

# **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 Ilonga	<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 *(Chief Whip)*

### **DTA OF NAMIBIA**

Mr K Kaura *(Leader of the Opposition)*  
Mr J De Waal *(Chief Whip)*  
Mr P Moongo  
Mr M Venaani *(Deputy Whip)*

### **MONITOR ACTION GROUP**

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

### **NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA**

Mr A Mbai  
Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*  
Mr A Tjihuiko *(Chief Whip)*

### **REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA**

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

### **SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*  
Ms D Sioka *(Deputy Speaker)*  
Mr N Angula *(Prime Minister)*  
Dr L Amathila *(Deputy Prime Minister)*  
Rev W Konjore *(Minister)*  
Mr B Amathila *(Government Chief Whip)*  
Mr H Booy's *(Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee)*  
Mr R Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*  
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 Ilonga	<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 Tjiriange (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 *(Party Leader)*

Mr M Goreseb

Ms G Tjombe *(Chief Whip)*

## **NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT**

Mr R Diergaardt

Ms I Hoffman

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr C Namoloh *(Minister)*

Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo *(Deputy Minister)*

Mr P Smit *(Deputy Minister)*

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
16 JUNE 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**TABLING: 2003/2004 ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE NATIONAL ARTS GALLERY**

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the 2003/2004 Annual Report, of the National Arts Gallery of Namibia.

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

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**HON MOONGO:** Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

1. Can the Prime Minister inform this House about the current state of drought aid in the Caprivi, Kavango and Oshikoto Regions?
2. When can the San community of the Oshikoto Region expect drought aid in their area, for they have not received any since 2004?
3. Can the Prime Minister also explain to this House why drought aid

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON GORESEB**

was allowed to rot in storing facilities while people are starving?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Goreseb.

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**HON GORESEB:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Education, Honourable Mbumba, the following:

1. Is it true that the Ministry of Education is discriminating against old teachers on the following grounds: That from the current circular addressing the appointment requirements of teachers that newly appointed teachers, even those who returned to the service after they have resigned, will be better off than those who loyally remained in the service? This argument is because the said circular fails to indicate that the translation measures will also be affected in respect of teachers who remained in the service.
  2. Promotion restrictions: The policy on promotion at the Ministry of Education provides only for holders of certain posts to be promoted to the next level. An ordinary teacher with the required qualification, skills and experience does not qualify to be promoted to a post in the teaching management. Is this practice fair, democratic and in line with the Constitution? Why not level the playing ground for effectiveness?
  3. Housing benefits: The policy on housing provides that both spouses qualify in their own right to participate in the housing scheme, but are treated as a unit and only qualify for subsidy on the maximum loan amount. Why can both spouses not qualify for a subsidy in their own rights or are women still treated as unequal to men?
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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON BOOYS**

**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON BOOYS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 05, 06, 09, 14, 17, 19 and 27 be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Members of this august House. Today is the Day of the African Child and as we know, this day has been recognised as the Day of the African Child after the children of Soweto in South Africa marched against the inferior Bantu Education and a 12-year-old boy, Hector Peterson, was brutally killed for saying, “*No more Bantu Education*”. Today I invited twelve-year-old orphans from the Au-Khei-Khas Primary School of Katutura to join us. Can the children please come to the front as was arranged?

That picture was taken of Hector Peterson on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1976. That boy was brutally killed and another boy picked him up and his sister was running along. This is a picture of that historical day.

The Day of the African Child marked the brutal murder of the children of Soweto, amongst them twelve year old Hector Peterson, by the South African Forces when they were fighting against the inferior Bantu Education. They were marching and they were singing, “*We fight for education, we fight for education, education, education*” and it happened that that day they were killed. I now brought candles of hope, because the bravery of those children, the same age of the ones standing here, brought quality education to South Africa as well as to Africa and Namibia.



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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON MUNGUNDA**

We will now light candles of hope. The first candle of hope will be for discipline and that one will be lit by the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

The second candle of hope for quality education will be lit by the Deputy Minister of Education, as the Minister is not here.

The third candle of hope for healthy youth will be lit by Honourable !Nawases.

The fourth candle of hope for a culture of care will be lit by Honourable Ncube.

These candles of hope show us that as long as there are children, there is hope for the future of a Nation. This year's theme for the Day of the African Child for Namibia is, "*Orphans – Our Collective Responsibility*".

We will now look at some of the programmes taken care of by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, but all of us have to contribute to augment the programmes of the Ministry.

The Children's Home is one of those programmes where destitute children and orphans are taken care of. Some of them already completed their Polytechnic studies. Some of them are now working for the Ministry after completing their Tertiary Education. These are the success stories of this programme.

Let us then look at the initiatives by the women in the community, especially in the Hardap Region. I was part of this programme, because I always say, "*We must walk the talk.*" We have three Homes of Hope in the Hardap Region one in Mariental one in Kalkrand, one in Aranos. These are drop-in centres for feeding schemes for orphans, we give them an annual Christmas party, and this shows the Christmas party in 2003.

We also have another community initiative where in 2000 we again had a Christmas programme for the orphans in Gibeon.

These are all unemployed women who started with these initiatives, which shows the culture of care. We have a feeding scheme and the women are giving a hot meal to the orphans at those drop-in centres every day. The Governor of the Hardap Region, Honourable Hanse, is the regional coordinator for that programme which is called the Hope AIDS Group and I am the patron of that programme.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON MUNGUNDA**

Here we have a group of men and women who were trained in home-based care and counselling and orphan care, because you cannot understand the real culture of care if you do not understand how to approach these children. Therefore, the women are trained by our National AIDS Coordination Programme, which is also sponsoring the training.

These two pictures were taken on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. The picture was taken on 16 June 2002 in Aranos when I addressed them, as the Deputy Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare. We also handed out second-hand blankets, clothes and foodstuff. We are not only talking, we are also giving them something.

This is of the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2001 in Rehoboth at Block E, the area where the non-Baster people are staying in the dunes. They benefited from the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2001.

This morning we addressed the celebrations of the Day of the African Child in Windhoek, Khomas Region. All the schools were represented and the Prime Minister was the guest speaker and our First Lady, Madam Pohamba, has been invited by the First Lady of Angola, who is the Chairperson of the SADC First Ladies. They will have a fundraising function for children in Angola who lost their limbs through landmines and for the destitute orphans who could not be reunited with their parents. Our Ministry donated goods valued at about N\$20,000 and the First Lady, the Honourable Speaker's spouse and my Deputy Minister left this morning. We reach out to Angola in solidarity, our care is for the African children, and we really demonstrated this by our actions this year.

Honourable Speaker, this is a special day that we dedicate to thinking, acting, speaking and recommitting ourselves to the welfare and happiness of all children of Africa and in particular, the Namibian children. This day, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, has been chosen in memory of the brave children of Soweto, South Africa, who stood up for their rights in 1976, demonstrating against the oppressive apartheid regime of the time and against the inferior education for black children, known as Bantu Education.

Many positive things have happened since that day. Africa is fully decolonised and African children benefit from many new opportunities, such as improved health, education and protection of human rights, amongst others. Two important documents, namely the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990, ratified by the majority of the States of the

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HON MUNGUNDA**

world including African States, make it compulsory for Governments to ensure safe and protected childhoods for their young generations.

In spite of these positive developments, children remain vulnerable and suffer deprivations all over the world because of war, poverty and diseases, among others. According to the recently issued UNICEF's The State of the World's Children, 2005 Report, more than half of the children in the developing world are severely deprived of one or more of the necessities essential to childhood, such as shelter, access to sanitation, access to safe water, access to information, and access to health care, etcetera.

Namibia is part of the developing world and Namibia's children suffer from these deprivations. Besides, our children are severely affected by HIV/AIDS and many of them have been orphaned by the disease. That is the reason why the Namibian Government decided to mark this year's celebration of the Day of the African Child under the slogan, "*Orphans – Our Collective Responsibility*".

It is estimated that 115,000 children are orphaned in Namibia mainly due to AIDS. The majority of these children are exposed to poverty, food shortages, illnesses and other hardships mentioned earlier. It is, therefore, necessary for our Nation to do all in its power to protect these children and help them grow into healthy and productive members of our society.

Carol Bellamy, the Executive Director of UNICEF states the following: "*As children go, so go the Nations*". I cannot agree more, the future of our Nation depends on the quality of life and care we ensure for our children.

In February this year a National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Conference was held in Windhoek, which adopted the National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Policy and proposed a number of measures to benefit orphans and other vulnerable children. The conference, among other things, agreed that orphans and vulnerable children must remain in school, complete their education, be protected from abuse, have access to health services and social grants and that food security must be ensured.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is doing all in its power to make these resolutions a reality. For example, in 2004, 2,583 orphans have been enrolled in early childhood development centres and the Ministry provided technical and material support to the centres that exempted these children from paying enrolment fees. The Ministry is also in the process of compiling a database of all orphans and vulnerable children in the country, so that those children in need of care could receive

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the maintenance grants. 28,187 children have benefited from the maintenance and foster care grants in the 2004/2005 Financial Year and an additional amount of N\$32 Million has been requested for the current Financial Year. Therefore, the 22,000 children could be added to the list of beneficiaries. That is the culture of care!

Apart from the children's grants, subsidies are being paid to registered welfare organisation taking care of the orphans and vulnerable children to ensure their access to essential basic services. The capacity of families, communities and social service providers to care for the orphans and vulnerable children has to be strengthened through training. That is why the Ministry is involved in either direct training or supporting the training programmes of other institutions aimed at offering assistance to orphans and vulnerable children. The Ministry is carefully coordinating its efforts with other Government Ministries and institutions as well as Non-Governmental Organisations, donor agencies, church-based organisations, community-based organisations and others in order to prevent duplication and ensure effective and timely assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children. What I have said so far is only part of our activities to illustrate our Government's political will and commitment to orphans and vulnerable children. No matter how much the Government is involved, the problems facing orphans and vulnerable children will not be solved solely through Government efforts.

To deal with this huge challenge in an effective way, our Nation must demonstrate its unity of purpose and determination to help orphans and vulnerable children. It means that every individual, every family, every community and especially every lawmaker and national leader have a role to play. The best way to do it is that we ask ourselves at the end of every day: *"What have I done today to make life happier for the orphans and vulnerable children?"* No family and no community in Namibia have not been somehow affected by HIV/AIDS. We can help children within our immediate or extended family or within our local community in more than one way. We can help them by sharing our resources, be it food, shelter, clothing or money. If we happen to be very poor ourselves and have no material possessions to share, we can still offer a smile, encouragement, advice, physical protection and friendship to orphans and other vulnerable children. Our intention and disposition are equally, if not more important than our wealth. Therefore, there is no excuse for not getting involved, because orphans are our collective responsibility.

In conclusion, Namibia is a small Nation of 1,8 million people, it is almost like a family. Our existence is seriously threatened by the AIDS pandemic.

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HON DR KAMWI**

We may have no future if we do not act now to stop the spread of the disease and overcome its consequences. Protection of and care for orphans is an integral part of that effort. Actions speak louder than words. Let us find our humanness in action. All children are our children, support and love orphans and vulnerable children as if you were their biological parent. Orphans and vulnerable children together with all children are our tomorrow.

I congratulate all Namibian children on their day, the Day of the African Child. Let us celebrate it holding hands with other brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. That is not reason for them not to enjoy happiness. God bless the African children, God bless the Namibian children. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Mungunda, Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, for enlivening Parliament's outreach initiative by making this Chamber a warm, welcoming and reassuring House for our children. The well-being and the future of our children generally and in particular, that of orphans and other vulnerable children, is our collective responsibility.

To the young ones, we love you. We care for your safety and security and for the provision of your education. We will remember the day, 16 June, the Day of the African Child, now and always.

Honourable Members, today being Thursday, the business of the House is initiated from the Opposition benches. Notice of Question number 9 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 9:**

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**  
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to the question put by Honourable Moongo.

First, I had some difficulties in making head or tail out of what he wanted

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HON DR KAMWI**

to put to me. The first part of his question on this Question Paper seems to have been modified from what he expressed. A part thereof is a statement of fact. This piece of legislation indeed went through this august House, but I have a problem with the last part of his question where he speaks of corruption and nepotism. On the first Question Paper I had it mentioned "*baribarism*" and this one mentions "*barbarism*." I tried to look at the definition and I felt it should be rephrased.

Regarding question 2, Honourable Speaker, Sir, for the past five years Oshakati Hospital employed workers, cleaners, institution workers and labourers only twice. The first recruitment took place in 2004. The announcement was made over the Radio for the recruitment of cleaners. In response, 17,000 candidates applied for the 39 vacant posts. Thus, the selection committee was overwhelmed by the unexpected response. It started with an elimination procedure by using the following criteria: Only applicants from Oshakati district were considered. That brought it to a number of 600 candidates. As the next step, the panellists decided to take every seventh application from the pile of files by counting one to seven. Ultimately, they reached 60 candidates to be interviewed. Out of these, the 39 candidates were successful.

The second recruitment was done in April 2005 for cleaners and one record clerk. The cleaners had 1,960 applications and only 10 workers were required. The selection was done by the Senior Superintendent, assisted by senior officials of the Hospital who came up with seventeen candidates to be interviewed. There was only one post of record clerk and five candidates applied. The selection and interview process was followed in the case of cleaners. Reviewing this process had it that a mistake was made, first, in 2004 for having advertised the 39 vacant posts for cleaners through electronic media. This gave high expectations, which could not be met. For example, candidates as far as Lüderitz applied for a cleaner post in Oshakati. The selections in both cases were fair and transparent. The interviews were carried out by a mixed group of panellists. It should be noted by the Honourable Member that cleaners or institutional workers are all entry posts. In fact, according to the Public Service Staff Rules, there is no need for one to advertise and interview entry posts. Despite this provision, my officials went an extra mile by interviewing these categories for the sake of transparency. Thus, the motive behind the allegations stated here by the Honourable Member is futile and is not clear. It is unnecessary, as far as I am concerned.

On question 3, the information and findings shared with this august House in response to these concerns were reviewed by a committee, which was

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HON PANDENI**

assigned to look into these allegations. Given this background, I do not see the need to establish another committee at this stage for the same reasons. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 10 is by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 10:**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members of Parliament, allow me to use this opportunity to respond to questions raised by Honourable Moongo in this august House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2005 on issues pertaining to traditional matters.

In the first place, when I looked at the questions, the first question mentioned a Senior Headman Tuleigel Wapulile in the Ekoka area.

Honourable Speaker, I really tried my level best to locate the identity of this person and I could not find any, but I presume that possibly the Honourable Member referred to Tileinge.

In his first two questions, Honourable Moongo asked whether my Ministry is aware of the constant tension between the Ondonga and Oukwanyama Traditional Authorities on the swearing in of a Senior Headman Tileinge Wapulile in the Ekoka area and if so, when is my Ministry going to intervene to prevent bloodshed?

At the onset, I would like to state that my Ministry is not aware of any dispute between Ondonga and Oukwanyama Traditional Authorities on the swearing in of Senior Headman Tileinge Wapulile in Ekoka area. However, there has been some misunderstanding between the two Traditional Authorities over the swearing in of Mr Wapulile in Ekongola which, in terms of the binding agreement signed by the two Traditional Authorities at Oshakati on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2004 in the presence of the Founding President, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, falls under the jurisdiction of the Ondonga Traditional Authority.

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HON PANDENI**

After various consultations at Government level with all the stakeholders, both the Ondonga and Oukwanyama Traditional Authorities are well aware and are in agreement with each other over the border issue.

In terms of the agreement, the two Traditional Authorities agreed on the following terms, amongst others, that from the area of Oshigudhiya towards the south will fall under the administration of Ondonga Traditional Authority; from the area of Oshigudhiya northwards to the Namibian-Angolan border up to Kavango, will fall under the Oukwanyama Traditional Authority; that *Omukwaaniilwa* and *Ohamba* resolved that procedures with regard to settlement should be done through the appropriate Traditional Authority responsible for that communal area. No individual will be allowed to settle in any area without first seeking and receiving permission from the respective Traditional Authority, that is Ondonga or Oukwanyama.

However, despite mutual understanding between the two Traditional Authorities, there has been an uneasy feeling among some community members who are not in support of the swearing in of Mr Wapulile as a Senior Headman at Ekongola. In this regard, I would like to inform Honourable Moongo that my Ministry is fully aware and has been following developments of the unfortunate situation that is prevailing within the communities concerned with regard to the swearing in of Mr Wapulile in the Ekongola area. It is for this reason that the Ministry has been in constant contact and consultation with both the Ondonga and Oukwanyama Traditional Authorities, urging them to find a mutually acceptable solution for the matter. That is why my Ministry is in the process to institute a special investigation team to visit the area in question and advise my office accordingly as per the Traditional Authorities Act (Act 25 of 2000).

In the third and fourth questions Honourable Moongo asked whether the community could be allowed to take the law into their own hands or does it mean that my Ministry has a secret agenda on the Ekoka tension.

First, I would like to state that there is no tension amongst the community over Ekoka and that my Ministry does not have any secret agenda on the matter. We are the central institution that looks after the well-being of all our citizens irrespective of whom they are and where they are from. Therefore, this question is irrelevant and is not worth contemplating.

On the question of law and order, I would like to inform Honourable Moongo that Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia



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HON PANDENI**

guarantees fundamental human rights and freedoms to all Namibians irrespective of their ethnic or tribal orientation. Therefore, the Constitution, which is the Supreme Law of the Republic, does not allow or permit anybody to take the law into his or her own hands. The State instruments empowered to maintain law and order are there to ensure that lives and properties of individuals are protected as enshrined in Chapter 3 of the Constitution.

In his sixth and seventh questions, Honourable Moongo wanted to know whether Customary Law and Traditional Authorities have the power to adjudicate the swearing in of Headmen in their respective areas of jurisdiction. What power does the Council of Traditional Leaders have in terms of the Traditional Authorities Act regarding the issues of jurisdiction and what power does the community have to prevent the rightful Traditional Authority to execute its duty in choosing its Senior Headmen.

In this connection, I must inform the Honourable Member that Article 66 of the Constitution does not only end up by saying that Customary Law, as at the date of Independence, remains valid. It is further stated that Customary Laws remain valid on the day of Independence to date as long as they are not in conflict with the Constitution. However, I do not know which Customary Law the Honourable Member is referring to.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, in the simplest term, these questions of Honourable Moongo are displaced and generalised. As a lawmaker and a Traditional Leader himself, Honourable Moongo should not exploit the situation of Ekongola and bring confusion to this august House by coming up with stories which are unfounded. Act 25 of 2000, the Traditional Authorities Act, has expressed itself very clearly on the powers and functions of Traditional Authorities and Act 13 of 1997 of the Council of Traditional Leaders has expressed itself on the matter. These laws were made with the knowledge of the Honourable Member being an elected leader to represent his Party in Parliament over the past years. Therefore, it is not in anybody's interest to be drawn into politicising community issues to score cheap political points now.

