 1904 and which was followed by dehumanising repression and injustice which were meted out against all the black people of Namibia by the undemocratic and inhuman Botha-Malan's apartheid colonial regime which illegally occupied our country before its birth as a sovereign and democratic Nation state on 21 March 1990. Let there be no more wars, oppression and repression so that now and in the future there shall be no more any child of Namibian origin to be born in exile because of his or her parents having to flee from this country again because of any form of repression or persecution. May democracy and peace prevail now and forever in our Nation State.

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been a

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAZENAMBO**

product of the struggle. There are people who cared for me, not only my parents, but people who were committed to making sure this Nation emerges as a Nation and cared for children of Namibia, irrespective of their race or colour. I would like to express my gratefulness and appreciation to the members and supporters of the SWAPO Party for having elected me through the SWAPO Party to be a Member of Parliament for the next five years. In the same vein, I thank the President of Namibia, His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for having appointed me to serve as Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development in his Cabinet.

I would further equally like to extend my most sincere thanks and gratitude to the SWAPO Party leadership, more particularly some of my senior leaders who have played one or the other role during the formative stage of my political career and educational background. I thank the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, former Prime Minister Hage Geingob, Right Honourable Prime Minister Nahas Angula, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hidipo Hamutenya, affectionately known as HH, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Professor Peter Katjivivi, Ambassador Linus Ipumbu, Comrade Selma Nghidinwa and Comrade Andrew Nghidinwa for the great contributions they have made towards my personal progress.

I also, in the same vein, now congratulate all the Members of the Cabinet, the Members of the National Assembly for their election and appointment in their respective positions both in Cabinet and this House.

Now turning to the Appropriation Bill, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy, Comrade Tweya and the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance for the Budget which I regard as a people's Budget. My comments on this Budget will not necessarily look at the macro-economic imperatives contained and outlined in this Budget, but I would rather concentrate on what is not reflected, especially the micro-economic aspects which concern the behaviour of firms and companies in this country, because I believe that any economy is developed by the key players and the key players are the Private and Public Sectors and if we scrutinise the behaviour of the public sector, I strongly believe that the behaviour of the Private Sector should also be scrutinised.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, micro-economics deal with the behaviours of the firm and the behaviours of the consumer and in the

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAZENAMBO**

situation of this country, you find that there are no clear regulatory mechanisms and frameworks to look into the behaviour of Private Companies in this country. Yes, I do appreciate that we have embraced the system of capitalism in the form of a mixed economy, but I believe that we should have in-built instruments and strategies to keep the behaviour of private companies under check because of historical reasons. We have emerged from the background of colonialism, from the background where ordinary Namibians did not have rights, where their rights were subjected to prejudice and you find hardened attitudes in the market in this country and we need to look into that, because as much as you put in place instruments to address poverty and you do not have mechanisms and instruments to check to behaviour of companies, your efforts will definitely be meaningless. Let me illustrate what I mean by this.

In this country we talk about Black Economic Empowerment. We need legislation that pronounces itself on how we want to move ahead with the issue of black economic empowerment, because black economic empowerment is exclusively for the few, it is exclusively for those who are politically, socially and economically well-connected to the powers-that-be. Therefore, it needs legislation to be managed. We need to again look at our tender policies and how our Tender Board operates, because again it is exclusively for strong companies which can afford to bribe. I am not saying that all those people who serve on the Tender Board are corrupt, but I am saying that we need a person who will police the Police.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let us look into the issues of monopoly distortions and impediments to market expansion, which impede our revenue pool. I cannot believe as a Namibian that we can subject ourselves to monopoly distortions like the unjustifiable ban on importation of second-hand cars without any convincing reasons, because certain companies wish to do that. Whom are we punishing? Are we punishing our ordinary people and what is the benefit? It is a contradiction. Let us address these contradictions and bottle-necks that are in our micro-economic imperatives. This is my argument.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the companies that are investing in the country, such as Shoprite and a others, should carry their social responsibility of investing where they are harvesting, because they go to the rural areas, kill small companies and that does not expand the revenue base

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

because of repatriation of profit to the countries of origin. These are not Namibian companies, they are here for trade. Let us put instruments and mechanisms in place to regulate that.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in the same spirit of social responsibility, there are companies which are making millions and millions out of the poor people. If you move around the commercial centres in this country, there are shops in this country which are selling poor quality goods, but which have slogans, “*no guarantee, no refund.*” It does not help anything. It is daylight legalised robbery and we need to address this.

I am inviting companies which are investing in the market to invest where they harvest. They must invest in the social responsibility and as I am talking now, Radio Otjiherero is running a campaign on a small child suffering from cancer and they are appealing for help. Let the companies in Namibia which are making millions from black people invest in that, because should it be a question of colour, they have lined their pockets.

With that I support the Appropriation Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Mudge. It is a maiden speech and you are protected.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, since this is my first opportunity to address this House, I would like, on behalf of the Republican Party of Namibia, to officially also congratulate Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab on his election as Speaker of this House, also Honourable Nahas Angula, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, with his appointment. Last but not least, His Excellency our President Pohamba with his inauguration of new President of the Republic of Namibia. Rest assured, we have been praying for a long time and we will keep on praying that our God Almighty will bless you with divine wisdom and guidance in order for you to fulfil your duties with great dignity, honesty, perseverance, dedication and we also trust that it will be eternal submission to God Almighty so that the entire Nation of Namibia will benefit from your

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

leadership.