Secondly, I find it reprehensible for the Honourable Member to question whether community members have the power to prevent the rightful Traditional Authority from executing its duties. However, if there is evidence to suggest that there are disputes over jurisdiction of a certain area, as a procedure and in accordance with the Traditional Authorities Act (Act 25 of 2000), the Ministry will institute a committee to investigate such

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HON PANDENI**

grievances as brought to it and advise accordingly or refer the matter to the Council of Traditional Leaders for further consideration.

I therefore wish to call upon Honourable Moongo to be more responsible and careful when handling community issues as they are very sensitive and have the potential of disturbing the peace and stability that we are all enjoying.

In his eighth and last question, Honourable Moongo asks what the stance of my Ministry is regarding the matter and having regard to Article 19 of the Constitution. Honourable Speaker, I have already stated that most of Honourable Moongo's questions are misplaced and generalised. Having read Article 19 of the Constitution, I do not know what Honourable Moongo is trying to come up with. This question is irrelevant on the subject matter on the table and is dismissed as such.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to thank Honourable Moongo for expressing his keen interest in the matter, as has been demonstrated by his interesting questions tabled before this august House. I thank you.

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**HON MOONGO:** First of all, I thank the Honourable Minister for the good answers although some of them were not that good. I would like to ask whether the Minister is aware that people surrounded the other group with pangas and assegais and traditional weapons the whole night and they ate all the meat. My intention is to prevent chaos and unrest and not that I am instigating. I want the Minister to intervene in order to prevent chaos.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, since this is a new question, the Honourable Member will possibly table it accordingly and we will respond.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The eleventh question is by Honourable Moongo to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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RT HON N ANGULA**

**QUESTION 11:**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Moongo has been throwing this question all over the place, but this time I will answer him and I want him to take his Constitution and turn to Article 8, which is titled, "*Respect for Human Dignity*".

Article 8(2)(b) reads: "*No person shall be subject to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*" This Mr Kandove is protected by this Constitution. If he feels that he has been degraded, he should go to the Police and report the case there, open a docket and take Mr Katumbe to Court and claim damages. That is the best way he can protect his dignity. Thank you.

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**HON MOONGO:** I thank the Honourable Prime Minister for the straightforward answer.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 12 is by Honourable Viljoen to the Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 12:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Jurie Viljoen as follows:

Land tax is regulated under Section 76 of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act of 1995, which *inter alia* provides for the introduction of regulations to impose land tax to be paid by the owners of agricultural land and prescribe the rates, methods of calculation and the time and manner of payment or collection of such tax and penalties for any failure to pay such tax or comply with any provision of such regulations. The regulations are in place and they are known as Land Valuation and Taxation Regulations of 2001.

The same Act allows the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement to exempt formerly disadvantaged farmers from paying land tax on

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HON KATALI**

application. For the 2004/2005 Financial Year, the formerly disadvantaged farmers who have applied or will apply will be exempted from 85% of the amount.

Following the approval of the valuation roll by the Valuation Court in November 2004, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is well positioned to calculate and facilitate the collection of land tax payable by all commercial farmers. The amount expected to be channelled into the State coffers for the year 2004/2005 is expected to be around N\$30 million.

The number of commercial farmers who have applied for exemption of land tax so far are 212 farmers, but the applications are still being received. This entails that an amount of N\$152,689 so far will be paid to the State during the 2004/2005 Financial Year by the 212 commercial farmers who have so far qualified for exemption.

On the question of the farms acquired as early as 1998 by Government and which are still looked after by caretakers, the answer is that the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement does not have farms purchased since 1998, which have not yet been allocated to the beneficiaries. It is further important to note that land reform takes place in terms of the Agricultural Land Reform Act of 1995. To conform to the provisions of the abovementioned Act, farms for resettlement are first demarcated, gazetted and then advertised. Thereafter those Namibians who meet the requirements are expected to complete application forms for resettlement as individuals, families or as registered cooperatives.

The duly completed forms are submitted to the Regional Resettlement Committee through the office of the respective Governors or the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement Regional Offices. Therefore, no allocation can be effected without conforming to the abovementioned procedures.

I have consulted the Honourable Member and he provided me with three names of farms, which he alleged were bought in 1998, but have not yet been resettled. To be accurate, two farms by the names of Tsumas and Barotta were bought at the end of 2004. However, only Farm Nakuseb was indeed bought in 1998. Farm Barotta has already been allocated to owners last month and as such, is considered resettled. Farm Tsumas was referred back to the Regional Resettlement Committee by the Land Reform Advisory Commission because procedures set out for resettlement were not properly followed. It is envisaged that this farm will also be resettled in the very near future.

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HON KATALI**

Yes, Farm Nakuseb was bought in 1998. The period when it was acquired was also when Namibia was experiencing a state of drought that necessitated for a number of families to be temporarily placed there to see them through that difficult period. In 2000 when the temporary placed families left, two family caretakers were placed on the farm, but they engulfed in a dispute. A problem of swapping the units arose, after which the Namibian Police investigated the matter. Following the findings of the investigation, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement decided to relocate the two families to other farms, namely one to Farm Tsumas and another to Farm Barotta. Arrangements are now in their final stages to settle already identified families on this disputed Farm Nakuseb.

Comrade Speaker, although this farm was not formally allocated because of the dispute, it does not mean that it was lying idle. This farm was being utilised by the caretakers who in fact had their livestock on the farm since that period.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, please note that there is no preferential list for resettlement and that all applications are dealt with on their particular merits.

Regarding whether or not any disabled Namibian, notwithstanding race, colour or gender, qualified for resettlement, the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act clearly refers to all Namibians who were socially, economically and institutionally previously disadvantaged. Anybody who meets these requirements qualifies for resettlement, inclusive of persons with disabilities. Indeed, disabled persons who were disadvantaged in the past constitute the main target group for resettlement. I thank the Honourable Member for asking these questions and I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister, Honourable Katali, former school principal of Onesi, for his good and straight answer, although I am not satisfied with question 3, but I think I will take it up with the Deputy Minister himself. Thank you very much.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**  
**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: ANIMAL DISEASES  
AND PARASITES BILL  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**COMMITTEE STAGE: ANIMAL DISEASES AND PARASITES  
AMENDMENT BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Assembly resumed yesterday, Honourable Mr De Waal adjourned the discussion on Clause 4. Progress was reported and leave was granted to sit again. Does the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call upon the Deputy Speaker, the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the Animal Diseases and Parasites Amendment Bill. Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were agreed to and Clause 4 stood over. I now invite further discussions on Clause 4.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Honourable Deputy Speaker, Clause 4 was adjourned yesterday because we had to clarify the issue of the two Acts that seem to exist, the Animal Diseases of 1984 and the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act of 1956, which appear to be the same kind of legislation.

I want to thank Honourable Venaani for having asked the question for

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HON DE WAAL**

clarification. What happened is that the 1956 South African Act was amended in 1973 and in 1978 that amended Act was made applicable to the then South West Africa, Namibia now. Then in 1984, South Africa came up with a new Bill, the Animal Diseases Act, and that Act was made applicable to South Africa and never to Namibia and, therefore, Namibia remained with the Act called Animal Diseases and Parasites Act of 1956, which we amended in 1996 and this one is the second Amendment to the Act which is applicable to Namibia. In that case, we are on the right track to amend the Act, which is applicable to Namibia. However, I must say I agree with Honourable Mutorwa that the Act is too archaic. It needs to be looked into for us to come up with a new Act, but for the time being it is sufficient for us to amend it in order to suit our present circumstances. Thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Any further discussions? Honourable De Waal.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for the clarification and we support the adoption of Clause 4. Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Bill reported without Amendment.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

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**THIRD READING: ANIMAL DISEASES  
AND PARASITES BILL  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**THIRD READING: ANIMAL DISEASES AND PARASITES  
AMENDMENT BILL**

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

I so Move. Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Colleagues of DTA for having raised the question of having two pieces of legislation which appear to have caused the confusion, but I think by now we are satisfied that we are actually on the right track. Thank you very much.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE:  
TRANSFER OF CONVICTED OFFENDERS BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Speaker, the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Transfer of Convicted Offenders Bill.

Clauses 1 to 19 put and agreed to.



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**COMMITTEE STAGE: TRANSFER OF  
CONVICTED OFFENDERS BILL  
HON NANDI-NDAITWA / HON TSHEEHAMA**

Clause 20 put.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:**

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I recall yesterday when you were discussing this Bill, there was a question on the checks and balances and what guarantee do we have that once these people have been transferred to their respective countries, they will complete their sentences.

I just want to find out from the Minister whether Clause 20 is a safety net for that and whether the interpretation here will mean nobody should be transferred without the agreement being ratified by the National Assembly. When I read that particular Clause, this is the message that I get, but I want the Minister to clarify it.

It also refers to Article 32(3)(e) of the Namibian Constitution that mandates the President to negotiate and sign international agreements or to delegate such power. Will that mean that such agreements for one to be transferred have to be done under that particular article of the Constitution? If that is the case, maybe there is a clear safety net that any transfer has to be ratified by the National Assembly and then to be gazetted. I also want to find out whether that means no one should be transferred until all these procedures have been followed.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I give the Floor to the Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Yes, that is what it is, because this Section provides for the Minister to enter into agreements with foreign States on inter-transfer of offenders. The Section actually emphasises that such agreements that have to be entered into shall not be effected until such time that the National Assembly has ratified them. This, therefore, leaves no loophole. I thank you.

---

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**THIRD READING: TRANSFER OF  
CONVICTED OFFENDERS BILL  
HON TSHEEHAMA**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Clause 20 agreed to.

Remaining Clauses, Schedule and Title put and agreed to.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Bill reported without Amendment.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Third Time.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**TRANSFER OF CONVICTED OFFENDERS BILL**

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the successful conclusion of this Bill and I would say that justice would go into action now. Thank you very much.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA AND THE OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND THE NORDIC INVESTMENT FUND.**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of

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HON DE WAAL**

Finance. Honourable De Waal adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON DE WAAL:** I thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will be very brief. We went through these two Agreements and from our side we want to say that the two institutions, namely the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Nordic Investment Bank seem to be two very credible organisations with huge amounts of funds. We only have two questions to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Firstly, as far as the OPEC Fund is concerned, it is not clear to us whether they would grant loans to private institutions without Government guarantees. It is not stated anywhere as far as we could see. In the case of the Nordic Investment Bank, they clearly state in their General Guidelines for Procurement that they give loans to Private Companies without Government guarantees. The first question is whether the OPEC Fund will give loans to Private Companies without guarantees.

The second question is whether it is possible for the Honourable Minister to inform the House about the interest rates applicable in the case of these two institutions, because I want to read one sentence from the General Guidelines of the Nordic Investment Bank. It says here, "*In all its lending activities the Bank aims for a net interest margin that will generate a reasonable return on its capital*". In other words, they have an interest rate so that they can have a reasonable return. The question is what do they see as reasonable. I do not know whether the Honourable Minister could actually give an indication, maybe even a rough indication.

I will tell you why I am asking this question, because if the interest rate of these two institutions is lower than the current bank rate in Namibia, then it is of course very, very important that we make this documentation available to the private sector, because that might open up a window of opportunity to small and medium businesses, even big companies, to get funding at a very reasonable rate, because I see that they fund more or less any type of project, whether it is a capital project or acquisition of another company, whether partnerships or other deals.

Those are the two questions that I have. I just want to say that it seems that Namibia already has a 6,62 million loan from the OPEC Fund for some or other education project. It is also interesting to note that Botswana already has loans from the OPEC Fund of 25,96 million, while Lesotho has loans

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**HON NANDI-NDAITWA**

to the value of 26,25 million. I would just want to ask the Minister that we do not go too wild, because all these loans are apparently in foreign currency and have to be repaid at some or other stage.

Honourable Speaker, another comment is on our serious concern about new businesses that go bankrupt very quickly. They start up, a lot of money is invested in them and then two, three months or a year or two later, you read in the newspaper that the company has sunk and that huge losses have been incurred. I agree with the Honourable Minister where she said that maybe when we negotiate with these banks and get them involved in Namibia, we would also get the necessary expertise. We hope that this will enable new companies in this country to be a bit more steadfast and their existence more guaranteed.

I just have one last comment, Honourable Speaker. One of the biggest problems that entrepreneurs in this country have is the fact that they are not sure whether their business plans will be kept secret. I have told many people I spoke to in Windhoek and all over the country, that they must give their business plan to the Ministry and they said they would never give their business plans, because the next morning the other guy will take my business plan and implement it in Otjiwarongo. I think the Honourable Minister should take note of this concern, because that is really a very serious problem and we must be in a position to assure young investors in this country that if they bring a business plan, that business plan will remain secret and nobody else will hijack the business plan.

With those few words, we support the two Agreements, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:**    The last observation was excellent. Any further discussion?

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:**  
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I just want to be assured by our lawyers, because we are now discussing the two Agreements on the Order Paper as if they are one, but they are two different Agreements. I thought we could deal with one, dispose it off and come to the other. I know we are pressed for time, but I do not want us later to be faced with a situation that what we did was not correct. Can we really be assured that what we are doing is

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA / HON T GURIRAB**

correct, to discuss these two different Agreements as one?

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**HON SPEAKER:**    A good point but late in the day. We shall proceed, bearing in mind what the Honourable Minister has said. Any further discussion? Do the lawyers want to venture to reassure the House?

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:**  
Comrade Speaker, I have not really pondered on the issue, but not knowing the background why the two Agreements were tabled together and in view of what the Speaker announced yesterday before the tabling of these two Agreements and also not being very familiar with the Rules of the House on the tabling of two issues to be discussed as one and also not being very sure whether there is any legal question in the issue itself, I thought that probably the Minister could guide us in this respect.

The Agreements are separate on the Order Paper, but I do not really see any legal issue arising from this.

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**HON SPEAKER:**    The two issues can be discussed together. I am satisfied that there are no legal impediments. Any further discussion? Honourable Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I am mindful of the urgency to dispose of these two items, but I crave your indulgence to adjourn this matter to tomorrow.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Comrade Speaker, it is not an objection, but I would like to concur and despite your previous stand, pray for proper investigation as to the separation of these two, because we may, even if it is not a legal problem create a procedural problem.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 17  
HON PANDENI**

**HON SPEAKER:** The item is postponed until tomorrow morning. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Speaker, the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 03, 11, 28 and 29 had been agreed to and Votes 05, 06, 09 and 27 have been introduced.

I put Vote **17 – “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT” – N\$437,831,000** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members. I stand before you today to motivate the Budget allocation of a total amount of N\$437,831,000 to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. I also stand before you filled with a great sense of admiration for the leadership of our Party, SWAPO. I must, in particular appreciate and salute the visionary leadership of our Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, which has placed Namibia on an unprecedented legacy for peace, stability and

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HON PANDENI**

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 a country. In this respect, I salute the supreme sacrifices made by the masses of our people, the persons, youth, women and workers, all of whom were prepared to die fighting for this legacy of peace and Independence we are enjoying today.

In this respect, we, that is myself and Comrade Kazenambo, the Deputy Minister, in the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development wish to express our joint appreciation to His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, for the confidence he has bestowed on us by appointing us Minister and Deputy Minister, respectively, in the Fourth Parliament and in so doing, entrusting us with this noble, but challenging, task of coordinating Government activities of providing effective services to our clients, namely the valued citizens of our Republic.

Let me also congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy Minister and the esteemed staff of the Ministry of Finance for tabling a historic Budget which is destined to eradicate poverty, narrow disparity of income, reallocate other resources aimed at improving the quality of life of our people, empowerment of the previously disadvantaged communities and promoting sustainable development and growth. Clearly, the Budget estimates will deliver to our people in the whole length and breadth of Namibia.

Furthermore, we have observed with appreciation that the Budget allocations make reasonable provision for sub-national Government to render meaningful services to rural citizens and enhancing participatory democracy to our people of all walks of life.

The main objectives of the Ministry during the 2005/2006 Financial Year are, *inter alia*, to extend participatory democracy, improve Public Service, ensure there is sufficient land available for housing, ensure access to acceptable shelter, to improve the level of household food security and nutrition nationally and to improve rural income at both national and household levels.

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is requesting an amount of N\$359,101,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$78,730,000 for the Development Budget. In total, the request the Ministry is seeking is N\$437,831,000.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 17**  
**HON PANDENI**

The Ministry's priority for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- To improve technical and financial capacity of Regional and Local Authorities through Local Authority reform;
- To improve service delivery at all levels of Government;
- To ensure that all Local Authorities are financially autonomous;
- Expand infrastructure of the newly proclaimed towns and settlement areas;
- Build capacity at ministerial level;
- Improve the housing provision in general and to the low-income groups in particular;
- To ensure that the beneficiaries participating in the Food/Cash-for-Work Programmes are rewarded fairly;
- To ensure that human and institutional capacity in terms of addressing issues relating to food insecurity and nutrition is strengthened.

I thought, Honourable Chairperson, that it would make sense if we also reflect on the outcomes of the previous Financial Year.

The Ministry is currently reviewing the National Housing Policy in order to incorporate the principle of partnership and identify the roles of different stakeholders in the provision of housing. There are more stakeholders involved in this area, but today I will concentrate on the housing facilitated and provided by three institutions, namely the Ministry, through the Build-Together Programme, the National Housing Enterprise and the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia. Since 2003 Financial Year, the Build-Together Programme has built 3,650 houses under sub-programme of Urban/Rural Housing loans.

During the same Financial Year, 10,220 families were provided with basic public services, such as water and electricity. To this end, more than 3,000 households have been connected to water and sewerage networks. During the 2005/2006 Financial Year, the Build-Together Programme is to allocate funds for the construction of 1,873 houses in all thirteen Regions and 2,249 households will be provided with communal basic services, such as water,



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HON PANDENI**

toilet facilities and electricity in Keetmanshoop, Helao Nafidi, Omaruru and Bethaniën. Again, N\$3 million are earmarked for the transformation of two single quarters in Swakopmund and Otavi where sixty housing units are expected to be constructed for the residents.

To date, the National Housing Enterprise constructed 147 houses in Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Ondangwa and Lüderitz during the 2004/2005 Financial Year. Since its establishment, National Housing Enterprises has constructed 13,666 houses. We are aware that the number of houses mentioned above is few compared to the demand for housing countrywide. There are various reasons for this, including unavailability of serviced plots, as the process of developing a plot is very costly. For instance, the cost of a fully serviced plot currently stands at N\$28,000, making it difficult especially for some Local Authorities to develop land for housing construction. However, land utilisation and management policies and strategies are being developed to address this issue.

The intention of the Ministry is to allocate Easy-build moulds to all Regional Councils and Local Authorities in order to identify organised community groups who have interest in venturing into housing construction projects. These sub-national institutions are either to rent or sell the moulds to interested groups. This action or strategy should be seen as a way of creating employment, providing skills and reducing the cost of housing construction, hence positively contributing to the alleviation of poverty amongst our people.