Also allow me to quickly congratulate all the other Members of Cabinet and fellow Members of Parliament on their respective appointments and elections. Quite a number of you will probably not be around after the re-election, but in the meantime, enjoy it and make the most of it. (Interjections) Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Geingob knows what we intend to do.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is truly an honour for me to stand here and to have the opportunity to address this House. It is my first time, therefore my maiden speech, and I am sure that you will have full understanding of the fact that I will only have 45 minutes to make my contribution during this entire Debate and I will, therefore, unfortunately not be able to entertain any questions. (Interjections)

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am also grateful for the tradition that maiden speeches not be interrupted. I will not only deal with the issues at hand, namely the National Budget, but also touch on a wider range of issues of concern. My problem is that the Budget itself is somewhat controversial and so are basically all other issues, as I have heard today. So, forgive me if I touch on some things that could be perceived by some Honourable Members as being controversial, it is not my intention.

Let me start with the first one and I want to refer to what happened last Tuesday during the speech of Honourable Schimming-Chase. At first I was amused and I honestly thought it was a plain joke, but as interjections carried on, I became extremely disappointed. Here I was sitting as a newcomer, having paid close attention to what was said during the induction seminars about all of us having to make a positive contribution and to show the necessary respect for, and to abide by the Standing Rules and Orders of this august House. I was listening to interjections at a level much too low for this House. I was truly embarrassed for the sake of our guests and the media in the galleries up there.

The reason why I was embarrassed was because I am acutely aware of the fact that I am representing a Constituency out there and that people expect me to act in such a way that I will make them proud and I also believe that the Honourable Members of the Ruling Party and all the other Members here have the same responsibility. Let us not let our supporters down and embarrass

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

them. Let us rather set the example and show respect to one another and put our heads together to solve the multitude of problems we currently experience in our country. That is what the Namibian Nation expects from us to do. Let us be seen as Members of Parliament who are dedicated and serious about the business.

In my book, one of the greatest statesmen that the world ever produced, Mr Nelson Mandela, once said: *“An organisation can only carry its mandate if there is discipline and where there is no discipline, there can be no real progress.”* Let us never forget that.

Coming to the Budget, Honourable Deputy Speaker, if my memory serves me correctly, I cannot remember that deliberations by Honourable Members in this House regarding the National Budget ever resulted in the Minister of Finance changing the Budget allocations after such a Debate. If this is going to be the case, then we should have had the opportunity to discuss these Budget proposals before it was tabled by the Minister. What sense does it make to discuss something that is already a *fait accompli*, if our contributions and deliberations will have no effect on the final outcome of this Debate? This current Debate can thus be perceived to be a futile exercise and please, do not tell me that this is how it is normally being done, Namibia is different and can deal with this in a different way and we could be the first to do it otherwise. It will, therefore, be appreciated if the Honourable Minister of Finance could give us direction on the issue, because if nothing is going to change, then let us change this Debate and spend our time productively on issues where our deliberations can have a positive influence. Alternatively, this Bill can be referred to the relevant Standing Committees and also from outside, because this is a great area of concern. When one studies the reaction that this Bill has generated from those outside this House and outside Government, it also seems as if the Minister has failed to consult all the relevant financial and economic institutions and the experts available to her. My question is; why was that not done? We have experts with tremendous capacity and capability available in our country, people who would have loved to make a contribution, people in companies who have proved themselves in the free market, being consultants for mega businesses, ensuring that these business institutions are being managed financially in such a way that maximum profits are being generated for its shareholders and they succeed. What makes the Namibian Budget different from any other business? To manage the Namibian Government is no different than to manage a big business institution.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

Big companies spend big moneys to ensure that they get the correct and relevant information as well as the right people in the right place, thereby ensuring that their businesses are a success. Are we doing the same in Government? Are we really using all the resources and expertise available in order to ensure that the affairs of this country are being managed properly and in the best possible interest of its shareholders, namely the Namibian Nation? I personally do not think so.

Again I say that my information is that the majority of experts out there were not consulted, people whose only contribution now is to criticise the Budget, but it seems as if it is too late. It will probably have no effect and I do not think that this was the way to go.

Honourable Kaiyamo mentioned in his speech that this Budget is the result of the collective wisdom of the SWAPO Party and not only of the Ministry of Finance. With all due respect, Honourable Deputy Speaker, history is the best witness that this is not good enough. Nobody, not a company or for that matter, a Political Party, can claim that it has the total wisdom and knowledge regarding all issues. There is only one who can claim that and this is our Lord, Jesus Christ.

From personal experience, I am a qualified civil engineer myself and I am blessed to have a very successful property development company for which I give my Lord, Jesus Christ, all the glory. I think I know the business of property development inside out, but this company was not successful from the outset. I tried to do everything in the beginning, to do the cost calculations, the project management as well as the financial management and I was struggling. It was only when I realised that I needed experts who are more qualified in certain areas than me that my situation turned around. I appointed a properly qualified Quantity Surveyor to do the costing, a properly qualified Project Manager and a properly qualified financial manager. That made the whole difference and today I am in a position where I spend my time managing the whole business without being under pressure.

There is no reason why the same should not be done in our Government. Proper management is the key word. We have too many Ministries where people are occupying positions for which they are not qualified. They are there because they know some of the Ministers or high-ranking officials in the Ruling Party or because they have made some sort of contribution.

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we paralyse the country because of the inefficiency of some Ministries, Government Agencies and Parastatals. A Government will only succeed once they would change the situation and let there be a clear distinction between the Ruling Party and the Government. Once elected, the Government should act in the best interest of all the people of Namibia and not only in the interest of a selected few. Excuses that senior personnel and Government officials and even Ministers should be appointed from the ranks of the Ruling Party because those from the Opposition Parties will sabotage the work of the Government is ridiculous, to say the least. I think that there are more people sabotaging the Government from within its own ranks than would have been the case should people with a different political sentiment be appointed.