In the 2004/2005 Financial Year, constituency offices were constructed in the following areas: Otavi, Guinas, Omaruru, Schlip, Ondobe, Ben Hur, Karasburg, Onawa and Iipanda yo Miti. To date, Caprivi Region is the only Region, which has completed the construction of all its Constituency Offices. I must note that the intention of the Ministry is to ensure that in each Constituency there is a constituency office to effectively cater for the needs of our people in an efficient way.

During the 2005/2006 Financial Year the construction of constituency offices will be implemented in Arandis, Rehoboth, Karasburg, Mukwe, Soweto in Windhoek, Endola, Otjinene, Oshifo, Uutapi, Uukwiyu, Onaena and Otjiwarongo.

In the 2004/2005 Financial Year several projects aimed at providing services, such as water, sewerage, electricity, roads infrastructure were provided for the following places: Tsumkwe, Koblenz, Okondjatu, Otjituuo, Okombahe, Uukwangula, Chotto, Hoachanas, Klein Aub, Gibeon,

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Ohangwena, Tallismanus, Otjinene, Leonardville, Tses, Aus, Nkurenkuru, Onesi, Oshifo, Okahao, Kamanjab and Khorixas. Meanwhile, during the 2005/2006 Financial Year, provision has been made for Otjimbingwe, Rehoboth Block G, Stampriet, Klein Aub, Hoachanas, Outjo, Eheke, Bukalo, Noordoewer, Nkurenkuru, Divundu, Groot Aub, Ongwelume, Okongo, Aminuis, Witvlei, Okahao, Oshikuku, Omuthiya, Koblenz, Okondjatu, Otjinene, Corridor, Aus, Leonardville, Otjombinde and Otuzemba in Opuwo to rehabilitate and construct infrastructure aimed at facilitating provision of services, such as water, electricity, sewerage and roads.

On the other hand, during the 2004/2005 Financial Year, the development of infrastructure at Uutapi, Oshakati, Hoachanas as well as Klein Aub was supported and funded from the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision.

The construction of two Regional Assemblies at Rundu in Kavango and at Outapi in the Omusati Region is being implemented with the financial assistance in the form of a grant from the Government of the Peoples Republic of China.

The construction of sewerage reticulation at Karasburg, co-funded between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Ninth European Development Fund, is completed, while the first phase of infrastructure development at Lüderitz under the tripartite arrangement by the Ministry, Lüderitz Town Council and EU is progressing well.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in this respect our Government has continued to establish efficient and effective Regional Government structures as well as staff with capable technocrats as recipients of rural development support. I am pleased to report that to date all thirteen Chief Regional Officers and their management have been appointed. Presently, among the challenges we face include the finalisation of the Decentralisation Action Plan by the Line Ministries and the guidelines for decentralisation implementation by the Central Government to move the decentralisation process forward. The legacy of apartheid colonialism, which has resulted in the skewed distribution of resources to rural areas where the majority of our people live, remains a challenge, which we must address as a matter of national priority.

There remain challenges to overcome, including the need to find sustainable solutions to the problems of Local Authorities. The last

Financial Year has seen most Local Authorities being faced with challenges of lack of basic infrastructure, such as water, sewerage systems, electricity reticulation and road networks in Local Authorities. Especially the smaller ones deny their residents efficient service delivery and sustainable development. Most of the smaller and new Local Authorities find it difficult to attract much-needed direct foreign and local investment due to the unavailability of serviced land. This should be viewed from the impact of urbanisation in our country. Urbanisation in Namibia is taking place at a very alarming pace. As all of us may be aware, many people are migrating to the major urban centres in search of employment opportunities, better education for their children and other amenities that urban life can offer.

One may assume that migration is only taking place from the rural areas to the major towns, but our experience as a Ministry is that it is also taking place from some of the areas that are increasingly failing in attracting investment and, therefore, not able to create the requisite employment opportunities. There are a number of such areas in this country, that because of their locations, are losing investments to others that are strategically located or have natural attributes that make them attractive to investors. Such places do not have prospects for growth and those in the employment age will leave. Consequently, this state of affairs leads to the inability of the remaining population, usually comprising old-aged and children in the majority, to pay for the Municipal services. Most of our villages fall within the category I mentioned and this is also affecting some of the Part 2 Municipalities, such as Karibib and Usakos as well as towns such as Okakarara and Khorixas.

Local Authorities that are affected in this manner are faced with the following problems:

- Increased debts with utility companies and other service providers;
- Dilapidated infrastructure due to lack of maintenance and rehabilitation; and
- Inability to expand services and inability to provide capital infrastructure that will attract potential investors.

There are challenges to the Ministry, we have to devise strategies to revive the economies of these dying towns and at the same time, develop new urban areas in areas where we see spontaneous growth and the demand for urban life by communities. People are moving where they see potential for

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employment. The challenge is for us to create opportunities for jobs in the outskirts of the country to ensure equitable distribution of the population countrywide, thereby minimising migration to Windhoek and other major centres.

It is against this background that the Ministry has with the 2004/2005 Financial Year proclaimed the following areas as Local Authorities: Okahao as a town, Oshifo, Ruacana, Oshikuku as villages. We will be required to create Councils, staff establishments as well as office space and equipment for these newly created Local Authority areas.

Special capital investment will also be done to develop the area of Omuthiya, Nkurenkuru, Divundu, Bukalo and Otjinene as Local Authorities in this Financial Year in accordance with Cabinet decisions.

In many parts of our country, traditions and customs define the way people relate with each other. Indeed, the Namibian Constitution rightly recognises both Common Law and Customary Law as jurisdictions that exist in our country. At the Ministry, we are tasked with coordinating and supervising the activities of Traditional Authorities in line with relevant legislation.

While the activities of Traditional Authorities are diverse, Traditional Leaders also actively participate in the Communal Land Board in order to ensure proper land management and control, resolve land disputes and other intra-ethnic problems peacefully in order to maintain national unity, peace and tranquillity and to protect our environment by preventing deforestation and desertification and also by promoting communal-based conservancies for self-reliance, generation of income and employment opportunities for the local people.

The process of recognising Traditional Leaders is continuing albeit not without problems. In 2004, two Traditional Authorities have been recognised, that is the Haikum Traditional Community in the Outjo area and the Mashi Traditional Community in Caprivi. There are still cases of disputes over boundaries and chieftainship of some traditional communities that have applied for recognition. These matters are referred to the Council of Traditional Authorities for investigation and appropriate recommendations.

The Ministry continues to make Traditional Authorities accessible to their communities by constructing new offices where there are none and renovating those that have deteriorated. During the last Financial Year, the

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amount of N\$3 million has been transferred to Regional Councils for the construction of four Traditional Authority offices that is in Omaheke, Erongo, Omusati and Hardap Regions, purchasing of office stationery for all Traditional Authority offices and for purchasing of office furniture for the newly recognised Traditional Authorities. The construction of the four offices will start during the current Financial Year.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the challenges I have outlined are enormous for which we seek a sizeable allocation of funds in order to find lasting solutions. I am pleased to note that during the period under review, the Budgetary allocation through the Trust Fund for Regional and Local Development and Equity Provision made a significant development contribution to rehabilitating ailing sewerage infrastructure, financing basic infrastructure for town establishment and development and contribute to the establishment of tourist centres at rural centres, such as Warmbad. May I further give assurance that in this Financial Year we shall undertake to use the money allocated to this Ministry to bring some form of relief to the pressures facing our rural and urban poor? Indeed, the Ministry's Budget allocation for the 2005/2006 Financial Year continues to pay much attention to rehabilitate Local Authority infrastructure and subsidise development expenditure of lower levels of Local Government.

During the 2004/2005 Financial Year my predecessor, Honourable Joël Kaapanda, assured this august House that this Ministry was working hard to get rid of the inhuman bucket system in Namibia. Let me state for the Record that the bucket system is an inhuman service that should not have any space and place in our modern society. The same revulsion, which our people would feel if such a system were used in Windhoek, should also propel our collective conscience to reject it being used anywhere else in our Republic. In this regard, I must therefore inform this august House that we are already removing them from Gibeon and next we would be moving to Stampriet and Rehoboth as the financial capacity improves.

While we might be inhibited by financial resources, I strongly feel that this matter should never again haunt us in the 2006 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, His Excellency, President Pohamba, during his inaugural address on the occasion of the first Cabinet Meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2005, directed that as a Government we should be guided by the following principles in our policies and actions, namely, participatory democracy, good governance, sustainable socio-economic development as well as

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justice and peace. The President further reiterated that these core values should underpin the policies, programmes and actions of our Government and in particular, these values should guide in implementing programmes of our Second National Development Plan (NDP2), Vision 2030 and the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. In this respect, our Ministry's unreserved commitment to the above principles and values to guide the activities and operations of the Ministry during the next five years and our dedication in this regard remains unquestionable. Specifically our priority areas shall include efficient service delivery, human development, training programmes, infrastructure and rural development, dispute resolution mechanisms and programmes all aimed at sustaining democracy, peace and justice, with express emphasis on the rural and urban poor.

In the same vein, we must also completely and unequivocally affirm the directives of His Excellency, the President, where he urged for zero tolerance on corruption and wastage of public resources. Furthermore, this Ministry, which is the backbone of the rural and urban poor, shall also undertake to make practical the need for rural development that is participatory and representative. In particular, we shall ensure mechanisms are developed to guarantee satisfactory delivery of services. Moreover, we shall continue to encourage Regional Councils and Local Authorities in accordance with their Act to facilitate the full implementation of rural development and I would like to invite the Honourable Members of this august House in their respective Constituencies and Regions to participate in this programme.

As the Ministry responsible for housing, we believe that provision of housing to our communities in need remains a daunting social responsibility for all of us. It has recently been estimated that our country faces a housing backlog of 300,000 units. I must hasten to add that this housing backlog cannot be addressed by the Ministry alone through its Build-Together and the National Housing Enterprise programmes. On the contrary, the responsibility of provision of houses should be a joint venture between the Public and the Private Sectors.

Our Government is to be commended for taking the provision of housing as a national priority. In a Cabinet Decision 38/05/12/00/003, Cabinet decided to explore possibilities of housing loans to unproclaimed areas and thus resolved that the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, in conjunction with the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement should ensure that people in unproclaimed areas are assisted with guaranteed pieces of land on which to build their houses. In that Cabinet Decision, Cabinet further resolved that an Amendment be

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made to the Pensions Fund Act to allow members of the Fund to use one-third of their pension contribution for security purposes in favour of loans obtained from Government financial institutions and other lenders.

Therefore, as part of this motivation for 2005/2006 Budget, it is imperative that this Cabinet Decision be implemented as matter of national urgency because our people need sustainable shelter provisions.

Indeed, our country is signatory to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals which requires a timeframe to be set in which shelter for all our people should be provided. We must, therefore within the limited resources at our disposal strive to satisfy the high demand for shelter and improve the quality of life of our people by compiling a national database for housing units in the country in order to verify the backlog and address it effectively.

A mid-term review of the National Development Plan (NDP2) suggests that the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development could not achieve much of its developmental plans to attain the expectation of Vision 2030. This is a true reflection given lack of adequate financial resources to achieve these goals. On the other hand, foreign aid through development partners could also not fill the gap due to limited donor contribution during the period under review. The Finnish and French Decentralisation Support Programme, the GTZ and the World Bank are among those development partners I wish to recognise for their contribution towards decentralisation in Namibia. In this respect, we wish to see more developmental partners to join hands in the realisation of our Millennium Development Goals and Local Agenda 21.

The people of Namibia are our greatest assets. However, in recent years the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the association opportunistic diseases, such as tuberculosis and pneumonia, has had a negative impact on our efforts to improve the health status of our people. In order to counter this pandemic, the SWAPO Party Government has embarked upon a campaign of prevention and control of all sexually transmitted diseases. It has therefore launched a concerted and extensive campaign to fight the further spread of this disease.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has an overall responsibility of coordination of national HIV/AIDS response and the Directorate of Special Programmes within the Ministry provides support to all implementing agencies. The role of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is mainly related to the coordination and

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support of HIV/AIDS related activities at regional and sub-regional level.

In this respect, I am pleased to note that an HIV/AIDS Committee has been established within the Ministry to deal with matters relating to HIV/AIDS and an amount of N\$80,000 has been allocated. On the regional level, all 13 Regional Councils have budgeted for their HIV/AIDS activities. The total Budget for Regional Councils in this respect is N\$2,480,000 for the 2005/2006 Fiscal Year.

Meanwhile, the Ministry is responsible for financing the action plans of AIDS Coordination Committees through Regional Councils' Budgets. In addition to this effort, it is our belief that a unit should be set up within the Ministry, tasked with the responsibility of coordinating HIV/AIDS related activities in the Ministries at all levels. We shall also seek to source the expertise of donor agencies, especially in building capacity of the staff involved in HIV/AIDS awareness and counselling campaign.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me now turn to the programmes for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. It is now my honour and privilege to present to you the total financial requirements of Vote 17 programmes in the Financial Year 2005/2006, as indicated in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The appropriation under the Housing programme will ensure land and housing delivery in the country through a proper regional and urban planning system, surveying, construction of infrastructure, aimed at providing services such as water, electricity, roads, sewerage as well as granting of loans to low and ultra-low income families all over the country. The Ministry's Build-Together Programme further ensures accessibility to acceptable and affordable shelter, especially by low and ultra-low income families. The main activities are the granting of urban/rural housing loans sub-programme to the low-income families for the construction of housing units. Thus N\$29 million are needed to benefit about 1,600 families during the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

The review of the National Housing Policy to determine its success and challenges will require N\$150,000 in the first year for workshops and collection of materials. The transformation of single quarters, upgrading of informal settlements and a literacy special project aims to provide improved living conditions to people currently living in squalid states. In Lüderitz, an understanding has been reached between the Government of Namibia, the European Union and Lüderitz Town Council to jointly finance this project of sewerage reticulation and construction of services



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and houses for the next three years. This project will cost N\$18 million in 2005/2006.

In recognition of the hard work and good results by the community-based organisation, the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, the Ministry has committed itself to provide funding to the tune of N\$1 million every year for the construction of houses for their members. Thus far, N\$2 million was transferred to construct 87 houses in this project.

The aim to construct a Habitat Research and Development Centre is for the Centre to research on possibilities of developing local indigenous building materials. This is to reduce the cost on imported building materials currently obtained from South Africa. The construction is expected to be completed within the next three years. However, the operations of the centre are the responsibility of the Ministry. Therefore, N\$11 million will be needed for the next three years for construction and N\$8 million for the operations for 2005 up to 2008, respectively.

The purpose of the Social Housing is to provide loans to Local Authorities and Regional Councils to facilitate housing provision for welfare cases on an economical sustainable basis through a cross-subsidisation system. An amount of N\$3 million is needed during the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

Other funding required is to ensure the provision of professional services, technical and other support services to Regions and Local Authorities in terms of planning, surveying, construction of Municipal services and inspection and monitoring of projects being implemented. An amount of N\$1,743,000 has been allocated to carry out these activities during the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

The amount set out under the Regional and Local Authority Coordination Programme is intended to fund the day-to-day activities of the Regional Councils. It should be noted that many Regional Councils do not have enough sources of income to cover their costs. Only a few Regions have substantial income from the municipalities in their areas of jurisdiction. The rest depend financially on Central Government's appropriations. N\$141,144.00 is needed during the 2005/2006 Financial Year to fund these activities.

The Ministry plans to proclaim seven settlement areas as Local Authorities in the 2005/2006 Financial Year. These are Ruacana Oshifo, Okahao, Oshikuku, Omuthiya, Divundu, Bukalo and Otjinene.

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Initial Central Government funding is required for the construction of offices, office furniture and computers, vehicles and heavy equipment, graders and front-end loaders and refuse-removal trucks. Appointment of valuers to compile valuation rolls and technical equipment and tools are also required. The programme is aimed to equip the new Authorities with the initial tools necessary to provide essential services. An amount of N\$20 million is needed for the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

The Ministry is financing Village Councils and some newly proclaimed Town Councils because they are not meeting their operational expenses through their own sources of income. Some villages may only use these funds for their capital Budget, whereas those that do not have the capacity to meet their operation costs may expend some of these funds for operational purposes. The programme is aimed to ensure reliable services to communities and allow these Authorities to develop the capacities through other projects to sustain them. In 2005/2006 identified funding will be N\$25 million. The Councils will be expected to attempt to meet further expenditure through their funds.

The Ministry is mindful that several concerns have been expressed regarding the transparency with which the Trust Fund provides funding to Regional Councils. I must assure this august House that everything is being done to address these concerns. I would further like to assure this august House that it is my intention to ensure that the Trust Fund is transparently, equitably and accountably managed. Generally, the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision was established to address regional inequities. The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the Act are met. Regional and Local Authorities are expected to apply to the Trust for funding of their capital projects. It is expected that these capital investments will create the capital infrastructure that will increase the financial basis of Regional Councils and Local Authorities. This will in the long term improve service delivery to the communities and minimise the financial dependency of these Authorities on Central Government. The allocation will be N\$30 million for each of the next three years.

An amount of N\$4,006,000 has been budgeted for the 2005/2006 Financial Year for Local Authority Utilities. This money is expected to assist the Local Authorities who experience unexpected financial difficulties with utility companies. Furthermore, these funds are aimed at assisting Local Authorities during such difficult times while other programmes ensure that there are sustainable measures to prevent such difficulties from reappearing again.

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The remaining Directorate expenditure is for staff involved in monitoring and evaluating financial and legal activities and Regional Councils and Local Authorities, capacity-building and other operational activities of the Directorate. For the 2005/2006 Financial Year the appropriation is planned to be N\$5,093,000, rising to N\$5,354,000.

The Ministry provides support to the Council of Traditional Leaders to meet their administrative and development needs. The programme is aimed at improving services of Traditional Authorities and to make them easily accessible to their communities. The amount allocated for this programme for the 2005/2006 Financial Year is N\$9,308,000, enumerated as follows:

Monthly allowance for the recognised Traditional Leaders – N\$6,342,132.  
Training for Traditional Leaders – N\$246,667.  
Running costs of the vehicles – N\$176,000.  
Funding of the annual meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders – N\$806,667.  
Renovation of offices – N\$1,154,533.

Equipment and stationery for Traditional Authority offices – N\$399,667.  
Investigating committees on tribal disputes – N\$183,333.

The objective of the Decentralisation Coordination Programme is to extend, enhance and guarantee participatory democracy and quality governance to ensure and safeguard the rapid and sustainable development, to transfer power to the Regional Councils and Local Authorities based on national ideas and values, improve capacity to Regional and Local Authority Councils to implement manage and monitor delivery of services for their Constituencies. The amount requested under the programme will be used to meet the above objectives. An amount of N\$8,453,000 has been allocated. The Ministry further acknowledges the generous contribution to decentralisation by various developmental partners.

The General Administration Programme provides support services to the Ministry and sub-national Governments. The activities to be carried out will be in the information technology support services, cleaning and maintenance of the building and general administration.

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is currently busy reorganising itself to accommodate critical challenges of rural development. The three Rural Development Division although the rural development function has been incorporated in the

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Regional and Local Government, as Rural and Urban Development, respectively, both Regional and Local Government bodies have to undergo transformation to ensure meaningful and sustainable rural development. Development Centres at Ongwediva, Okashana and Ben Hur in Omaheke Region were transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

We are confident that these centres would play a vital role in the scientific research of Rural Development agenda. We undertake and seek to urge all relevant stakeholders to participate in the development of a shared and collective Rural Development agenda which must require that all amenities of modern living, such as rural water supply and sanitation, rural electricity supply, rural roads, telephone and media communications and other rural services have to reach the rural poor communities of our country.

We commend other Line Ministries, such as Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Social Services in their efforts to improve education and primary health care of our people in the rural areas.

In its present form, as transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Rural Development essentially covers three main components, namely food security and nutrition programme, empowerment of the San community for household food security and Food-for-Work programme. We believe that this focus is restrictive and we thus intend to broaden the scope of rural development by making it a fully-fledged Directorate, capable of driving the rural development agenda from the Central Government to the lowest practical levels. In particular, we intend to consult broadly with all stakeholders, particularly other Line Ministries and other stakeholders who have impact or who are impacted upon by the rural developmental function.

The Food/Cash-for-Work Project seeks to encourage people to remain in the rural areas and to improve their nutritional well-being. Beneficiaries are unemployed, adult able-bodied drought affected people in identified poor households in all the Regions. The project's components include the purchase of food and non-food to be distributed to the member beneficiaries, provision of equipment and machinery for implementing community-identified projects, training and short-term consultancies aimed at empowerment and capacity-building of local communities to implement development projects to ensure sustainability. All 13 Regions will benefit from the programme.

In addition, funds are required for training, short-term consultancies to

assist the management of the programme, vehicles to be used by the management, administrative support cost and staff management cost. For the 2005/2006 Financial Year, N\$2,3 million is allocated. The direct beneficiaries will be those working on the community-based self-help individual projects. It aims to reach at least 10% of the 375,000 people per year falling within the category of able-bodied drought affected people and the identified poor throughout the country. Their families will also benefit from improved food consumption in both quantity and quality.

At the same time, the communities at large will have access to improved roads, sanitation, schools and water supply. The major risk is that dependency of the rural population on food aid may remain unless employment opportunities expand in the Rural Areas.

The project of food security and nutrition development to develop the human resources in its institutional capacity, require enabling to meet its basic development objectives, as stated in Article 95 of our Constitution. The project is in the third and final phase of the food security and nutrition programme and it focuses on institution-building and human resource development, decentralising food security and nutrition initiative to sub-national level, providing implementation of the National Food Security and Nutritional Action Plan and development of the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System.

The project is aimed to develop and strengthen the participation of relevant agencies and individuals at all levels, from senior Government Officials to the most disadvantaged farmers. By the end of the full project cycle, it is expected that all Namibians will benefit through significant and quantifiable improvement in their food security and nutritional status as guaranteed by our Constitution, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable rural groups.

The activities of this programme were funded to the tune of N\$4 million in the 2004/2005 Financial Year, transferred into the FAO Trust Account. For the next two Medium Term Expenditure Framework periods, no funding was secured. The remaining balance in the trust account will be utilised in the current Financial Year and beyond.

The empowerment of our San communities for the household food security project aims at improving the food production potential of resettled San communities in eastern Kavango – Bagani, Otjozondjupa – Tsumkwe West, Ohangwena – Okongo, Mauni and Ekoka and western Caprivi – Cheto, to instil self-reliance in them. The project will focus on developing

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an integrated family system to improve the quality of the households' diet through staple food production. The project will also provide training and institutional support, project management agents, training specialists, capacity building and provision of training materials.

The activities to be carried out within this project will include project personnel, equipment and training. Staff will include a food security and nutrition secretariat that will be supported by regional food security and nutrition coordinators and rural development planners. The project will be overseen by Regional Councils through the Regional Development Coordinating Committees (RDCC). Training of the intended beneficiaries will involve exchange visits to various settlement schemes within the country and courses in agricultural production, nutrition and home economics. Local consultants and training institutions will be constructed to undertake relevant essential studies in identifying community needs. The planned activities will be monitored at national level by the divisional staff, while at regional level, the Regional Food and Nutrition Technical Committee will perform the monitoring task.

The beneficiaries of the project are the San communities settled at Bagani, Chotto, Mukata, Tsumkwe and Mangetti. The staff inputs will be provided to the beneficiaries in order to engage in productive activities to sustain their livelihood. 202 women and 68 men will benefit from this project. For the 2005/2006 Financial Year, N\$500,000 is allocated for the project.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, based on the motivation provided above, I hereby request the august House to approve the Budget of N\$437,831,000 as requested by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for its operations during the 2005/2006 Financial Year and I thank you for your attention.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put  
**Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY”, N\$114,815,000** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me start my speech by saluting the SWAPO Party leadership as well as the rank and file under the leadership of the revolutionary Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for having steered the country through political and socio-economic challenges of the Post-independence years to the more

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economically stable and peaceful democratic Nation that we are today.

I also wish to express my appreciation and my gratitude to His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, for his trust bestowed upon me by appointing me as Minister of Trade and Industry. Let me also congratulate the entire Cabinet and political leadership of our Government with your appointments in the different positions and wish you all good health and productive years ahead.

This august House has made a good judgment by electing the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab as the Speaker and I wish to congratulate him on his election.

I also wish to congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for tabling a good Budget. It is clear that being a Finance Minister is not an easy position in view of the difficult act of balancing competing interests and needs, on the one hand, and the scarce resources at your disposal, on the other.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is tasked with the responsibility of positioning Namibia competitively in the global economy by creating the economic space necessary for enhanced investment, industrial and trade development. These are important means of achieving our national objectives, growing the economy in order to create the wealth necessary to combat poverty and unemployment among our people. It is for this reason that my Ministry, in collaboration with the Private Sector and other economic Ministries and partners, are hard at work to diversify and grow the economy in terms of industrial production. Transformation of the economy from its current dependency on the primary sector to a diversified one is a high priority and necessity for the achievement of Vision 2030.

The manufacturing sector has a great potential to become a significant contributor to the country's Gross Domestic Product. Disappointingly, this sector has only recorded an average growth of 6,2% and created some 32,000 jobs during the past three years. Urgent intervention is required to enhance local value addition, especially to the country's natural resources to ensure that we derive befitting benefits from the exploitation of these resources. This will enable us to create, retain and expand jobs at home. Therefore, the Budget allocation of 7% to the economic sectors and 3% to infrastructure for the next three years is neither sufficient for proper economic growth, nor is it able to stimulate the required investment by the private sector through improved business and infrastructure environment.

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It is a well-known fact that globalisation is here and with it, trade liberalisation. These global phenomena and trends are bound to erode our revenue from traditional sources, such as customs duties. As such, we need to position our economy to withstand the tide of globalisation. Our economic decisions should therefore be informed, by not only the domestic factors, but also the external economic environment emanating from international trade agreements.

Over the period 1995 to 2003, Namibia's exports of goods have grown steadily from N\$5,1 billion to N\$9,5 billion, representing an 86% growth. However, imports have outgrown exports, rising to N\$13 billion in 2003. This resulted in a trade deficit of N\$3,5 billion during the year under review. On its part, the Ministry has the daunting task of reversing this trend by doubling efforts in the areas of investment attraction, industrial development and export promotion.

In terms of diversification of trading partners and products, we have recorded a significant achievement. Our increased trade exports with the United States of America, from N\$123 million in 2003 to N\$238 million in 2004, are worth mentioning. Textiles and apparels are a major factor here and one of the newly developed products of Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson, the promotion of both foreign and local investment is central to successful achievement of the objective of building a vibrant economy which will bring about prosperity, wealth creation and raise standards of living of all Namibian citizens by the year 2030, as per the provisions of Vision 2030.

During the 2004/2005 Budget Year, the Namibian Investment Centre and the Offshore Development Company have worked tirelessly and with commitment to make Namibia an attractive investment destination. In this regard, I am pleased to inform this august House that many of the foreign investments established during the 2003/2004 Budget Year have been fully integrated within the Namibian economy and are greatly contributing to the industrialisation efforts of our country.

The drop in our competitive ranking is a clarion call for hard work and closer cooperation among all stakeholders such as Government Ministries, the Private Sector, labour and everyone who is committed to see the dawning of development, progress and prosperity for all Namibians by the year 2030.



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During my brief stay at the helm of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, I have been confronted by some of the great difficulties of bringing business to Namibia. In this regard, the cost of production is unbearably high due to the persistent rise in costs of essential services, such as transport, energy, municipal rates, industrial plots, property rentals, etcetera. Other cost drivers, such as the lack of appropriate skills, also has a direct implication on our labour production. Excessive interest cost of borrowing of finance from commercial banks, which are reluctant to participate in projects through equity lending, is another difficulty facing both foreign investors and local entrepreneurs. The abovementioned factors greatly inhibit the expansion of the economy and constitute challenges that our country needs to confront head-on in order to create an environment that is conducive for the growth of the economy.

Despite the bleak but realistic scenario, which I have just sketched, the peace and stability that we are enjoying in Namibia, the abundance of natural resources and the preferential market access to lucrative regional and international markets still render Namibia an attractive destination for investment. Specific investment opportunities exist for the manufacturing of cement, pharmaceutical products, footwear, automotive parts and accessories, tourism and the service sector. A lot of interest has been expressed and negotiations are at an advanced level with some potential investors interested in some of these projects.

My Ministry is currently exploring ways and means to develop a Public/Private partnership strategy to kick-start some of these strategic industries with a view to diversify at an appropriate stage. Government can consider options in its efforts to intervene in industrialisation of our country. One of such options is for the State-Owned Enterprises to be encouraged to take up some of the strategic partnerships with local and foreign investors in order to advance our industrialisation agenda in line with Vision 2030.

In the coming year my Ministry will continue with my commitment to promote Namibia as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment and shall endeavour to improve the competitive ranking of our country *vis-à-vis* our regional competitors. I have already instructed my officials to commission a comprehensive study to review all our incentive regimes as well as to carry out a comparative analysis of our country's regional and global competitiveness. Such a study is expected to form the basis for the adoption of the best international practices in our investment promotion efforts to obtain maximum results. In this connection, both the Export Processing Zone and the Foreign Investment Act will be reviewed and

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streamlined with a view to improve their effectiveness as well as the legal and administrative practice.

In order to improve the way in which Government handles investment proposals and administer incentives to investors, my Ministry has initiated work on and consulting with other relevant Ministries on the establishment of an Industrial Development Board. This body will serve as a one-stop shop for all matters pertaining to investment projects and the administration of incentives. All major economic players and facilitators of trade, industrial development and investment will form part of that.

I further instructed my officials to review the business environment affecting both local and foreign investors with a view to making appropriate recommendations. I am glad to inform the Honourable Members of this House that my Ministry has secured technical expert services from the Commonwealth Secretariat for this purpose. The outcome and recommendations of such a review shall be included in our strategic plan for the next five years.

In the process of creating an enabling environment for foreign and local investors in the Region and abroad, we shall continue to negotiate agreements on the reciprocal promotion and protection of investment at the bilateral, regional and multi-lateral levels. In this regard, I will table agreements with France, Italy, Vietnam, United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and Angola on the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States before this House for ratification in due time. My Ministry will ensure that Namibia's presence will be felt in strategic commercial centres around the world through commercial counsellors' representation as and when financial resources permit.

With the emphasis on delivery, my Ministry has now drawn up appropriate guidelines to guide the work of all commercial counsellors, as well as to upgrade their job descriptions to ensure that they are performance-based. Of course, we will count on the cooperation and support of Line Ministries, the Private Sector and the labour movement to ensure that we attract, maintain and expand investments in Namibia. This unity of purpose is crucial for the achievement of our objective of development, wealth and prosperity creation for all Namibians by the year 2030.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, during the previous Financial Year the Ministry of Trade and Industry continued with the construction and provision of affordable

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industrial stalls for the entrepreneurs involved in manufacturing and service delivery under the item Site and Premises Programme. I am glad to report to this House that construction of stalls has been completed at Mariental, Otjinene, Opuwo, Lüderitz, Henties Bay and Ovitoto. In addition, construction of similar facilities at Nkurenkuru and Ongwediva are in an advanced stage.

In an effort to promote hygienic conditions in the development of the Tannery and Leather Industry, my Ministry has invested in the construction of modern slaughterhouses in the underdeveloped towns of Opuwo, Outapi and Eenhana.

These facilities are currently operational. It is our commitment to finalise the construction of similar projects at Grootfontein, Oshikuku, Okalongo, Okakarara, Rundu, Ondangwa, Windhoek and Omuthiya during the year. Work has already started with the construction of an Export Processing Zone Park in Caprivi at the north eastern border between Namibia and Angola in order to promote cross-border trade between the two countries.

To date, the Sites and Premises Programme has so far covered 25 towns, villages and settlements, mostly where the Private Sector is not able to venture into without Government support. It is my pleasure to inform this august House that the people of Opuwo are now enjoying some of the services, such as shops and a commercial bank. Our Industrial Stalls at Eenhana, Nkurenkuru and Okalongo will provide further accommodation of other commercial banking activities. This is testimony to a Government/Private Sector partnership in bringing services closer to the people.

Thus far, the value of all the properties constructed under this programme is worth N\$106 million and has generated about 4,000 direct jobs. In addition, several distance activities, including manufacturing, have been initiated. The Ministry has been inundated with many requests for similar facilities from towns, village and settlements across the country.

In line with the Cabinet directive, the Ministry is also developing a trade centre in Luanda from where Namibian products would be traded. This facility is needed to provide storage or warehousing and distribution space. My Ministry is aware of the decline of trade between Namibia and Angola and the difficulties being experienced by our Private Sector while doing business in Angola. To resolve some of these problems, the Ministry has stationed a Trade Representative in Luanda and another one at the Oshikango Border Post. The Ministry would soon participate in a

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Permanent Joint Commission Meeting between Angola and Namibia, scheduled for July this year and we hope to use this forum to bring the abovementioned trade constraints for discussion and resolution.

In the very near future, I will be tabling before this House bilateral agreements on preferential trade and reciprocal protection of investment between Namibia and Angola for ratification. I will be counting on your support then. In addition, resources are required to facilitate the advancement of Public-Private development agenda, particularly in towns outside Windhoek. Private investors in the country's remote area will need Government assistance to offset the high establishment cost. For factories to locate outside urban centres, infrastructure such as serviced land with water, sewerage, electricity and roads is of utmost essence.

Part of the overall Government decentralisation drive is the equitable distribution of resources. My Ministry is obliged to intervene in most urban towns where no industrial land and infrastructure exist and where the Local Authorities are handicapped technically and financially to undertake or support the establishment of investment infrastructure to attract these activities. Therefore, in the absence of national entrepreneurial acumen and private capital, be it from the existing well-established companies or emerging black entrepreneurs, Government, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, has remained the only effective partner and provider of such services and industrial stalls required to kick-start investment in remote rural towns.

In the near future, I intend to invite Private Sector players to forge win-win strategic partnerships with the Government in the development of identified industrial projects of strategic importance to the development of our economy. This includes the manufacturing of cement, pharmaceuticals, leather and skin products, agro food processing, mineral beneficiation, Aquaculture, Pottery and Ginnery and Automotive Cluster Industries. These industries have the potential to make a substantial contribution to the growth of our economy and jobs for the unemployed.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the development of the Small and Medium Enterprises sector is a very vital component for the socio-economic development of any country, because this is where the majority of self-employment is being created. In the United Kingdom, this sector accounts for half of the economic activities, providing 56% of Non-Government jobs. In Taiwan the Small and Medium Enterprises Sector accounts for about 98%, employing about 80% of the workforce and is responsible for 50% of that country's exports.

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Fifty-five percent of Japan's GDP is generated by Small and Medium Enterprises. Namibia has a lot to learn from these fast-growing economies. We are committed to remove all obstacles inhibiting the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises with a view to ensure that the sector realises its full potential and plays its expected role in the growth of our economy.

In line with the above conviction, my Ministry has started the process of reviewing the 1997 Small and Medium Enterprises Policy and Programme in order to identify and address the constraints that they are currently facing. We will strengthen our entrepreneurial training and capacity-building programme to include the enhancement of standards and quality control, marketing, procurement, financial management and stock control.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is also in the process of conducting a nationwide Small and Medium Enterprises census, which should provide potential investors with a reliable information base and for the Government to allocate national resources on the substantive findings. Mentorship, access to capital, group marketing and procurement schemes, cluster industries shall be promoted throughout the country so that Small and Medium Enterprises could diversify their activities in order to contribute to the economy in line with the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and Vision 2030.

In line with the decision of Cabinet, the Small Business Credit Guarantee Scheme is also being transformed into a self-sustaining financial institution to complement the work of the newly established Development Bank of Namibia.

Apart from the introduction of new projects, Cabinet has also authorised equity participation by the Private Sector, both local and foreign. This will strengthen the Trust's financing capacity and ensure that its programmes reach the thousands of aspiring Namibian entrepreneurs.

On international trade, an important feature of my Ministry's trade and export programme is the capturing and expansion of markets for Namibian products. This refers to the creation of economic space through preferential trade arrangements to ensure market access for our products. This is done within the context of the multi-lateral organisations, such as the World Trade Organisation, the ACP, the Regional Economic Integration Organisations, such as SACU and SADC, as well as bilateral trade arrangements with individual countries, such as the US, China, India, Kenya, etcetera, and economic blocs.

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The international trade component of my Ministry has an important role in the promotion of the manufacturing sector in Namibia by assisting manufacturers to source production input on competitive terms from international markets. The other role is the safeguarding of local importers through the development of appropriate payment systems as well as the protection of consumer interest by securing alternative sources of supply of affordable goods and services.

Our trade policy also has an objective the creation of appropriate mechanisms aimed at enhancing the protection of infant industries, which should serve to build a solid foundation for domestic industrial development. In addition, it is important to emphasise the need for internal policy, which favour local procurement to ensure that our industries retain part of the internal market, while pursuing to acquire the fair share of regional and international markets. These measures as a whole would complement the existing export incentives and product market development programme.

In this respect, the Ministry has spent considerable resources towards Namibia's participation in the multilateral negotiations with the World Trade Organisation and in trade negotiations with one of our major trading partners, the European Union, for a World Trade Organisation compatible economic partnership agreement that is expected to replace the COTONOU trade regime by January 2008.