The fact that the Ruling Party openly advocates that senior positions should only be occupied by SWAPO supporters can be seen as worrisome, because by doing so, the Government effectively sabotages the very principle of democracy by forcing people to join the Ruling Party in order to have a job.

Another reason as dangerous can be because the Ruling Party wants to close its rank and ensure that only those will know what is going on and the rest will have to keep quiet. I trust that under the able leadership and guidance of His Excellency, President Pohamba this behaviour will change as soon as possible. Why would anybody in his or her right mind want to sabotage our Government who is supposed to assure a secure future for all of us?

The Government should demonstrate its respect for our Constitution and treat everybody equal. The Namibian Government is exactly what it says – the Namibian Government. It is, therefore, the right of every Namibian to be part of the Government, whether it be the most junior or most senior position. Again, you cannot preach reconciliation on the one hand, and at the same time discriminate grossly against your fellow countrymen and countrywomen. We will only succeed as a Nation if we work together and if the Government appoints the best person available for the job.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is 15 years since we became independent and in the words of His Excellency, President Pohamba, “*the struggle is over.*” We are dealing with the lives and well-being of a Nation, we have a responsibility to ensure that whatever we do must only be in the interest of Namibia and all its people and not only in the interest of the supporters of the

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

Ruling Party and a selected few. If you want to be trusted, then you should always trust.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I spent a lot of time on this issue, but the point I am trying to make is that if the Government is really serious to reduce the current debt levels, it has no choice but to implement financial management systems that will address the lack of reporting and spending trends within the Government and by doing this, they will be able to identify areas of concern much earlier and not when the misappropriation has happened and when the Budget has been exceeded already.

A combined financial reporting system should also be implemented. Currently Government spends large amounts of money outside the Budget, money from donor funding or even with state-owned enterprises that is not reported in a combined format for easy control and decision-making by the Government. The big problem is that this increases the risk of mis-appropriation. But all this will have no effect as long as the Government allows persons to be appointed in positions for which they are not properly qualified. I am not only talking about people in senior positions, I mean every single position, from the Minister right down to the lowest ranking official.

Allow me to say that it is fairly easy to set goals, as was done by the Honourable Minister, but history has proven that the Government does not succeed to achieve these goals? Now, why does it happen? I have already given some reasons, but one of the main reasons is because the Government relies too heavily on unsustainable revenue resources, sources that are the mainstay of our income, like the fishing and mining industries as well as SACU. It is always better to over-deliver and under-promise than to over-promise and under-deliver.

Most worrying about this Budget is that the Government is again relying very heavily on grants and that makes it even more dangerous. Grants should be seen as a bonus. What if for some reason these grants do not materialise? A contributing factor for not achieving its goals is because of the inability of the Government to lower the levels of our current expenditure. In the layman's language this just means that the Government should reduce its spending by reducing the actual size of the Government and by managing the expenses incurred by the different Ministries better and more effectively and as far as revenue is concerned, to be more conservative with its expectations regarding

income.

Honourable Deputy Speaker that is how business works. If you cannot balance your budget by increasing your income, then you have no choice but to cut on your expenses. It seems as if the Government is determined to restrict expenses, but then it must pay strict attention to non-essential expenses like the new State House and the expenditure on Defence, to name two.

Talking about the Defence Budget, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I fully agree that the Government should do everything in its power to defend the people of Namibia. My question is; must we worry about attacks from outside our borders? Then I want to know, from whom? I cannot in my wildest dreams think that either South Africa, Botswana, Zambia or Angola would be interested at all. So, who else then? Is there something we should know? If this is the case, then the Honourable Minister of Defence should inform us. I am under the impression that except for Zimbabwe, the SADC countries are totally at peace with one another.

I am of the opinion that the biggest threat to the safety of our people lies within our borders and not outside. Our people are being murdered, raped, robbed and corrupted every day and the Police Force is unable to cope with all this. Why? Because it is understaffed, underpaid and under-trained and this situation is fast getting out of control. We must train, equip and empower the Police Force to be proud of their job and to have a passion to look after our fellow Namibians and we must introduce a policy of zero tolerance towards crime.

If the Government is serious to defend its people, then it has no option to increase the Budget of the Police Force drastically and to cut the Budget of the Defence Force. If the Government wants to modernise the equipment of the Defence Force, then do it over a period of time. It is time that we get our priorities right.

The same applies to the State House project which is also fast becoming an embarrassment. Normally when one decides to develop any project, you get properly qualified architects to submit sketch plans for the proposed project and then you appoint properly qualified and experienced Quantity Surveyors preliminary costs of such a project in order to see whether you can afford it or not. I suppose this was done with this project. The next step is to instruct the

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

team of consultants to submit the final design drawings as well as well the final estimate costs. Again it should have been approved by the Government, who is the client, and following this should have been to request reputable and properly qualified Building Construction Companies with a good track record and who could prove that they could handle such a project and could deliver the specified finishes and could finish the project on time to submit their tenders. Since the Government is working with public money, I assume that they appointed a company whose tender fell well within or close to the estimated cost that was calculated by the Quantity Surveyor.

During the construction phase the quantity surveyors, if they are properly qualified, will monitor the expenses on a continuous basis to ensure that there will be no overspending and should any situation arise that could affect the final cost of the project, then the Quantity Surveyor should have informed the client, in this case the Government, immediately and should have obtained permission for such additional expenses.