In the context of SACU, the Ministry continues to lead the trade negotiations with other trading partners, such as the US, Latin America, MERCOSUR and European Free Trade Association.

The MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement was signed in December 2004 and it is intended to be brought before Parliament for ratification before the end of this year. The negotiating process with EFTA is nearing conclusion and the signing of the agreement is expected within the next few months.

Negotiations with the US have, however, been stalled since June 2004. We nonetheless remain committed to revive this process and see it through. A meeting of chief negotiators is expected to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July in Geneva in this regard.

Priority projects for 2005/2006 Financial Year on the international trade are geared towards:

- Developing and strengthening institutions necessary for building a

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vibrant economy. Such institutions we believe are important catalysts for economic growth and job creation and the ultimate improvement of the living standards of our people.

These include, *inter alia*, the establishment of a National Trade Forum to institutionalise the Private-Public Sector partnership as well as creating and strengthening operational linkages with the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Namibia Manufacturing Association, establishing of an Export Promotion Agency to drive the export promotion of the country based on a national export development strategy.

- The production of a White Paper on Foreign Trade to give a clear policy direction to all national stakeholders.

On internal trade, the establishment of the Namibia Standards Institution, which my predecessor announced during the motivation of his Budget during the year 2004/2005, was postponed to this year in order to complete preparatory work in respect of the requisite human and financial resources. The work of the Namibia Standards Institution will ensure that Namibian products are safe, are high of quality, environmentally friendly and conform to the best standards in the world. This is critical for the country's efforts to diversify trade in terms of products and trading partners.

The Namibia Competition Commission, established under the Competition Act, 2003, is not yet operational. However, I am glad to inform the august House that the Commissioners have already been appointed and efforts are under way to establish the Secretariat. The required rules and regulations are being drafted and we are committed to the full operationalisation of the Commission before the end of this year.

The process of implementing the Companies Act of 2004 is at an advanced stage. Relevant regulations are being drafted and the Registry of Companies, Trade Marks, Designs and Patents is in the process of being computerised with technical and financial support in part from some of our partners. We are committed to ensure that through computerisation, some of our centres can be accessed electronically from the Ministry's Regional Offices countrywide. This will shorten the time required for registration and simplify the process to the extent of being user-friendly and affordable even to the emerging entrepreneurs.

As part of our commitment to the improvement of the business environment, the House of Review shall process the Accreditation Board of

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Namibia Bill, which has gone through this House. Equally, the *Standards Bill* and *Metrology Amendment Bill* and *Industrial Property Bill* will be tabled to this House before the end of the year. These functions of the Ministry directly promote Government's commitment to create a vibrant economy and thousands of jobs, as envisaged under the 2004 Election Manifesto of the SWAPO Party.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, you will appreciate the fact that the effective execution of the enormous responsibilities of my Ministry requires proper staffing. I am sad to say that despite the drastic changes in the Ministry's mandate over the years, the staff component has remained unchanged. With its current personnel structure and financial resource allocation, the Ministry is unable to carry out its assigned mandate effectively to promote and facilitate trade and industrial development in the country. Among its multi-faceted assignment is the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements, such as the WTO Agreement, SADC Trade Protocol and the new SACU Agreement, to mention but a few. This assignment brings new demands in terms of finance.

Issues of trade and investment negotiations, project and investment appraisal, enforcement of product quality and environmental standards, competition, technical barriers to trade, tariff setting as well as advances in areas of technology and ICT demand that Namibia invests and develop multi-disciplinary and skilled human resources. This is particularly important for a young and small economy like ours, which is still struggling to cope with the complexities and realities of the global economy. This requested human capital will help the country to articulate the development needs properly and to defend its interests and aspirations at both regional and international trade negotiations.

As part of its overall mandate, my Ministry is expected to promote trade and investment vigorously and to find markets for Namibian products, as well as investors to add value to our Namibian resources. This is in addition to the mandate of regulating the internal enabling environment through the establishment of new regulatory bodies, such as the Competition Commission, the Namibia Standards Institution and many others.

Also in line with the overall decentralisation programme of Government, my Ministry is working to expand its regional presence and representation to all thirteen Regions to better serve the business community, especially the small and medium enterprises.



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I trust that I have managed to elucidate to this august House on the challenges faced by my Ministry and the future programmes and projects, which we will be embarking upon. I call upon the usual support of all the Honourable Members of this House for my Vote. Let me just shortly inform the House as to how the Budget that we are requesting will be allocated.

The total Budget that we are requesting for the Ministry of Trade and Industry for this 2005/2006 Financial Year would be N\$140,815,000. This amount is broken down as follows:

Main Division 01 – Office of the Minister – N\$3,717,000

Main Division 02 – Administration, which covers the Office of the Permanent Secretary and the Directorate of General Service – N\$10,101,000.

Main Division 03 – An amount of N\$10,636,000 is requested for this Main Division.

Main Division 04 – Industrial Development – N\$59,474,000.

The Department of the Investment Centre is responsible for the promotion of the country and they need N\$23,560,000. This increase has come about because of additional responsibilities for coordinated holistic approach in the promotion of Namibia abroad and the need to increase our physical presence in commercially strategic capitals of the world in search of investment and trade promotion.

Then there is the Personnel Expenditure Vote, which is N\$9,092,000.

Main Division 06 – Internal Trade – N\$6,661,000.

On the Development Budget, Sites and Premises require N\$23,880,000.

Common facility centres – N\$3,620,000.

The Agro-industry programme – N\$2,5 million.

The SME Business After-care Programme – N\$1,16 million.

Private Sector Feasibility Study and Business Programme Development – N\$4,8 million.

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Better Development Programme – N\$2,7 million.

Sourcing Programme – the Group Sourcing Scheme – N\$2,5 million.

SME Cluster and Cottage Development Programme – N\$400,000.

Katwitwi Industrial Development Park – N\$3,5 million.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion, this presentation has outlined various activities undertaken by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, including the 2005/2006 Financial Year. It has highlighted how the money earlier allocated by this august House was put to use. I have also highlighted the various needs the Ministry has to fulfil during the coming Financial Year as we embark yet again on our programmes to diversify the economy to create jobs and consequently to correct the scourge of inequality and poverty in our country. I, therefore, humbly request this august House to approve the requested amount of N\$140,850,000 for the Operational and Capital Budgets of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the year 2005/2006. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put  
**Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”, N\$564,429,000** for  
Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. It is with a deep sense of pleasure and humility that I stand before you to motivate the appropriation request for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. However, before I do so, I want to take the liberty to express on a very personal note sincere appreciation to my family, both nucleus or extended, for whatever role they might have played in terms of supporting my field of involvement and inevitably so, my deep sincere gratitude also goes to the Founding Father of our Nation, Comrade Dr Sam Nujoma, and through this unwavering great leader of Namibia and definitely one of the outstanding leaders of this generation in the world today, to our beloved liberation movement then and the SWAPO Party nowadays, its entire rank and file for the honour bestowed upon me way back in 1995 to serve our Nation at the national level in a legislative capacity. This culminated in my appointment during December 1997 by His Excellency, Comrade Sam Nujoma, to be his Deputy Minister of

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Fisheries and Marine Resources, in which capacity I was privileged to serve our Nation until May 2003. In May 2003, I was appointed once again to become Deputy Minister of Justice until March 2005.

Allow me, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, to seize this opportunity to register my unconditional appreciation to His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the second President of our Land of the Brave, who have thought it imperative to include me in his first ever team of Cabinet Minister responsible for Labour and Social Welfare. I shall remain ever mindful of this most significant event in my life. I am extremely humbled by the opportunity given to me to serve my Nation at this level. My prayers are that the Good Lord shall grant me wisdom to be a worthy custodian of the responsibilities that goes with it.

There are also so many Comrades who played their peculiar roles in assisting me along the way. I particularly have in mind people like the first Prime Minister of Namibia, Comrade Hage Geingob, the late Comrade Axel Johannes, Aaron Mushimba, the late Comrade Mokganedi Thlabanello, the late Moses //Garoëb, the late Comrade Nathaniel Maxuilili, the late Comrade Dawid Meroro, the late Comrade Gertrude Kandanga, late Comrade Victor Nkandi, Comrade Ben Amathila, Comrade Festus Naholo, the late Tatekulu O.B Uushona, the late Comrade Maxton Josef Mutongolume, the late Comrade Daniel Tjongarero and many others, particularly from within my own generation, to mention by name, but for sure they know who they are anyhow.

It is, therefore, with this background that I am deeply honoured to motivate my first ever Budget as a Minister. I thank the Almighty for His endless blessings.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, allow me to join several previous Comrades in congratulating you and through you, the esteemed, outstanding son of the Namibian soil, the Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her Deputy Minister and her staff for the well thought-out 2005/2006 Budget. This national appropriation is carefully and prudently crafted to guide the Offices, Ministries and Agencies in funding programmes and activities planned to enable the State to function and render essential services to all its citizens during the current Financial Year. This is the first Budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare,

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which was newly constituted by His Excellency, the President on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2005.

The previous Ministry of Labour had the mission to ensure harmonious labour relations through promoting social justice, occupational health and safety and enhance labour market service. This is critical to the maintenance of an enabling environment for economic growth, social and political stability and employment creation.

The administration of the system of social grants, which are so critical to the sustenance of our most vulnerable citizens, has now been added to the Ministry's portfolio.

Before presenting the funding requirements of the Ministry to fulfil its mandate during 2005/2006, I wish to report briefly on some of the achievements of the Ministry during the 2004/2005 Financial Year.

Perhaps the most significant achievement of the past year was the enactment of the new Labour Act, Act 15 of 2005. As the House is aware, the Act will usher in a new system to resolve labour disputes in an efficient and non-adversarial manner in order to prevent or minimise industrial conflict. The Ministry is preparing to put the Act into effect at the earliest possible date. We will address this further in respect of our requirements for the coming year.

Namibia has actively participated in international and regional bodies, such as the International Labour Organisation, the African Regional Labour Administration Centre, and the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission meetings during the period under review.

Eight International Labour Organisation Conventions had been identified as being fundamental to the rights of human beings at work, irrespective of levels of development of individual Member States. These rights are a pre-condition for all the others in that they provide for the necessary implements to strive freely for the improvement of individual and collective conditions of work. Thus far, Namibia has ratified ten ILO Conventions. Among these Conventions, seven are core Conventions, and three are non-core Conventions. Reports on Articles 19 and 32, non-ratified Conventions and ratified Conventions, respectively, of the ILO Constitution have been compiled and forwarded to the International Labour Organisation.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, through the Labour Advisory

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Council, had successfully conducted a survey on the conditions of casual workers in Namibia from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2004. This was carried out on various farms and establishments in the Otjozondjupa, Oshana, Khomas and the Erongo Regions, respectively. The Ministry is finalising the Report.

The Labour Advisory Council also held a successful tripartite workshop on Convention 170 Concerning Chemicals, 1990, Convention 174 Concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, 1993 and Convention 184 Concerning Safety and Health in Agriculture.

A National Code on HIV/AIDS and Employment was launched in July 2004. The research on the effects of HIV/AIDS on households in northern Namibia has also been completed. The Ministry was also able to facilitate negotiations that led to the signing of the Agreement on Minimum Wage in the Security Industry.

The Ministry carried out the renovation and construction of the head office as well as Regional Labour Offices in Oshakati and Katima Mulilo. Important labour market research was undertaken, including the following:

- The Namibian Labour Force Survey, 2004, was successfully carried out and data is currently being analysed;
- Report on Expatriates working in the country was compiled from the administrative records of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and Foreign Affairs.
- Information from employers in the agricultural sector was tabulated and analysed.
- The Occupational Wages Survey Data was analysed and tabulated and a draft report has been compiled.
- In 2004, Statistical Bulletin was compiled and will be published soon.
- Employment officers registered 5,771 jobseekers during the period under review. Of the registered jobseekers, 3,353 were male and 2,418 female. Out of the total registered jobseekers, 1,355 were placed in both Private and Public Sectors, of which 621 were males and 734 female.
- The Ministry's complement of labour and factory inspectors was

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expanded to 56 inspectors in fifteen Labour Offices in twelve Regions of the country, including inspectors responsible for occupational health and safety in the workplace at almost every office.

- During the last Financial Year, 3,806 labour inspections were conducted by the labour inspectors and 1,093 health and safety inspections by the factory inspectors.
- Forty-seven tripartite meetings were held with the social partners.

12,464 Labour cases were registered with the Ministry, of which 6,621 were resolved amicably by the labour inspectors, while 332 labour cases were referred to the Labour Court. 5,511 Cases remain pending, mostly because many complainants could not be traced after lodging a labour complaint.

When we come to donor-supported projects, during the past year the Ministry began two major projects with technical assistance from the International Labour Organisation, each funded by the United States Department of Labour. Namibia is part of a project covering six countries in southern Africa to provide the mechanism for the social partners to review all components of their labour systems, including labour framework, dispute mechanism, machinery and functions of the Labour Ministry in order to strengthen national infrastructures.

This will complement the Ministry's preparation for and implementation of the new Labour Act.

A National Coordinator and Tripartite Advisory Committee have been appointed and a work plan for the first year has been established. We have what we refer to as Project Hope in Namibia. This project, the recipient of a grant of US\$900,000, targets the Agricultural Sector and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare with programmes in HIV/AIDS prevention, education, care and support. The major Agricultural Unions in Namibia have committed jointly to develop a sector-wide workplace policy on HIV/AIDS. 1,317 employees from the communal and commercial farms and from the Ministry of Labour have already received training.

I shall now set out the programmes for which the Ministry seek funds for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. Our request for 2005/2006 amounts to N\$564,429,000. The proposed expenditure appears on Pages 175 to 185 of the Budget book.

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Honourable Chairperson, Social welfare is providing social assistance to the most vulnerable members of our society. This important programme, previously under the Ministry of Health and Social Services, will provide social assistance grants to approximately 135,000 elderly and disabled persons throughout Namibia during the 2005/2006 Financial Year. I am informed that the growth of the number of beneficiaries who have availed themselves for social assistance in the recent period has grown faster than the projected trends on which the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework is based. Indeed, coverage is estimated to reach 80% of the eligible beneficiaries. It is, therefore, possible that the entitlement will exceed the requested appropriation and that it may be necessary – and I am confident to say that in the absence of the Minister – to seek additional funds later this year.

In order to administer grants more effectively and to minimise delays, a Computerised Social Assistance System (CAS) has been introduced at the forty Regional Offices that process and pay out social assistance grants. At present, the system is operated with a CD-ROM, however work is underway to network the entire system, so that all transactions, including applications and approvals, will be done online. In addition, the Ministry will begin this year to establish Payment Committees in the rural areas through which Traditional Leaders will assist claimants to liaise with the Ministry and will be able to receive payments of persons who cannot travel to a social assistance office to collect their grants.

While addressing the topic of social assistance, I wish to emphasise that the number of social grant beneficiaries is increasing. It is, therefore, imperative that an alternative source of income is secured for the retired persons to lessen the financial burden on the State. It is my considered opinion that in case of Namibia the total expenses on social grants will be reduced if all provisions of the Social Security Act (Act 34 of 1994) are fully implemented, namely the implementation of the provisions relating to the Development Fund and the National Pension Fund.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as indicated in the speech of the then Minister of Labour, Honourable Marco Hausiku, in his 2004/2005 Budget speech, a complete reform of the Namibia Social Security has been carried out. Letters to recover funds misappropriated by individuals have been sent out and the process is continuing. Similarly, funds, which were not properly invested have been recalled by the Commission. It is the hope that once the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry are fully implemented, the operation and functioning of the institutions will be

considered fully normalised. A total amount of N\$515,799,000 is required for this programme.

The Labour Market Information programme is aimed at achieving high levels of employment, equity at the workplace and contributing to poverty reduction. Another important programme of the Ministry encompasses the Directorate of Labour Market Services Activities in collecting data and conducting research about workforce issues that are relevant to economic growth and employment policy formulation. The programme also includes vocational and occupational guidance, registering jobseekers and assisting them in finding employment, while assisting employers to hire suitable employees.

Among the goals of this programme are to register a minimum of 40,000 jobseekers in the coming year, to canvas 1,500 employers for possible placement of jobseekers, to place 4,200 jobseekers in new employment, to contribute to the publication, "*Careers in Namibia*" to all schools in the country.

This programme also provides for the funding of the Office of the Employment Equity Commission. The Employment Equity Commission was established by an Act of Parliament to oversee the implementation of Affirmative Action in the workplaces in order to address the historic imbalances in terms of the distribution of jobs, income and occupations.

Although some progress has been made towards equity in employment, the Affirmative Action Impact Assessment Study that was carried out last year revealed that previous disadvantaged persons are still under-represented at the top and senior levels of employment. It is, therefore, important that the Commission is properly empowered in terms of resources, human and financial, to enable it to intensify its efforts in enforcing compliance with the provisions of the enabling legislation. At present, the Act applies only to employers of fifty or more employees – "*relevant*" employers in terms of the Affirmative Action Act. There are currently only 350 relevant employers on the registry of the Commission although there are undoubtedly others who have evaded their applications to implement Affirmative Action.

The Commission intends to employ measures to expose those relevant employers who might be in hiding, but needs resources to do so. The Ministry intends, during the course of this year, to reduce the threshold that determines a relevant employer who must implement Affirmative Action



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from the current minimum employees of 50 to 25 in order to extend the application of Affirmative Action.

There has been a public demand for the reduction of the threshold because it would benefit a large number of the previously disadvantaged who are employed by employers who employ less than 50 employees. This move would inevitably result in the increased number of relevant employers and concomitant resources to enable the Commission to oversee and manage the implementation of Affirmative Action of a larger and increased number of relevant employers.

An increase in the number of review officers is thus inevitable and adequate Budget provision is needed in addition in order to enable the Commission to function more efficiently and to cope with its expected increase of work. A computerised case management system has been developed for the Commission. It is expected to be operational by the end of this year. For this we need a total of N\$10,811,000.

On occupational safety at the workplaces, this programme covers the Ministry's enforcement of both occupational safety and health standards and of labour rights at the workplace, falling under the Directorate of Labour Services. The labour inspectors play a pivotal role in safeguarding industrial peace and protecting workers at the workplace. A labour inspector is often the first neutral party to learn of a workplace dispute and is, therefore well placed to help to solve the problem at an early stage before it escalates. Labour inspectors possess statutory powers to conduct inspections and to enforce key provisions of the Labour Act. Hindering a Labour Inspector in the exercise of the inspector's powers or failing to comply with an order issued by the inspector direct in compliance with the Act is punishable as a crime.

As mentioned previously, 56 inspectors are distributed among twelve Regional Offices throughout the country. The labour inspectors are also involved in the national fight against HIV/AIDS, focusing on issues arising from employment. Most of the inspectors serve on Regional HIV/AIDS Committees.