My question to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport is, was this procedure followed with State House or not and if not, then why not, because it is obvious that something is wrong somewhere, because how could the initial cost have been what was budgeted for and now it is almost double that? As I said before, I am in the building construction industry myself and I have not even heard of a house, never mind a building, that could cost that amount of money. An upmarket house today costs approximately N\$4,000 to N\$5,000 per square metre and if you double this and you say that State House can cost N\$10,000 per square metre, that means that State House should be in the region of about 50,000 square metres big. I just do not believe that is possible and want to confirm today that we will request His Excellency, President Pohamba to appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate the total project from day one until today.

The Government must never forget that they are working with taxpayers' moneys and they must ensure that they are always accountable. The whole State House project is perceived to have been covered in secrecy right from the start and it is not supposed to be like that. The house belongs to Namibia and its people and we ought to know what is going on there and find out if there is somebody to be held accountable and if so, who was that? The fact is that the Government cannot expect to be trusted by the people if it is not acting in a transparent way.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would now like to talk about the need and necessity for us to attract foreign investments. Vision 2030 is a very nice document with noble ideas. It is, however, one thing to put the dream on paper but it is something different to make its work. The fact of the matter is that in order to succeed in developing our country, the Government will have to do everything possible to make Namibia more attractive for local and foreign investors.

According to statistics, Namibia is the fourth most desirable country in Africa to visit mainly due to the fact that we experience peace and stability, but who are the ones beating us to the line? South Africa occupies the first position, followed by Mauritius and Botswana, two of them our direct neighbours. It must, therefore, be evident that peace and stability alone is not enough. Investors want a vibrant economy with lucrative incentives in which they will be able to generate healthy returns on their investments. Investors must be dealt with in a very special way and the Government must do whatever they can and put measures in place to ensure that Namibia be more attractive than our adversaries.

One area of concern is the fact that the Government is not doing enough to market this beautiful country of ours. Let us not fool ourselves to think that the sending and receiving of business delegations and Government officials will do the job. You can have the best product, but because of severe competition you will lose out if you do not market your product aggressively. If you walk the streets of the capitals of the world, excluding maybe those in some other countries like Germany and Britain, and ask the people whether they know where Namibia is, they look at you sheepishly because they just do not know and it is not their fault, we should advertise ourselves and market ourselves. Those of you who watched the European Cup final the other night between Liverpool and AC Milan, would have noticed that during halftime, Botswana and Kenya were advertising themselves. They were advertising their country as a paradise for investors. Where were we? That was extremely clever to do that, because they knew that millions of people are going to watch that match.

One of our biggest problems, however, is the fact that our corporate tax is, along with Ghana, the highest in Sub-Sahara Africa, standing at 35% compared to 25% of Botswana, 29% of South Africa and Mauritius, 15%. Then it must be obvious that we have a problem to start with.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

Another problem we have is what we call transfer pricing, where companies in Namibia with sister companies, for instance in South Africa, buy their stock from their sister companies in South Africa at an increased cost price. The cost, therefore, in Namibia is higher and therefore the profit less and they pay less tax, where the sister company in South Africa makes a bigger profit for selling at a higher price and they are quite prepared to pay their taxes there because of the tax that is much lower. This will be the case as long as corporate tax in Namibia remains higher than in South Africa.

I fully agree with the comment by a reputable auditing company who said that if Government wants to achieve the goals set out in Vision 2030, then we will have to offer potential investors something better than our neighbours. The Government will also, as a matter of urgency, have to look at the registration process for companies who want to start business in Namibia. This process takes much too long, the Government institutions dealing with these matters should be better trained and equipped in order to become much more efficient. The Government should also reconsider the current licensing and registration requirements for special incentives. While these incentives can have a positive impact on Companies with manufacturing and EPZ status, the registration process and qualification requirements are causing serious problems and, in fact, make it all unattractive.

An area great concern is the capacity and efficiency in the Office of the Receiver of Revenue regarding the technology and systems available. We are, therefore, pleased to hear that the Honourable Minister intends to increase the efficiency of tax collectors by utilising external entities. We trust, therefore, that it will be done by bringing in people with the necessary skills and qualifications, as well as to increase the level of on-the-job training and at the same time ensure that the latest technology and systems be installed. This will be money well-spent.

The Honourable Minister should also consider incentives built into the programme to ensure that optimal collections be achieved. There are too many saboteurs in the Namibian economy depriving the Government of much needed revenue, starting with those guilty of blatant tax evasion and those who cunningly avoid paying taxes by means of sophisticated tax structures. It is important to get these measures in place, because at the moment the middle income salary earners, who are already making the major contribution, are being burdened more heavily to fund the deficit. It is for this reason that we

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

are not in favour of the proposed increase on luxury items, the Government must be very careful not to dis-spirit this most important group.

It is also unfortunate that the Minister saw it fit to announce the taxation of unit trusts to be increased without the Ministry being able to explain to the industry exactly what is planned. This is causing great confusion amongst investors, with the result that some could start to cash up and go somewhere else. Should the Honourable Minister decide to increase the tax on unit trusts, we trust that it will not be backdated, because that will also be extremely unfair to those who have already invested in unit trusts prior to this announcement.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there are quite a number of issues in the Budget that has to be mentioned, like the use of forensic auditing that can result in major increased revenue. There is the issue of a certain part of the country where the most millionaires come from, but the revenue collected from that part is minimal in comparison with the rest of the country. Also the fact that the State-Owned Enterprises Bill, despite the fact that it is in the process of enactment for over a year now, is still not being implemented. The said Bill and its influence on corporate governance and effectiveness of parastatals are of utmost importance. The Bill will place the Government in a position to really govern the performance of parastatals effectively.

Another area of concern is the uncontrolled spending and overspending of Ministries and the fact that audited statements from the Auditor-General's Office are being tabled four to five years late. This is not good and something will have to be done about that without any further delay. Let me say immediately that I am not accusing the Office of the Auditor-General to be the culprit, although I am of the opinion that his allocation from the National Budget should be increased to enable him to sort out the work in his office more effectively.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have a little time left and I would like to end with another issue, but allow me to conclude my remarks on the Budget as follows and I am sorry if I am going to step on a few toes.

As I said in the beginning, to run a Ministry is like running a business. The person responsible is the Minister and he or she is responsible to ensure that the Ministry is run effectively and that the personnel perform efficiently and productively. It is also the responsibility of the Minister to ensure that the

01 June 2005

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

equipment and infrastructure be properly maintained and not to be abused. The major responsibility of the Minister is to see that the moneys allocated to the specific Ministry are well-managed and carefully spent. With all due respect, this is currently not the situation and we find ourselves in a position where there is almost not one Ministry where there are not serious problems. The Government vehicles are being used for private use, equipment is in a state of disrepair, personnel incapable of doing their jobs properly, corruption is the order of the day. Who is supposed to be the one accountable? I get the impression that everybody can basically do what they want and nobody is being held accountable. Serious consideration should be given on how Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Directors could be held more accountable.

I honestly trust that His Excellency, President Pohamba will put his foot down and honestly remove those who are not able to see to it that their Ministries are being run properly and effectively, because this is already an embarrassment for the country. Just read the newspapers, Honourable Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, I think Honourable Geingob will agree with me that this is even more damaging to the image of Namibia than the court case.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to come to the last part of my speech and want to say the following in conclusion:

Let me begin by saying that I never had the ambition or intention to be actively involved in politics, simply because I grew up in a political home and saw what it takes to make a positive contribution, because that is exactly what my father did. I had probably the best example why not to be involved, since it is extremely time-consuming if you want to do your job properly, but due to circumstances over which I had little control, I became the President of the Republican Party of Namibia. I had a vision that we could make a positive contribution and assist the Government of the day to find solutions to the multitude of problems we currently experience in our country. I was always trying to influence people to become involved for the sake of Namibia and nothing else. When I was elected president, I had no option but to accept, because how could I tell other people to become involved and make their contribution if I was not prepared to set the example?

With all respect, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not need to be President of the Republican Party, I also do not need to be a Member of Parliament and I do

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

not need, through the grace of Jesus Christ, My Lord that blessed me with a business that is doing so well, I also do not need the money. I am here representing the Republican Party of Namibia, to humbly offer my own and also my Party's assistance to make a difference for the sake of the people of Namibia as a whole, but particularly for those who are unemployed and those who are poor and destitute and there are thousands and hundreds of thousands of them.

All of us came through and experienced difficult times on the road to Independence. I am proud to have come from a home where my parents set an example of non-racialism to me. My father, out of his own choice, broke with the Party who is responsible for oppression and previously disadvantaged people because he realised how wrong it was. Our family was called names which I will not even mention in this House. All this was because we took a decision to stand for a non-racial, non-discriminatory system where everybody is equal.

Many people in this House fought the prolonged battle in their own way, some within the borders of Namibia and some from outside. Now Namibia is independent, but many of our fellow-countrymen and women still have to share in the welfare of our country and to taste prosperity and they are becoming desperate because it does not happen. Amongst them a lot of young people who now, after they had the opportunity to be properly educated, cannot find a job.

Namibia is only approximately 1,8 million people and there is no reason whatsoever why every Namibian cannot have a job, a house and be prosperous, but to be able to achieve this, we will have to focus on the big picture and be careful not to overstress the political part. We all have to sit down and reflect on the past, but after that take a deliberate decision to do what is right for the country first.

One of the greatest leaders, as I said, Mr Nelson Mandela, said: *"Reconstruction goes hand in hand with reconciliation"* and he also said, *"to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that it respects and enhances the lives of others."*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that I see it as part of my mission what Mr Mandela once said and that is to get those previous

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAPIA**

disadvantaged people of our country, those with education, knowledge, skills and expertise to come forward for the sake of this country and its people and to make their contribution in unison with those who were previously advantaged, to build our country to become the jewel of Africa and it is possible, because all us will need divine wisdom and guidance to be able to do just that.

I pray that my Lord, Jesus Christ, will bless His Excellency, President Pohamba and also the Government of the Republic of Namibia and all its people. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister Kapia.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the SWAPO Party and its leadership, the rank and file of the SWAPO Party Youth League, Women's Council, Elders' Council, the revolutionary workers under the umbrella body of the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) for having trust and confidence in the SWAPO Party, its presidential candidate and its Election Manifesto. It will go down in the history of our country that during the historic, peaceful and first presidential succession, the young people of this country, those of the age of 18 and above, voted in large numbers for the SWAPO Party and its presidential candidate.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I stand here before this august House as a humble servant of the aspirations, expectations and dreams of the youth of our country, represented by progressive revolution and militant transmitting belt of the SWAPO Party ideology, policies and programmes. It is because of this solid support of the youth, who make up more than 50% of Namibia's population, that both the National Council and National Assembly have many youth Members of Parliament. We thank the youth electorate and we want to thank the SWAPO Party President and the President of the Republic of Namibia,

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAPIA**

Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for having afforded the youth the responsibility in Government and Parliament. Therefore, the Members of Parliament have a national duty, namely to live up to the expectations and aspirations of our constituency and the Nation as a whole.