The expansion of the inspectorate's staff and activities will continue during the current year with an addition of ten inspectors to be hired.

In order to contribute to the development of our Nation, the Ministry aims to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and mutual interest between workers and employers. Our experience has shown that good

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communications between workers and employers can eliminate the mistrust that often fuels labour crisis.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the new Labour Act (Act 15 of 2004), by promoting awareness among workers and employers of their rights and obligations, the Directorate of Labour Services will conduct a number of tripartite educational workshops on labour rights and workplace safety matters. A total of N\$12,402,000 is sought for this programme.

Promoting harmony in industrial relations, support for the Office of the Labour Commissioner. The Office of the Labour Commissioner plays a very vital and cardinal role in promoting sound labour relations and in preventing and resolving labour disputes. With the imminent implementation of the Labour Act, (Act 15 of 2004) the Office will be the principal institution to facilitate a new system of labour dispute resolution through conciliation and arbitration. In order to fulfil this function, the Office will recruit an additional staff complement of 25 labour relations officers to serve as conciliators and arbitrators throughout the country. These conciliators and arbitrators will be in fulltime employment of the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

The new Labour Act also makes provision for part-time or *ad hoc* arrangements when the need so arises. With the commencement of the new system of dispute resolution, the Office will implement an electronic Case Management System. This system will enable the Labour Commissioner to allocate track and monitor conciliation and arbitration cases with maximum efficiency, hopefully. The system will also store accurate and relevant data on labour relations matters.

The economy of every country is heavily dependent on its good labour relations, effective labour dispute prevention, and resolution mechanisms. The current good labour relations climate, with the exception of some specific sector we will not name, I believe can be strengthened by encouraging both employers and Trade Unions to embark on regular consultations and meaningful negotiations on issues that are affecting the relationship at workplaces.

The Office of the Labour Commissioner fosters the harmonious environment by advising unions and employer organisations on labour relations, dispute prevention and dispute resolution mechanisms and on compliance with the provisions of the Labour Act. It also facilitates meetings between the trade unions and employer organisations and convenes tripartite consultations about the three social partners, which are

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HON DIENDA**

the Employers, Trade Unions and the State.

Industrial relations is dynamic and the staff members that are directly involved in the management of labour relations should all go for training in order to keep pace with the changing demands of their work. At the same time, staff members in this field require improved conditions of employment that are commensurate with their responsibilities. We intend to develop proposals in this regard during the coming Financial Year. A total of N\$4,02 million is requested for this programme.

The Administrative Support Services programme includes all the administrative and support services for the functioning of the Ministry, including finance, personnel, training, transport and maintenance and control of State assets. We are merely asking a total amount of N\$13,396,000 for this programme.

For our Development Budget needs, this Budget provides for the renovation and construction of Regional Offices of the Ministry as well as the conducting of a survey to update our labour market system. To accomplish this important task, the amount we are asking this House to endorse is a mere N\$8 million.

In conclusion, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members our main aim is to promote labour peace and social justice in employment for the purpose of national development in collaboration with the organisations of employers and workers, while at the same time providing security and comfort for the most vulnerable people of our country. I, therefore, humbly present to this august House the expenditure of N\$564,429,000 for its kind consideration and approval and I trust that you will do just that. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put  
**Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”** for Discussion.

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Chairperson, I have a question on Page 6, Administration, to the Minister. In what way are the normal working hours of the staff within the Ministry controlled? The reason for my question is that the staff members are working overtime and get paid for it. At the same time, they only start working as from 10:00 the next day. I want to

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**HON MUDGE**

know what the justification for this is. If staff members are productive during office hours, there is no need for overtime and the Ministry can use that money in other areas within the Ministry. Thank you.

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

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Members of the National Assembly, before I continue to comment on the business before us, allow me to apologise for a procedural mistake made by me during the Debate on Vote 01 – Office of the President. I was under the impression I could say what I said because it was merely my personal opinion, but the fact is that I had to submit to the Ruling of the Honourable Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I should, therefore have withdrawn my statement when I was requested to do so by the Honourable Chairperson and I fully understand that any Ruling by the Honourable Chairperson must be respected and adhered to whether I as a Member agree or disagree. I would, therefore want to tender my sincere apology to you, Honourable Chairperson, as well as to the Honourable Members of the House and I trust that you will accept it in the spirit in which I present it.

Honourable Chairperson, I then continue with the business before us. At the beginning of her speech the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration said that her Ministry has been inspired by the visionary leadership of His Excellency President Pohamba and since I had no time to finish my speech during the Debate on the Vote of the Office of the President, I would like to use this opportunity to echo those words of the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration and also declare that we in the Republican Party are equally inspired by the visionary leadership of our President and want to assure him of our dedicated support in order for him to fulfil his expressed vision for our Nation.

The Honourable Minister said that the Ministry intends to evaluate efficiency of the Ministry critically and I commend her on this approach. Speculations are rife that a great number of personnel in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is either inefficient and are operating in a corrupt manner and I trust that in line with what His Excellency also promised on a number of occasions, that these unacceptable practices will

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HON KAZENAMBO**

be put to a halt as soon as possible and it is also important that those responsible for such unlawful behaviour must be brought to justice without further delay.

I would, therefore, like to encourage the Honourable Minister to embark on a mission to ensure that the staff of the Ministry be adequately trained for the job to ensure that, as the Honourable Minister put it, *“the ethos of Public Service, as adopted by the Cabinet, is achieved as soon as possible.”*

Another aspect that needs urgent attention is the training of Immigration personnel. You must always keep in mind that these officials are the first to be met by visitors to our country. It is of utmost importance that the personnel will behave in a professional and friendly manner and make our guests feel welcome from the moment that they enter our country.

I would also like to request the Minister to consider changes to the current visa requirements and conditions for foreigners to enter Namibia, especially business people. It happened on a number of occasions that foreign directors of local companies were barred from entering from the airport purely because the immigration official was of the opinion that these businesspersons have been in Namibia long enough. It actually happened that the said businesspersons were sitting at the airport while a meeting took place without them. I am specifically referring to those visitors coming for a day or two, but on a regular basis.

Honourable Chairperson, I am aware that we have limited time and I would like to conclude by confirming the support of the Republican Party for Vote 05 for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to support Vote 05, but before doing that, I want to refer to Page 3, Visas, Permits and facilitation of entry.

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**HON T GURIRAB**

As a student and now a Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister, I have been travelling abroad on various assignments and even as a SWAPO activist or SWAPO representative in youth matters. It is unbelievable what problems you experience if you are a Namibian citizen and travel on an ordinary Namibian passport and I do not know where that specific issue can be referred to. I know some people who think that they have met the visa requirements of foreign countries, only to be disappointed that their children are either detained at the airports or sent back and then you do not know where to refer this matter to. When you are at those airports, you are treated badly. You are subjected to humiliation while you thought you have cleared everything. You are taken from a queue of twenty people, you are subjected to interrogation, and I do not know where one can refer this issue. I do not know whether it is the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration or Foreign Affairs who should take up these matters with other countries, because as much as we facilitate entry of other people, it is sometimes unbelievable how our people are treated, especially those travelling with ordinary passports. There must be a two-way traffic on this issue.

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

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Chairperson, I rise in support of this important Vote and I have two brief questions-cum-observations to make.

Chairperson, firstly, my Colleague, Honourable Ilonga, who has a background of call-in programmes may be aware that one of the issues people regularly call in about is this question of national documents, whether they are passports identity documents, etcetera. However, we are emboldened by what the new Minister has to say in her motivation on Page 4, that she is in the process of developing a questionnaire, which will solicit inputs from the entire citizenry as to how we should go ahead in this area.

We look forward to that initiative and already wish to congratulate her at this stage.

Honourable Chairperson, my second observation is with regard to the immigration function. The present Ministry is designated as the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. Before it was relieved of the Police function, there was an initiative by the previous Minister, my good friend

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**HON DE WAAL**

Honourable Ekandjo, to integrate the immigration functions with the Police. Our question is whether this is still the intention or whether the split of the functions means that the Government is no longer going ahead with this idea of integrating the two functions and that, therefore, my good friend's drive on this would then be a dead horse? I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable De Waal.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. My question relates to the targets of the Ministry on Page 74 of the main document. I see there at the average age of applications for identity documents, it is stated there that the expected outcome for the year 2004/2005 will be 333 days. In 2005/2006 it will still be 333 days and then it comes down in 2006/2007 to 180 days.

I have two questions, Honourable Minister. In the first place, do these days refer to working days - Monday to Friday or do they refer to weekdays, Monday to Monday, because that makes quite a difference in the target? Secondly, apparently what is happening here is that the reason why the waiting period is so long is the laser engraver. In the speech and in some other documents I saw that we are going to buy another laser engraver and that is going halve the time of issuing an identity document. Honourable Chairperson, we firmly believe, that 180 days waiting period for an identity document is simply not good enough and our question to the Honourable Minister is whether she has asked the Honourable Minister of Finance for enough money for the acquisition of two laser engravers instead of one in order to cut the number of waiting days from six months to three months. I would want the Minister to please comment on that, because we feel that the time taken for issuing of identity documents is simply too long. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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

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**HON MOONGO / HON NAMBAHU**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Chairperson, on Page 10 there is reference to citizenship for refugees. I understand they are in the process of repatriating the Angolans. I was wondering what will happen to those Angolans who want to remain here and who applied for citizenship. It has now taken them fifteen years to get documents. (Interjections). Those who were here before Independence and who want to remain in Namibia. What is the reason that it takes ten years? (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Order. I am concerned about the issue Honourable Moongo is raising. If this is implemented and people are taken back to Angola, would that not affect the composition of our Government?

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**HON MOONGO:** I do not want to respond to that. That would be their problem. I am talking about the people who have been living here as refugees and who will be repatriated voluntarily to their motherland.

I was shocked to read on Page 8 that there are 70,000 uncollected identity documents. It is embarrassing, because why did the Government have to wait until it reached that number? It could easily have been sent to the Governors and Traditional Authorities in the Regions who can identify the owners. Why did they have to wait until it became 70,000? The Government failed totally in this effort. Thank you.

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

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this very important Vote and express my gratitude for the priorities set in this Vote. However, I would like to raise some concerns and it has mainly to do with the Forensic Science Services.

When you visit our courtrooms you would hear most of the time that cases are being postponed because of outstanding blood results and thus I think it is really a good move to address that issue. The importance of this is not



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**HON NGHIDINWA**

only confined to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, it will definitely have an impact on the speedy delivery of judicial services to our people.

I can however foresee a problem with the synchronisation that the Honourable Prime Minister spoke about in order to have a speedy delivery of the results to other Ministries and to reduce the bureaucracy that may hamper this good initiative.

Another issue I want to mention is on civil registration. There used to be something called an Immigration Selection Board in the Ministry of Home Affairs then, which was tasked with the granting of permits for investors, but there used to be a lack of capacity to follow up. An investor applied to the Board, gave reasons that he was going to invest and was granted a permit, but there was lack of capacity to follow up. The investor ended up doing something else and the Ministry did not have the capacity to monitor whether that investor is using the permit for the purpose it was granted. This also influences Trade and Industry and other Ministries. I therefore want to know whether the necessary cooperation is envisaged so that these loopholes are looked at. With that, I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. *Honourable Dienda* posed a question on the normal working hours of the Ministry. The normal working hours of the Ministry are eight hours per day, but what you have to know is that we have a severe shortage of staff at the border posts and entry points and if a staff member is sick, another staff member has to work overtime, which is at a higher rate than the normal working hours.

*Honourable Mudge*, I thank you very much for your support. We do agree and we are in the process of training our staff as a matter of urgency.

*Honourable Kazenambo*, thank you for your support. You mentioned the student visas and the mistreatment of visitors outside the country, but you

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON T GURIRAB**

did not specify which countries. We are in the process of introducing the machine-readable passport, which is an international requirement.

*Honourable Gurirab*, thank you for your support. You mentioned the long waiting period for national documents, but I have even mentioned in my motivation speech that we are going to improve on that.

*Honourable De Waal*, the reason why the waiting period is so long is because of the backlog in the automation of fingerprint records. Currently we have to verify any new application manually against the old records. After automation, the identification will be done by the computer and no longer manually. The new laser engraver is advanced technology and can easily be integrated in the old system of the Ministry.

*Honourable Nambahu*, thank you for your support. We have already started meetings with our counterparts in the Ministry of Trade and Industry about these business visas so that we can improve the system. I thank all the Honourable Members who supported my Vote.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Any further discussion? Honourable Ncube.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Vote and to congratulate the Comrade Minister for the motivation of her Budget and to take this opportunity to pose a question to the Honourable Minister. Is it true that a person carrying a foreign passport can also have a Namibian identification card?

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Chairperson, I do not know whether the Honourable Minister wishes to comment on the question I posed on immigration, because there is a draft Bill.

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**HON NGHIDINWA**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Thank you very much for your question. At this moment, we have the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and I do not think we can submit that draft Bill, which the Honourable Member mentioned.

On the question by *Honourable Ncube*, we still have people with that attitude that they do not want to denounce their citizenship and sometimes they have more than three passports or identity cards. We are in the process of improving the system to control that and even taking them to Court.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Vote 05 agreed to. I put **Vote 06 – “POLICE”** for Discussion.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06 – Namibian Police. Honourable Members would recall that my support for the Namibian Police featured very prominently in my maiden speech and I will continue to do so.

Yesterday the Honourable Minister indicated that given the current Budget, they would be forced to scale down some activities and even freeze some projects. I was now looking at Page 77 of the Budget and I realised that, for example, the Budget for combating of crime has been reduced by about N\$30 million. However, we now have the City Police in Windhoek only who are paid by us and I thought they would complement the efforts of the Namibian Police, but I have noticed that the City Police act more as a responsive team rather than patrolling around. They do patrol in town, but despite us being ratepayers and funding the City Police, they are not doing enough in the residential areas to assist the Namibian Police. (Intervention)

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON VENAANI**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Member, if you are talking about the Windhoek City Police, is that not for the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development?

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** I was just trying to link the two in order to address this problem of our Namibian Police. I want to appeal to the Minister to engage the City Police to render services that are more complementary to our Namibian Police.

I fully support and concur with the Minister and I would like to suggest that he approaches the esteemed Minister of Finance. Maybe she could provide funds from the Contingency Fund. I support Vote 06.

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

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I think I want to Move a Motion of protesting for this Vote, because in the Minister's motivation speech yesterday he spoke of the fact that under the current Budget for the Police it would be impossible for them even to pay their water and electricity at some stages. Really, as lawmakers we cannot support this Vote, knowing that the Budget will not cater for the facilities that are necessary for the operations of the Police.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support the sentiments expressed by the previous speaker that we try to get assurance that the Minister of Safety and Security would get some funds in the kitty from the Contingency Fund to be able to fund these operational necessities.

Returning to the Police in general, I see an improvement in the tidiness of the uniforms of the members of the Force. The Police Force is an exemplary institution to the citizens of this country and we have seen an improvement in members of the Force and I want to congratulate you for that.

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**HON VENAANI**

The question of the City Police was raised. We were under the impression that perhaps the City Police could have lessened the work of the Namibian Police in the Khomas Region, especially in the City of Windhoek and some of the members even to be deployed to other critical areas, because duplication might not work in our own interest as citizens and ratepayers.

The behaviour of some members of the Special Field Force is a matter of great concern. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:**

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, in the light of yesterday's Debate, that you discovered some journalists were promoting NUDO at the expense of other Parties such as the DTA, have you also experienced some Police Officers who are promoting NUDO at the expense of your Party?

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**HON VENAANI:** He is Out of Order. I was talking about the behaviour of the Special Field Force. Sometimes members of the Special Field Force enter your house without any search warrant and ask you where you got this television. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

May I ask a question? Honourable Venaani, can you inform the House and the public when that incident took place and where?

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**HON VENAANI:** It happened at a house in Katutura, Erf 4939, Exodus Street, Katutura, a date in August last year. It is just the legal premise on which the Police operate. It is another thing to have a roadblock, but to come into a person's house and to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister where he got the television and the laptop and to produce receipts is uncalled for and such behaviour cannot be condoned.

The Honourable Minister spoke about the vehicles of the Police being damaged because they move around many hours and it was in the previous motivation of the former Minister, today the Minister of Lands. I was wondering whether it is not possible for us as a country to create a garage

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**HON VENAANI**

and a panel beater specifically for the Police because every car is damaged. Perhaps we could train inmates in prisons to do this panel beating in order to reduce the cost and to create employment.

Sometimes I agree with the sentiment that the police vehicles are utilised for very long hours, but we also see a trend of abuse and misuse of these vehicles. Especially in rural areas, you see an Officer with a bottle of beer in the car.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to mention the untidiness of police stations. The Officers themselves are very clean, but when you go to the police stations, you would know that it is a Namibian Police Station and emphasis should be put on cleanliness of these institutions. When you come to a desk to lay a complaint, there is a lot of dust and there is an Officer sitting there. These things do not reflect well on us. For example, some of you who know Singapore, would know that the Government buildings in Singapore are the cleanest in the whole of Singapore, because they employ strict measures for those buildings to be cleaned and I urge the Honourable Minister, while supporting your Vote under protest, that we should really put emphasis on that.

Another issue that is a matter of great concern especially during the festive season is prisoners escaping from custody. You would find that two prisoners have escaped from Grootfontein and this does not really create a good impression and we had examples of people escaping six times from police custody and I do not know what the reasons are for this, whether it is members belonging to the same gangs or whether members of the Police are involved in these gangs.

With those few remarks, I want to reiterate my position that I am lobbying directly and indirectly for the Minister of Finance to assure us, before we pass this Vote, that the necessary items that the Police need would be covered, because the economy of this country can only be protected by our Force and additional resources should be given in order to sustain our economy and to make it grow. I thank you.

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

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON IILONGA / HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Comrade Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 06 – Police and I want to give my unconditional support to the work well done by our Police Force who arrested the criminals who committed robbery in the guise of Police Officers. I want them to investigate who supplied the false registration plates and uniforms to this gang and if found, he or she must be punished.

On Page 77 one finds that the Road Traffic Control subdivision is not budgeted for, but on Page 78 it is included. This should rather be reflected on Page 77, rather than be put on Page 78, because as it is now, you would think it is not included.

Then I only want to remark that the Budget cut of over N\$21 million is not a joke. Was there any reason for this cut, maybe that the staff did not prepare well for the negotiations with the Ministry of Finance?

Lastly, I want to appeal that something must be done. The *botsotsos* are listening to us and when they hear that the number of police stations are going to be reduced, they are going to take advantage of that. This matter must be looked at very seriously. I support Vote 06.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the Vote for the Police and to commend the Minister for the very honest and open way that he has put forward what are very serious problems. It is, indeed, difficult to run the Ministry without adequate funding and when I was listening to the Minister, I was reminded that the Honourable Minister of Finance in her motivation speech spoke about re-cutting the national cake. If we ever get to the re-cutting, maybe this is one place where we must increase the slice.