At the same time, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the Speaker in his absence for having been elected to lead this very important Parliament for the next five years. At the same time, let me also congratulate the Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for having introduced a dynamic Budget with a human face for the next twelve months and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

It is particularly pleasing that this Budget for the first time allocates a portion for the newly established Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture which deals almost exclusively with issues affecting and with direct impact on the youth of our country.

Indeed, this Budget has chartered a new path of hope which mirrors the gains of the Namibian revolution to prosperity. I, therefore, salute you, Comrade Minister of Finance.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am mindful that this is the first time that I am speaking as a Member of the National Assembly. I do so with humility and honour because during 1989 to 1990, great men and women of our country assembled to give birth to our constitutional democracy and particularly ushered in an independent and sovereign Nation. In a way, 15 years later, we are assembled here today to honour our ancestors and to pay tribute to our freedom fighters. It is because of their sacrifices that we as Namibians remain confident in our cause and in ultimate victory, manifested in fifteen years of peace, stability and Independence which we continue to witness in our lifetime.

Comrade Deputy Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament, I note the political milestones of peaceful presidential succession and on this note I must salute the visionary leadership of Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, the Founding President of our Republic and the President of SWAPO Party. Today in many parts of our country the practical footprints of his vision are there for us all to see and to experience. These are many projects, as mentioned by Honourable Amweelo.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAPIA**

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I salute and congratulate His Excellency, Comrade President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the Vice-President of the SWAPO Party with his landslide victory. I salute him for his leadership and unwavering determination to realise the legacy of peace, prosperity and economic empowerment. I also note with appreciation that upon assuming the role of President, Comrade Pohamba has directed that Government adopts the 2004 SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto as a Government programme. It is now the duty of us all to see that it is implemented without fail.

I pay tribute to all those Namibians who sacrificed their youth and lives for the liberation of Namibia. I particularly pay homage to the fallen heroes and heroines whose blood made it possible for us to deliberate on paths to our economic empowerment.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am not unaware of the challenges that we face as a country. I am however confident that we have the capacity to build on what we have achieved during the past fifteen years to Independence to create a society where our children have access to love and care, where every child gets the best possible education, where every person has access to quality health care, where every person, irrespective of skin colour or gender or socio-economic status is valued in their own right, where everybody who wants a job can get it and where our elderly live in safety and dignity. Fortunately, I can say with absolute confidence that the SWAPO Party is the only Political Party capable of realising these goals and national aspirations.

On this note, in order for our country to continue to care for its vulnerable groups, there must be safety nets aimed at assisting the elderly, youth, people with disabilities and Albinos.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am talking about our ability to avoid an increase in income inequality. I am talking about our ability to fund and maintain an appropriate level of armed forces both during peace and war. I am talking about our ability to survive as an independent and sovereign country. All of these things are at risk without a high rate of economic growth. The Budget estimates, as presented, are responsive to the expectation of favourable economic growth.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, because of the time situation, I will give you my speech to distribute to the House, but I want to mention some of the very

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAPIA**

critical and important things, although they were already mentioned.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I believe that in relation to the challenges of youth unemployment and eradication of poverty, some practical steps that need exploring must include the need to ensure that all Ministries and Parastatals, including the private sector, should budget for internship programmes aimed at building capacity and human resources of our people, particularly the youth and we must also vigorously pursue policies for job creation and, therefore, reduction of poverty by promoting and supporting the small and medium enterprises sector.

I fully support the call made by the Minister of Finance that financial institutions have a role to play in this programme instead of inhibiting efforts of expanding the Small and Medium Enterprise Sector.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, yes I have many things to say, but I do not want to keep you here. Within the framework of my mandate as a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication, I undertake, in partnership with my Minister, to contribute to the expansion of economic infrastructures, the delivery of efficient and quality service, the management of State assets throughout the country and supporting the labour intensive programmes, particularly public works in the country. These efforts are of national necessity in our efforts to modernise our infrastructure and expand our economic activities in the country and the sub-region.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, in conclusion therefore, I want to support this Budget and I do so because it is the Budget estimates which serve our national interest and security, particularly the correction national agenda set by the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, NDP2, Vision 2030 and the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of the year 2004.

With these remarks, I Move in support of the year 2005/2006 Budget estimates and I thank you.

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

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR ANKAMA**

HON DR ANKAMA: Comrade Deputy Speaker, fellow Members in this noble House of Parliament, I am happy to positively contribute to our National Budget during my maiden speech in this House.

At first, I would love to express words of good wishes to all peace-loving people of Namibia for their vision and continuous support and democracy for once again giving the SWAPO Party an overwhelming victory in the last elections. This signifies the strength of support and the extent to which the people of Namibia have vested their faith and trust in the SWAPO Party Government.

With reference to this, let me echo words of best wishes for the prosperous future of the Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, the Moses of the Namibian liberation struggle and President of the Ruling Party, Comrade Shafiishuna Tatekulu Sam Nujoma. His unwavering and charismatic leadership quality during the liberation struggle and Independence to present has inspired crowds of generations of the Namibian Nation to stand firm in unity in order to liberate Namibia and jealously guard the values of our hard-won Independence and democracy. I wish him plenty of good health, good years and enduring health.

Similarly, words of congratulations to our second President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba and the entire SWAPO-Party leadership for victory during the recent elections. The undisputable victory of SWAPO, a people's Party, in the last elections confirms what Comrade Nujoma stated last year in his introductory message in the SWAPO-Party Electoral Manifesto 2004 and I quote: *"Through the support of the Namibian people, today the SWAPO Party is a strong, modern, democratic, grassroots-based and reliable Political Party, representing the interests of all Namibians with a view to achieving peace and tranquillity, social justice, equal opportunity, transparency and accountability to its members, supporters and the entire Namibian Nation."*

Further, as the Ndilimani cultural group sings: *"Ino tila ngele uli na Hifikepunye"* Translated: "Never fear when you are with Hifikepunye."

In other words, we are being assured of Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba's leadership qualities. Therefore, best wishes and good health to our second Head of State.

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR ANKAMA**

Let me also express congratulations to all of us here, new and old Members in this august House. Our being in this House testifies the will of the people out there. Some of us here, indeed, knew and I for that matter would like to learn a great deal from you folks because I believe you to be highly experienced in the field of diplomacy and parliamentary procedure.

Further, I would like to wish all Opposition Parties who made it to this Parliament the best of good luck and hope that they will contribute positively to the shaping of Namibia. However, then I am not too sure where the CoD and the RP stand. In my understanding we are not enemies at all, but rather good citizens of Namibia with varied views and opinions. Even though few in numbers as Opposition, you should contribute constructively and, in fact, agree with us as many times as necessary.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me seize this ample opportunity to convey my congratulatory words to the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for presenting a thoughtful and practical rolling Budget for the year 2005/2006. Ladies and gentlemen, hats off for Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for being such a great foresighted divider of the national cake, a cadre and the Namibians' financial guide to future economic prosperity. Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amadhila's Budget is in line with the aspirations of the electorate.

The overwhelming victories of the SWAPO Party since Independence are a living demonstration to Namibia self and, indeed, to the international world how serious the SWAPO Party Government has committed itself to the principles of democracy, socio-economic development and good governance and thus, this trend should be continued further. Appreciation of ongoing positive delivery by the Government is usually shown in deeds by voters.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution to the Budget Debate will make more sense if at first I reveal where I hail from. Like many of us here, I will speak from a perspective of a son of a peasant farmer, a villager, cattle herder, a Bantu Education product, yet an educationalist and a multi-faceted community activist.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I have heard about overspending and under-under-spending before when Ministries and/or State-funded programmes and projects spent over their budget limits and where some of the abovementioned failed to

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR ANKAMA**

ensure projects budgeted for, perhaps due to other inhibiting factors. For these I would like to suggest that a series of evaluation programmes and mechanisms be instituted to look into how each entity that received funds from the Government administers its budget and why they have done what they have done.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to speak briefly about access to land and food. Ordinary people who fought for this country and who elected us to this House are concerned with how expensive basic commodities are, for example, bread, mahangu, meal, butter, cooking oil, cooking gas, etcetera. While the Namibian economy cannot be divorced from both the regional and world economic effects, it should be noted that natural disasters, like the recent drought, *oshikukuta*, which definitely took a lot of money from the National Budget, cannot be stopped but should be properly budgeted for to include local food reserves and logistics.

Thanks to the SWAPO-Party Government and those who aid us, I never heard of anybody dying in this country as a result of the drought. I strongly feel that the Government, through the Regional Councils, should budget for the construction of food stores for the storing of food and buying of local foodstuff in times of good years. Similarly, grassroots people also want to find out if at all they are considered in the Budget in any way to acquire land, whether for shelter or for food production. Meaning, the land question here rings a bell. I do not mean farming land for everyone, but access to land is a must for many Namibians, be it in communal or commercial areas.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, how much money is allocated is very important. This should also go along with various options. Forms of collateral, if available, or without and further, the land acquisition Budget Vote I think should include subsidy on farming implements and skills training for a couple of years. This will enhance the chance of farmers to produce more in times of good rain. The farms could also then sell local foodstuff to the Government for distribution during drought or export the surplus to the outside world, thereby uplifting our country's foreign earning capital.

Clean water, rural electrification, road networks, telephone communication and clinics:

I was able to visit a number of constituencies during our recent election

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR ANKAMA**

campaign last year and then I also had a chance to address rallies on national days this year at three constituencies at different occasions, namely Ompundja, Oshakati East, both in the Oshana Region, and Ondobe in Ohangwena Region. Although Namibia is indeed vast and that everybody needs development, clean water, rural electrification, road networks, telephone communication and clinics are among the top human basic necessities.

This brings me, Comrade Deputy Speaker, at the point of urging that sufficient funds should be allocated to all stakeholders responsible to implement the decentralisation policy, thereby giving power to Regional Councils. It will then be up to the Regional Councils, in collaboration with their respective constituency development committees, to plan and prioritise the order of the development needs over there. In addition, I strongly feel that proportional shares of the funds be clearly reflected for individual constituencies and projects earmarked for Regional Councils' Budgets.

Fellow Members of Parliament, rural development works in tandem with urban development. Therefore, capital projects or the development of towns, settlements and centres in each region should be harmonised between Regional and Town Councils within specific jurisdictions. This could help curbing waves of urban migration of people moving from rural to urban areas. Take care of housing, potable water, electricity and the likes in this rural village and if need be, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development could incorporate in each Budget an incentive assessment component to annually assess the extent to which regions and towns have implemented their developmental programmes and projects.

On education, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I cannot let go this chance without adding words to what other Colleagues have stressed. Many schools were built in Namibia since Independence, yet many are still needed to be established or shacks to be turned into buildings. Yes, Education got a lot of money in the past, at present too and hopefully in the future, but there are still visible disparities in our education system, such as in the quality of teachers and provision of facilities, particularly for the teaching of Science, according to the SWAPO-Party Election Manifesto of 2004.