It is true that we can ask about the Contingency Fund, but there I have a question. I know that we did not have an Additional Budget because there was no money and after the money was given for the Anti-Retroviral Treatment, there was N\$1,8 million left. In terms of the needs of the Ministry, I think that that is a drop in the ocean, but maybe it will help. I have a few questions, however, to the Honourable Minister.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

I see from the document that of the funded positions in the Ministry, 108 have not been filled. Could the Minister please explain why this has happened?

We have congratulated both His Excellency, the President and the Right Honourable Prime Minister for the saving measures they have brought in and one would hope that some of the Policemen and women who formerly were in the large motorcades and the VIP Protection Unit could possibly be released in order to assist in the shortfall that is in the Ministry.

The Minister says in his motivation statement that at present the staffing contingent in the Police Force is 11,380. From the summary of staffing that we received it appears that the present staffing contingent is 12,106, a difference of 1,274. Could the Minister please just explain this discrepancy?

Honourable Minister, I listened carefully to the problems of transport that are being experienced by your Ministry. The Standing Committee last year had an opportunity to visit the police cells and prisons and I must say that whilst I support the Minister's request for more money available for transport, the experience we had is that most of the damaged cars outside police stations were not because of the high number of kilometres travelled, but rather because of irresponsible driving. For example, at Otjiwarongo where discipline was very strictly adhered to, they had more cars available than any other police station and my question to the Honourable Minister would be, could one then also incorporate somewhere within the Budget, measures to adopt a stricter control of how the Ministry's vehicles are used?

Honourable Minister, I welcome the amount of almost N\$8 million set aside for training especially of the Special Field Force in human rights and law, but I would like to go further, as I said in my initial Budget contribution, that I hope that somewhere within this training it will be possible for some of the Special Field Force members to get the required qualifications that would enable them to be absorbed into the Police Force itself, so that we can decrease this big discrepancy between the Special Field Force and the Police Force as a whole. However, the training is definitely welcomed and I think that if they get more training in human rights and the law, then they will not pull earrings out.

Another serious matter that the Minister spoke about is the overcrowding of police cells and the feeding costs which will constantly rise. When we were visiting prisons and police cells, we realised that in some of the



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**HON MUDGE**

prisons the inmates could at least have gardens and augment the food they need, especially with the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and the need to eat vegetables, but we were also informed that people awaiting trial in police cells could not be made to work. Therefore, this food bill is going to rise constantly. What we discovered and also recommended in our Report was that there is a need for cooperation between some of the Ministries, because there are problems in the Ministry of Justice that result in the fact that trial-awaiting prisoners spend a long time in the police cells, however if there is cooperation and one could fast-track the process for accused persons to be charged and sentenced, then I think there would be a decrease in the police cells and, therefore, a decrease in the overall feeding apart from the rest.

Honourable Minister, in conclusion, I would just like to say that it is indeed true that some of the benefits and the housing of members of the Police Force really are in a state, as the Honourable Minister says, where money is needed to improve it, because people working in the Force are people who expose themselves to a lot of stress and one would hope that when they go off duty, they would go home to a proper house. However, in many instances we find that they are not even living with their families because of the lack of appropriate accommodation. There again I think cooperation with some of the other Ministries might alleviate the problem and I hope that the Honourable Minister of Finance will be able to cut the cake differently so that the situation in the Police would improve. I support Vote 06.

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

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Chairperson, a lot that I wanted to say has been said therefore I would be very brief.

I think what the Honourable Minister said yesterday in all probability sent shockwaves through Namibia today, but I would like to thank him for the transparent way in which he presented the situation that we experience and that he envisages. It was shocking to hear him say that the Police Force will not even have enough money to pay their accounts. I cannot believe this. It is so important for our Police Force, as Honourable Venaani also said, to be a prime example of the people protecting us, something that is enshrined in our Constitution. We want to be proud of them, we want them to do their job properly and we want them to be well trained, well paid, to

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work normal hours, and to be fit when they are on duty.

I want to conclude by repeating what I said in the beginning and I really mean this, that our threat is not from outside our borders, our biggest threat is from within our borders and that is why I will agree with everybody who said that – to use the words of Honourable Schimming-Chase – if the cake is being cut, there is one Ministry that needs to get money very, very urgently, not only to survive, but to improve themselves and to train themselves and to get themselves in a position where they can maintain their vehicles and equipment and also to serve the Nation in the way that they are supposed to serve. With that, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Chairperson, my contribution will also be very brief. I congratulate the Minister for his transparency on the shortcomings in the Police, which is a very good thing. Some of the Ministers used to hide the shortcomings, he was straightforward, and I appreciate that.

I am concerned about the suspension of some of the functions of the Police. We were supposed to rather suspend functions of other Ministries because the security of the country is a priority. Therefore, I again have a suspicion, because the Police are suspected to be involved in the robberies by a syndicate and I have a fear if we treat the Police in this manner. Was there any investigation why the Police are involved in syndicates and robberies?

The Minister said at some police stations trial-awaiting prisoners spend two or three years in the police cells and this is against international law. We will be recorded as mistreating the detainees and we must be careful. Thank you.

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

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**HON KAIYAMO / HON DE WAAL**

**HON KAIYAMO:** Honourable Chairperson, I would also like to express some concerns. Comrade Minister, the Police are doing good work. Some of us who are coming from a police state now realise that Namibia has a people's Police and we are very happy.

Secondly, it came to my attention that the members of the VIP Protection Unit are experiencing problems with the processing of their applications for S&T. They are told to return tomorrow, but then the S&T is not prepared and then they have to travel without money. I want the Minister please to look into this matter. Thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable De Waal.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. My first question to the Honourable Minister is a very simple one: How much money do you need to pay your water and electricity bills of last year and this year? We want to have that figure tonight still, because without that figure we cannot approve this Budget Vote.

Honourable Chairperson, if we approve this Vote after listening to what the Honourable Minister said and let me just remind you what he said, the Honourable Minister said that, "*the Namibian Police Force could not meet its financial obligations to creditors during the 2004/2005 Financial Year.*" Then he said, "*Water and electricity shall continue to be cut at some police stations and border posts countrywide due to non-payment.*" That means that he is already in debt and now we want to put him deeper into debt and that is not acceptable. He also said, "*For instance, non-availability of water and electricity would mean the closure of Charges Offices at night. The trial-awaiting prisoners in police cells will have to do without water and food and that police mortuaries will have decomposing bodies. Imagine overcrowded police cells without water to flush the toilets.*"

Honourable Chairperson, I think we are taking this much too lightly. Do you know what I am going to do? Tomorrow is the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month it is the last day to pay your water and electricity bill. If this Budget Vote goes through, I am going to draft my own Budget tomorrow morning and in that

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Budget there will be no money for water and electricity for the Municipality of Windhoek, because the highest house in the country is approving a Budget which not only does not give money for the outstanding accounts of last year, no, they approve a Budget to say they do not pay their water and electricity for the next year as well. How can you do that? It is impossible. We cannot accept this Budget Vote! I will definitely not pay my water and electricity bill tomorrow if this Police Vote is accepted tonight, I will not, because the National Assembly in this country has told the people of this country not to pay their water and electricity bills. I will not pay it and take me to Court, let us see!

Honourable Chairperson, we need that figure and we need it tonight before we approve this Budget Vote and unless we take a decision tonight not to dispose of this Vote but to adjourn it until Tuesday until we have solved this problem, we can tell the people of this country that this Government for which we are responsible is going to pay our water and electricity bills, nothing else.

Honourable Chairperson, some time back I also lost some equipment through theft, I reported it to the Police, and I must say, I had the privilege of speaking to a senior Police Officer over the telephone and he assured me that he would send somebody, which he did. I also spoke to that person, the detective, and he tried his best. However, what worries me is that he kept on phoning me and saying, *"Sorry Mr De Waal, I cannot go to Katutura today because I do not have a car, I have asked the people from the City Police to come and pick me up and if they come, I will go."* Then the next day he phoned me again and said, *"Sorry, I could not go because the people of the City Police did not come"*. Then I left on one of these official trips and I came back after five or six days and I never heard of him again.

The fact of the matter is that this City Police issue is now worrying me very seriously, because I am getting the impression that we are now enforcing double taxation on the residents of Windhoek. I was under the impression – and that is the impression that we got from the Municipality – that we had a certain layer of police protection in Windhoek area and what they are asking us is to fork out more money, apart from the tax that we pay at the Ministry of Finance, we are now also paying tax to Mayor Shikongo for this additional protection that we are getting from the City Police. However, looking at this Budget Vote, I am now under the impression that we have been caught for a sucker, because what is happening is that Central Government is taking away the bottom-line and just let the City Police do the work alone and I think that is unfair, Sir. I really feel that is

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unfair. How can we pay for something and then all of a sudden it is taken away and now we must go and pay tax at Mr Shikongo's office as well? (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** But it is not Mr Shikongo, you should name the institution.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Yes, it is jokingly, I mean the Municipality of Windhoek. Honourable Chairperson, if I read the document correctly, we have something like N\$150 million in the Contingency Fund and I would love to hear the Minister of Finance making a commitment tonight that she will pay that amount from the Contingency Fund, so that we can accept this Vote and go to bed. Thank you.

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

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Chairperson, I want to express my support for the Vote. I want to comment on something and that is the issue of the Special Field Force.

Sometimes we do generalise when we condemn these colleagues. Some of these colleagues were recruited through the Peace Project, as it is being referred to, to arrest a certain situation, but I am not too sure whether there was a strategy of going over to the next stage of training them for policing. This is what I would have liked to see, because now they are being condemned left, right and centre by the most Honourable Members of the society and by those who are not so honourable and sometimes one wonders what would happen with their morale taking into account their poor conditions of service. Honestly, I know of some fine men and women out there who are doing their work under difficult conditions.

The military have Military Police and in the Police, they have a Discipline and Complaints Unit, which is more reactive than proactive. In the military, you see the Military Police going around, looking for those who

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are actually violating the military rules. However, Investigating Officers are unable to go to scenes of crime, because there is no vehicle. The vehicle of that unit is parked in front of a certain Shebeen and only when you complain something will be done. Why is there not something such as Military Police in the Police Force to act against those breaching the police rules? I would like to see something like that, so that those who are honest and doing their work properly will not fall into the trap of people who are actually bringing the name of the Force into disrepute. I would like us to exercise our minds in that direction.

The Investigating Officers are one of the most important links in the chain of the combating of crime, because if the Investigating Officer does not go to the scene of crime and bring the necessary evidence, the Prosecutor will not be able to prosecute properly and as a result, further investigations, postponements and all these kinds of things. However, with the Budget in front of us now, I am not so sure I should recommend some of these things because I do not know whether they could be carried out with the resources allocated. I would have liked to support and recommend the improvement of the conditions of service of these comrades in the struggle against crime to be looked into. Thank you.

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

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**HON KASINGO:** Thank you very much, Chairperson. I stand in sympathy of Vote 06 of the Police. In short, I would just like to repeat my sympathy, which I expressed during the Second Reading. I would like to know whether there is a plan to transfer the S&T of the Ministers' drivers and bodyguards to the specific Ministries, because if you put yourself in the shoes of the management cadre of the Minister of Safety and Security, how are they going to control the travelling of the different Ministers? I think this is a component, which will make things worse within the Ministry of Safety and Security. I agree with the previous speakers who have expressed their disappointment with the cutting of the Budget of this Vote and I would like to know whether there is a plan to do that. If there is no plan, why is there no plan? I would like to propose that this component should be transferred to the different Ministries and to be managed there. I thank you.

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**HON PROF KERINA / HON BOOYS**

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

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**HON PROF KERINA:** Honourable Chairperson, I have been listening to everybody and I just want to say a few words. First of all, we all know that the crime rate is rising every day in our country and we also know that every time we call upon the Police, we are told that the Police do not have transport or they do not have petrol and at the same time we are losing some of our best Officers to the Private Sector and the reason is very simple: because of their low salaries while the cost of living is escalating every day.

Secondly, I have been informed that promotion in the service now rests with the Inspector-General. Is it possible for the Ministry to change that system and establish an independent Commission within the Force to be responsible for promotion, so that the Inspector-General cannot be accused of favouritism and partiality every day in our country?

I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Hans Booy's.

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**HON BOOYS:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I must also congratulate the Minister for Vote 06. Those of us who came from the worst situations of the pre-colonial administration have seen Police brutality and the young people have never gone through that. The Police followed tracks and said that the guerrillas were in that hut and from where they are they would kill all those in that hut. We know those of type things. It is because of the Special Field Force today that certain areas in Katutura are safe. Grootfontein is safe. For example, Grootfontein had what was then known as *Tara Nawa*, these young boys and after the Special Field Force has been established, those people are gone, and we do not know where they are. They were terrorising their own people. People were just caught and their clothes were just removed from their bodies. Maybe it is true that they go to your house and ask about your television, but truly speaking, we have gone through hell before Independence. We

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are using unnecessary things as topics, we are demoralising those colleagues of ours whom we expect to protect us.

I am commuting on the road to Okahandja day and night. I should be the one to complain against them, but I do not want to do that. Why? I do not want to demoralise them. They are partly also doing a good job. Some of us can drive to Katutura safely because of them. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Chairperson, I only want to hear from the Minister what they will do about the low salaries, because I feel that our Namibia Police deserve better than those low salaries. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Any further discussion? Honourable Schimming-Chase.

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** On Page 10 of the Minister's motivation it is said, "*Currently the total number of the Namibian Police Force stands at 11,380*". The 12,106 come from the document we received, Summary of Staffing by Votes. The 108 that I spoke about is the difference between the positions that are filled at present and the positions that are funded for 2005/2006, which means that the Ministry can only recruit 108 people.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** The Minister raised the question of the Caprivi Treason Trial and given the fact that this trial is a once-off thing in a country, I



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think the Minister of Justice should also play a role in trying to fund some of these needed services that the Ministry of Safety and Security is funding, because it is partly a judicial matter and the delay is because of investigations and lawyers. Why can we not make it a co-responsibility of the Ministry of Justice or the Attorney-General's Office together with the Ministry of Safety and Security? That is the only comment I wanted to make.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** I have only a very small question concerning promotion and the question of nepotism. Somebody is sent for some training and then after that, he will be given promotion and his salary is increased. I want the Minister to explain whether he is aware of this.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I would like to answer to the questions posed by the Honourable Members in sympathy of the Budget allocated to the Ministry of Safety and Security.

The first was from *Honourable Peya Mushelenga*. I would like, in the first place, to thank him for supporting this Vote. His question was on the City Police in Windhoek. I would like to respond that the City Police is confined to the enforcement of the Municipality regulations and by-laws. They have more authority on the properties of the Municipality and have the same arresting powers as the Police when a person is found committing a crime or trying to escape from lawful arrest. There is already a working relationship between the regular Police and the City Police and it is only a matter of time before we see this relationship in real action.

Honourable Mushelenga also mentioned the scaling down or freezing of

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some activities. This is the reality of the situation if there are no additional funds to this Budget and it remains like that, it is a fact and that is that. I must just thank you for your support and for raising some of these issues.

*Honourable Venaani*, the situation regarding water and electricity is also a fact and I will answer it together with the question by *Honourable De Waal*. I must say that I already have two letters that we received today, threatening to cut water and electricity, from the Oshana Regional Council. The water and electricity of Oshakati will be cut if we do not pay by today or tomorrow. The other one is from Oshikoto Regional Council, from NORED, and it is the same situation. We have been begging them not to do so and we are still debating, asking them to wait until the Budget has been approved, but they appear not to understand. This is the reality of the situation that I am talking about and these are the ones, which came this morning, and maybe by this afternoon others were received. This is a very grave situation indeed.

Thank you for the support for the much-needed increments for the Police Force members. For many years, there have been no increments for the police salaries. This is one of the contributing factors why the Police are engaged in some of these unbecoming criminal activities, ganging up with criminals. For example, the Rehoboth case is a pathetic situation, for four, five years no increment and the cost of living is going up every day.

Thanks for the commendation that the Police Officers are tidy. However, there is still a problem. You will still find two types of uniform within the Police Force, one light blue and one dark blue. This is so because we have no funds to have police uniforms made and they are wearing the old uniforms. This is a problem and we would like to have a uniform Police Force throughout the country, wearing the same hats and clothes of the same colour.

With regard to the behaviour of the Special Field Force, I should maybe say that there are times when the Police Force get information about stolen property being in a certain house. It will not be good for the Police to go and ask a warrant for entering that house, because by that time those items could already have been removed, because the network of criminals is so sophisticated and there are those in the Police Force who are conniving with the criminals and we are afraid that they might go and tell the owner of that house that the Police are coming. This is the reality of the situation and this is why the Police have the right to enter a specific house when they have a suspicion that there are stolen items in that house.

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**HON TSHEEHAMA**

On the question of police vehicles being damaged and a garage being built, this is a very good suggestion. One would have thought this could apply to the whole Government fleet, but there are already syndicates within the Government Garage, for example, that when Government vehicles are brought there, they will be sent to private garages, which hike the prices, and those who sent the vehicles there will also receive a kickback. It is a good idea and if funds are available to build this garage, I think it can be done as we have quite a number of specialists in this venture.

It is true that the police stations are untidy. I have visited them myself and since 1990 or even before, no renovations were done at most of the police stations throughout the country. The ceilings are falling down. The walls are cracked. How can you have a police station, which since its construction has not been renovated? We renovate our houses almost every year and that is why they are so tidy. The police stations need the very same renovations, but there is no money to do that.

There have been escapees from police custody and this is a result of inside work. It has to do with the salaries that we are talking about and that people are not well paid. The criminals agree with some of the unscrupulous Police Officers to look the other way and this fellow goes. These things are happening and this is because of the low salaries of these people.

*Comrade Ilonga*, thank you for your unconditional support. You also posed two good questions about the police vehicle registration numbers and who are making police uniforms available to the criminals. These plates and uniforms are made at the same places the police plates and uniforms are made. These are still the very same Police Officers that we are talking about who have connections with the criminal syndicates. They steal these uniforms and plate numbers and give it to the syndicates, as simple as that and even the sirens of the police vehicles. I must say that to date we have suspended almost 155 Police Officers for various criminal activities. People are tempted to do these things and maybe if we look into an increase in the salaries of these people, it might minimise some of these activities.

Why was it that the Police Budget was cut so severely? I do not know. I have always been asking this question, honestly speaking. There were negotiations and I honestly do not know what went wrong.

It is true that closing police stations is a serious issue and cutting and freezing other activities will have serious consequences for the law and order in this country.

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**HON TSHEEHAMA**

*Honourable Schimming-Chase*, thank you for your support. The Police Force is not satisfied with the piece of the national cake it received. You said we should put the cake back together and enlarge the piece given to the Police Force. I think that message was loud and clear.