It is a fact that the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of our schools will depend to a large extent on the nature of teacher education programme, as per the Ministry of Education and Culture of 1991. While education the world

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR ANKAMA**

over is said to be a right for everyone, be it a child or adult, this will only materialise if everyone is accorded the necessary resources and access to it, if everyone is able to maximally utilise the provided necessary resources and access to the possible attainable skills and expertise and if basic resources and finances are equitably provided for in education and competently used.

The history of education in Namibia is characterised by many factors in which some contribute positively, while others negatively affects development. Some of us, especially those in the teaching fraternity, want to see the trend of education marching side-by-side with the country's socio-economic development needs and, at the same time, empowering those folks who by history of this country remain disadvantaged. People's hopes would diminish if provision of education supplies to schools and other education institutions remain unimproved. It would diminish if under-resourced schools do not get preferential treatment in getting human and material resources from the Government to redress the imbalances. Human resources are unevenly spread across the country while some regions have a significantly higher learner-teacher ratio than other regions, like for example schools in the northern regions.

Yes, education is a priority among priorities, but that is not enough. I want us to stop for a while and give a thought to the following jumbled basics: For example, what type of education does Namibia have? What is it that Namibia wants? What type of industries does the neighbours of Namibia have, for example? What types of industries are likely to be in Namibia in 20 or 30 years' time? What do we produce as a country and what do we export to the world? Ladies and gentlemen, if explored in detail, these questions could lead us to answer why we need change.

You have come across a Grade 10 or Grade 12 graduate who is unable to mend his own trousers or shorts and you have seen this other high school graduate who can barely read, write or do anything academically convincingly. You see, much needs to be done, money is there but the challenge would be the emphasis of education. You do not necessarily want to see everyone going to school for the sake of going there, but you want to see that many of those who went to school, indeed contribute positively at the end of the school career to the economic development of this country.

There are currently a number of education-related issues Namibians are talking

about. You get this from newspapers, ration, television or you hear this when you are travelling by taxi or bus or you hear them in your village or hometown. What this tells you at the moment is that something is not right, something needs to be addressed. Of course, I do not want to suggest any direct answers at this juncture, but carefully listening should teach us to firmly or carefully and timely attend to all these problems.

It is also correct to say that the answer to this problem is to a large extent with the complainants, be they students, teachers, parents or direct stakeholders than with the Government. The question is, what should we do to aid the Government which commits a lot of finances in order to improve education in this country? We should also recommit ourselves in making sure that such Government committed finances through the Ministry of Basic Education are put to correct use, such as in upgrading of teachers already in service to get the necessary qualifications, to relieve the system from relying on foreign experts.

At the same time we need to create relevant curricula and the school system that can prepare our students to learn practical skills-oriented subjects to enable them later to create jobs rather than for many of them to expect Government recruitments, NAMCOL students or to become street kings and queens. Also to expand colleges of education and vocational training institutes' curricula and then train the necessary number of students in response to Namibia's needs.

Questioning the Cape syllabus education in Namibia during the National Conference on IGCSE/HIGSCE Examinations implementation in Namibia at Swakopmund on 5th of May 1993, Hage Geingob, Namibia's first Premier said: *"Lack of appropriate education and skills has been one of the fundamental reasons for our not having been able to break away from mere commodity-driven economy. For the same reason, knowledge-intensive and technology-intensive industries have bypassed us. Thus, in this case too our education system was the culprit."*

Another area of concern on education is the need to critically review students' grants and loans in order for them to access tertiary education. While the money might be there, the system of loan allocation needs overhauling. Some fulltime students are crying without loans. For example some of my former nursing students at the UNAM Northern Campus either get the loans in their second year of study while others have received nothing at all. This situation

01 June 2005

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR ANKAMA**

can be generalised to the students who are admitted to other institutions of higher learning but without loans or grants.

Comrade Minister of Finance, as you grant a substantial portion of the national cake to Education, I want to earnestly urge that these funds be cautiously spent in order for them to bring excellent economic returns to this young Nation.

Job opportunities: We have a great number of youth joining the street movements of the unemployed yearly and this creates a great concern in our country. The group needs our concerted efforts in order for us to restore the humanity and dignity of our youth and equality for the youth in the Land of the Brave, to bravely and meaningfully contribute to the development of our future prosperity. Now that there is a Ministry exclusively for Youth and Sport, one expects a lot of improvements to be done in bringing the unemployment rate down and one hopes that the National Youth Programme will eventually engage our youth in activities and programmes that instil nationalism, patriotism, sense of belonging, accountability, self-respect and job creativity.

People are inclined to learn from past experience and we should do likewise. Ministries and Government-funded programmes should be encouraged to work in collaboration with private institutions and non-Governmental organisations on the issue of job creation and youth training programmes. In other words, since youth training and educational programmes are aimed at creating a skilled force for the Namibian market and beyond, partnership between training institutions and labour organisation are of crucial importance when it comes to harmonisation of the curricula and the training.

In conclusion, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, bringing my verbal communication to an end, I would like to once more stress the following: This Budget brings home the hopes of many people in anticipation of the economic good, if not the economic better. This Budget promises a fair share of the national cake. This Budget shuns the deficit and self-enrichment schemes and creates room for future economic development in Namibia. Colleagues, this Budget looks golden and should, therefore, be embraced. Ladies and gentlemen, I support the Budget and I thank you for your attention.

01 June 2005

ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In terms of Rule 90, automatic adjournment, the House adjourns until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:30 UNTIL 2005.06.02 AT 14:30