We are saying the number of staffing of the Police Force is 11,380 and these are active Police Officers, while civilian personnel are 578. This brings us to the total number of 11,958. We also have students whose number is not included here. The approved posts for Police Officers are supposed to be 16,490, but the filled posts are 11,380, whereas the vacant posts that are not yet funded for, are 5,110. This is the current strength of the Police Force, including the Special Field Force, the regular Police Force, VIP Protection, Signal Division, etcetera. Those are now the correct figures I have given.

Thank you for visiting the police cells. I would like the Standing Committee, which visited the establishments of the Defence Force last year to maybe do the same with more police stations and prisons. I would really appreciate that and I will give unconditional entrance to those places to the Committee.

We are trying to teach the Police how to behave and to conduct themselves when they have arrested people. They should conduct themselves in accordance with the law, because some do not. The Government is sued and is consequently losing millions of dollars every year that has to come from the Budget of the Ministry. Our Government Attorneys have not yet won any case, we are always on the losing side and this money goes, it is not replaced and it was not budgeted for.

The police cells are very overcrowded. A cell, which is supposed to accommodate 100 persons, accommodates 300 persons. Just imagine that situation. These are all trial-awaiting persons and there are about 4,000 throughout the country. This is a very big number indeed and the problem is that their cases are always postponed. Sometimes there are no witnesses, sometimes there are those who claim to be sick and many kinds of excuses are given. This is a very heavy burden in terms of feeding and this was not budgeted for.

Housing of the Police is a big problem, Honourable Members. They do not have proper accommodation. There is no police village and you find that most of the Police Officers who are guarding the Members of this House and infrastructure, who are keeping law and order, are sleeping in the

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*kambashus* there. They are squatting because they do not have proper accommodation and this is why these Police Officers mingle with each and every person, criminal or not criminal, and this is how they become involved in some of these syndicates. I have never seen a Budget specifically for the construction of Police Quarters and we would like to have that.

**Honourable Mudge**, what I said, shocking or not shocking, is the reality of the situation. The truth is the truth. As you have said correctly, our threat is within the country, it is true and I would like to thank you very much for your support.

**Honourable Moongo**, I should also thank you for your support and I think I have covered everything you have said in the previous answers.

**Honourable Kaiyamo**, I thank you for the commendation that the Police are doing a good job. These Police Officers are working very hard and the police vehicles are running 24 hours around the clock, they do not rest. Just imagine the tragic accident that happened close to Grootfontein. It happened close to midnight and the Police were transporting these corpses continuously until the morning and the next day they were doing the same. There is no overtime for these issues and they are really working very hard and everyone should really appreciate the work of the Police and give them that boost by thanking them. You will give them a boost to work harder and harder. I will look into the question of S&T.

**Honourable De Waal**, I think you will still have to go and pay your water bill tomorrow. The Namibian Police spends about N\$40 million on water and electricity countrywide. Therefore, this amount could be a workable amount in order for us to solve our problem of water and electricity throughout the country. Thank you very much for the support of the Vote.

**Comrade Nambahu**, thank you for your support. I think the Colleagues have understood everything you have mentioned, especially about the Special Field Force. This Peace Project was to save the situation that was going out of control. By forming the Special Field Force, we diverted that calamity which was going to befall this country. You must also remember that the majority of them did not have an opportunity to attend school as some of us did and I am telling you if they could be given degrees, they would be given degrees with an AK-47 when they were fighting against colonialism.

**Comrade Kasingo**, thank you for your support. We are negotiating that the

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S&T of the drivers and bodyguards of Honourable Ministers must be handled by their Ministries. We shall work towards that direction as time goes on.

*Comrade Kerina*, thank you very much for your support. He was a Comrade at one time when we were together in Francistown, when he struggled to become the president of SWAPO but could not succeed. Yes, the crime rate is rising but we are fighting against crime and I think finally we will succeed, not only as Police Officers, but with the support of the overwhelming majority of the people of Namibia.

*Comrade Booys*, thank you for your support. You mentioned police brutality, but when the Special Field Force comes to an area where there are gangsters, those gangsters will disappear immediately and it also acts as a deterrent to any gangster in this country.

*Honourable Dienda*, I think I have also done justice to your question. Lastly, Honourable Members let me thank you very much for your support of this Vote.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any further discussions? Honourable De Waal.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I do not think we have solved the problem. We cannot go out of this House tonight, accepting this Vote and sending a message to the people in this country that the Government is budgeting in such a way that they will not be able to pay their water and electricity, while we are asking the people to pay their water and electricity with the Municipalities, while the President of this country is saying that we need to have good governance. We have a serious problem to accept this Budget Vote in this form.

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

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HON KATALI / RT HON N ANGULA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:**

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. This Vote has been supported and it received sympathy by many Honourable Members and I think one will run the risk of being condemned if you do not support and sympathise with the Ministry. I however have one question and this is with regard to the water and electricity bills that the Honourable Minister mentioned recently.

I understand that all the Ministries have been given authorisation to use some funds up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of July before the Budget is approved. Do these bills affect all the other Ministries, since the Budget has not been approved for all the Ministries? Alternatively, why is it only the Ministry of Safety and Security who has a problem of paying the bills while authorisation has been given? On the other hand, does it mean that the money was not enough for this period? I think I need that clarity so that I have an understanding of the water and electricity not being paid. Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have some understanding for the concerns of Honourable Venaani and Honourable De Waal and others who expressed their reservations about the allocation to this Vote. I would like to remind the Honourable Members that some of the problems being experienced might have something to do with cash flow. This Budget was supposed to have been approved back in March, but now we are in June. According to the State Finance Act the Minister of Finance is authorised to allow Government to spend one-third of the Budget for the year before the Budget is approved within a period of three or four months. If the Ministry or Agency had outstanding bills, such as this Ministry which is very difficult to run and which had the secessionist trial being moved from Grootfontein to Windhoek, we have the situation of the Political Office-Bearers security guards and some of us move around with a platoon, it might just be a cash-flow problem for the time-being until this Budget is approved. I suspect that is one of the problems.

However, being a responsible Government, if there are serious shortcomings, we have discretionary funds to meet these kinds of emergencies if it comes to that. For now, to facilitate the process, I would

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really like to appeal to everybody that whatever you have said has been noted, but let us approve the Vote and go forward in the understanding that we are not going to allow this country to fall apart. Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I revert the floor to the Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I do not think that I have anything additional to add to what the Honourable Prime Minister has explained.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Vote 06 agreed to. I put **Vote 27 – “YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE”** for Discussion.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to make a brief contribution to the Vote of a Ministry that is close to my heart.

I support the Vote, especially now that I have seen some improvement in the allocation to the National Youth Council in the amount of N\$8,3 million, but I would like to say something about this National Youth Council.

Honourable Minister, I think it is high time to regulate the establishment of this Council by way of an Act of Parliament. I see a problem, because the National Youth Council currently funds various youth organisations and it seems that some people, just because they want funds, form youth organisations with a certain number of youth. If you look at the current composition of member organisations, very few of them can really be defined as national youth organisations. I would really want the Ministry to move very fast, come up with a Bill establishing the National Youth Council, and regulate the membership thereof.



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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Another issue I want to address is the definition of “youth”. Currently the Government policy is that the youth are the people between 16 and 30 years. I got that information from the Honourable Minister. Now most of the large youth organisations define their youth as up to 35 years of age and I think the Ministry should really move to conform to the aspirations of youth organisation, otherwise what we are doing currently is somehow tantamount to irregularities, because it is like giving social pension to someone below the age of sixty. I think it is generally accepted that the youth is up to 35 and that is why according to our Constitution you cannot even stand for President until you are 35 years old. My brother Honourable Venaani knows what it is to be below 35. Thank you very much and I support the Bill.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to speak to the section of sports as a former Western Province athletics champion and a member of the soon-to-be-created Parliamentary netball team. (Laughter)

Honourable Minister, I am really very much encouraged by the priorities as put forward in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, especially the point where one is going to look into the development and improvement of participation in all sport codes in all Regions and that such councils will now be established in every Region. I find that very crucial if, as the Minister says, we want to expand our participation also to international sport events. If you look at countries, which have been doing very well internationally in sports, such as the former USSR, the former GDR, you find that talented sportspersons were found at a very tender age and they were then trained with a lot of concentration on both the physical and the academic to become sportspersons of international repute. I think that that is what the Sport Centre of Excellence that the Minister is talking is about is going to accomplish, so that we can discover our potential international sportspersons at a very young age.

I would like to suggest, Honourable Minister, that we must do a bit more public relations to bring out the role models in terms of sports. If you look at international rugby, the best are from Africa; if you look at cricket, the

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**HON KAAPANDA**

best are from Africa. There is not a single European football team, that does not have African football players and when you come to the Olympics, there are some disciplines where, if you are not from Africa, you are not going to get a medal, which means that our continent has a lot of potential.

However, one should also look at becoming an international sports personality as a future career and job creation, because those young footballers are actually earning more than doctors and engineers and we have turned our minds so much to academic qualifications, to think that that is the only way. If you look at somebody such as Maria Mutola of Mozambique or even Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, once these athletes get to the point where they win the gold medals in championships, they plough it back into the country and into the youth in order to help and I think that is what should be done. I told the Minister in a private discussion that even we as Members of Parliament should be roped in, in order to spread the message. I support Vote 27.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Minister Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members. I also rise to support Vote 27. I want to thank His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, for creating this Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. This is a visionary and forward-looking decision, taking into account the role of the youth in national economic development of our country. It is true, as indicated in the speech of the Honourable Minister that our youth are very important agents for social change and progress. Therefore, the creation of this Ministry has come at an opportune time to prepare our youth for a better future. However, I have some comments to share with the Honourable Minister and his Deputy.

Heading such a Ministry is the biggest challenge of all, because youth desire many good things and these desires are an expression of energy and vitality, as the Minister expressed in his motivation speech. Therefore, it is imperative to harness these energies and vitalities by devising appropriate programmes to engage our youth. Our youth needs to be engaged in order

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**HON KAAPANDA**

to put their energies into good use. (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Minister, you have to put questions on the Budget allocations.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

I just want to address two issues and I want to refer to the group of young people who organised themselves and volunteered to undertake social activities to the benefit of the society. I believe such groups need to be supported by the Ministry, they need to be organised and they need proper orientation to become more effective in executing their voluntary activities.

While putting emphasis on training, which is also important, to make our young people productive and also to acquire entrepreneurial skills to be able to compete in the job market, it is very important to note the existence of such groups which volunteered themselves, groups such as Youth Against Crime. These young volunteers, realising the importance of security of their society, or their people, put their lives on the line in order to protect the society, their own houses, own families.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Minister, you are putting me in a very difficult situation where I will not be able control, you. You are talking about general issues, which are meant for Second Reading. Proceed.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

Page 22 deals with the programmes of the youth, the allocation for development programmes. This is my personal observation and I think it is relevant to this Budget Debate. Rundu is the cleanest town in Namibia today, because a group of young people volunteered themselves to clean the town and I believe this group need to be assisted. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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**HON VENAANI / HON DR GEINGOB**

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

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to express our support for this very important Vote and all the programmes under the Ministry and I only have two questions.

The last time that I visited the National Youth Service training camp at Berg Aukas, there were many vegetables rotting there because they had no market for them and I just want to know whether the situation has improved, because it is really a painful experience while we have poor people in this country. I support the initiative and it was really a revelation to see what the young people are doing for themselves.

I also tried to lobby, directly or indirectly, that since we have many young people in the House now, also to have a youth caucus to look at the interests of young people. The youth should not be left behind. Alexander the Great conquered the world at the age 24. (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Where do you see the caucus mentioned here? Come back to the Vote.

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**HON VENAANI:** Page 236. With those few words, I want to support the initiative of young people and the initiative of the Ministry. I want to end by saying that some youth are destined for bigger things.

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

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** This is the young people's Vote and I support it. I do not want to transgress by talking about principles and will go to sports directly.

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON MUNGUNDA**

We know that there will be a World Cup in 2010 in South Africa and I want to ask whether we have made plans to cash in. One way could be that we advertise Namibia as a place where they can come and locate themselves to acclimatise and that way we can benefit from the World Cup. Is there anything being done in that direction?

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

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to express my appreciation to the Honourable Minister for his motivation of the Budget on the youth and I want to appreciate the Olympic Games that they have facilitated for youth with disabilities. My question is on the centre created in Berg Aukas. I would like to find out whether it also caters for youth with disabilities, so that we can also encourage them to also participate in the activities at this youth centre. Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any further discussion? Honourable Mungunda.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, let me congratulate the Honourable Minister, his Deputy and the entire staff component for really presenting an inspiring, youthful Budget, but my question will be on youth exchange programmes, where the young people can benefit in the fields of science and arts in other countries, whether we have such agreements with certain countries in that field.

Unemployment is the highest among the youth. Some do not even complete high school, others do not get scholarships, as they do not have the right subjects or the results to qualify, and therefore they are looking for greener pastures across the border. There is the *Au Paire* programme where they are looking for jobs abroad and especially the young girls are

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**HON MUTORWA**

abused. Sometimes they renounce their Namibian citizenship when their visas expire. They disappear, not to be traced afterwards. How can we protect the children who are leaving the country on this *Au Paire* programme, which is usually advertised in newspapers, they apply individually and they pay a lot of money for Visas and registration fees? How can we protect them? I would like to see that our very thoughtful Minister of Youth would definitely think of something to protect these children. I congratulate you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would first like to thank the seven Honourable Members who made constructive and useful contributions, who also provided advice and in the end supported this specific Vote. I would like to premise my responses as follows:

The advice Honourable Members have provided does not necessarily need any response as such, but we have taken the advice and I see my staff members are here and I can only assure you that your advice and suggestions will definitely form part of our discussions when we meet as management in the Ministry.

Permit me, however, to provide some specific information and responses to the specific questions.

*Honourable Mushelenga*, I fully agree with you, the National Youth Council, established around 1993, 1994, so far has been operating on the basis of the Youth Policy only, which has served us well so far, but the time has arrived and I must give credit here to the current Prime Minister, when he was Minister of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation, under which Ministry the Youth portfolio also resorted, that we are now looking at a law which would establish the National Youth Council as a statutory body. That is in the pipeline and we will very soon call an Indaba of the important stakeholders and organisations so that we can already start putting ideas together.

I agree with you on the definition of “youth”. I was looking at the law that we have passed here and which I am very grateful the National Council also passed today or yesterday. The definition of “youth” in the National Youth Service Bill is given as 16 to 30 years, but I have listened to your arguments and maybe the way to go about it is to consult with the legal people so that we can get consensus about the definition.

***Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase***, the Sports Act provides for linkages with experts and people with interest in sports and I think you are one of them. If we need a consultant, I will definitely approach you. I however thank you for all the good things you have said and I should not add anything here. We need to consider these things when dealing with sports.

***Honourable Kaapanda***, it is true that the youth are very important. I am not very sure that Rundu is the cleanest town, but of course, I am proud, coming from Rundu and I am sure Honourable John Pandeni is also glad to hear that.

***Honourable Venaani***, markets for the products are very important. I am not sure what the situation is now, but for sure, one of the things that we will be concentrating on once the National Youth Service is established in law, is the markets for the produce of the National Youth Service. I am informed, as we speak that there are quite a few tons of maize that were produced in Berg Aukas last year and we have already contacted those in charge to establish linkages, including with the Government. We have a unit in the Office of the Prime Minister dealing with drought relief. I fully agree with you on the issue of markets, because when people produce, they need to sell their produce and not only consume.

You are pleading for a youth caucus, it is a question of looking around to see whom the youth is and you can have your caucus during tea break. You do not need to ask permission as far as this is concerned.

***Honourable Geingob***, you have raised a very important issue and I would like to make use of this platform provided to strengthen the point raised by Honourable Geingob. I have already invited the leadership of the Namibian Football Association three weeks ago to remind them that is now 2005 and 2010 is not far away, they should already start thinking of coming up with a plan how we as a Nation could make use of this opportunity that comes once in I do not know how many years, so that we can benefit from it as a country, as a Nation and then, finally, as a national soccer team. They have promised me that they are working on a document, which will be provided. However, it should not only be football, what about the

tourism people, what about the business people? The idea is very important, we have to start thinking about it, and we will, of course starting from the Ministry's side.

*Honourable Ncube*, I thank you very much for appreciating the Games. It is a fact that when it comes to sporting activities, there must always be provision made for participation of people with disabilities in the various sporting activities. In fact, at the level of the Olympics it is a requirement that you must have Para-Olympics. Therefore, even the centre that we are establishing should make provision for people with disabilities to allow them to participate. We cannot make a mistake there.

It is provided in law that a representative of people with disabilities should sit on the Namibia Sports Commission and we already have somebody there. Thank you very much for reminding us.

*Honourable Mungunda*, I thank you very much for all the good things that you have said. You asked whether we have exchange programmes with other countries and the answer is yes. You may even recall that this year alone in February or March there was a big international conference of youth here at the Safari Hotel where the Founding President officiated. Even as recently as May on Africa Day there was a big conference on Pan-Africanism. Not only that, there are quite a number of our young people participating in many exchange programmes with other countries and we need to expand that.

You asked a relatively difficult question on young people who leave the country due to various reasons. Yesterday in my statement, I said there are certain things that we should avoid and one of them is to neglect the youth. Therefore, my response would really be that maybe we need to study the factors and the reasons that prompt these young people to leave and then devise programmes to address those needs that force them to leave. I think that is exactly what Government is trying to do when you look at the various programmes to be executed under this Ministry, including the National Youth Service. It provides opportunities, including employment and training opportunities for our young people that would enable them to see that there is hope in our own country. It is a big challenge, but this is the only way to go. It will not help to tell them not to go if you do not provide an alternative and I think we are on the right path as a Nation and as a Government to provide opportunities and programmes. Otherwise, thank you very much for your support.



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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 09**  
**HON DE WAAL**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Vote 27  
agreed to. I put **Vote 09 – “FINANCE”** for Discussion.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I will support the Vote of the Ministry of Finance because I am very impressed with the way they operate and the very strict way that they are controlling the funds of this Government, which I think is a very good thing. However, Honourable Chairperson, I want to, once again, tackle the problem of Air Namibia, because I feel that we need to do something about this. I do this in the light of the numerous positive statements by both, His Excellency, President Pohamba and the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas Angula, on efficient, open and transparent governance and most importantly, that Budget allocations will be tested against the principle of value for money. This is what we have all agreed. Future Budget allocations will be tested against the principle of value for money. Therefore, tonight I want to look at the allocation of N\$116 million and compare it to value for money.

If I look at the money that has been pumped into Air Namibia over the last six years as well as the money earmarked in the current three-year rolling Budget, I cannot with the best will in the world honestly say that these amounts represent value for money. It is against this background that I will once again try to convince the Members on the other side of the House that there is something very, very seriously wrong with Air Namibia and that we need to take drastic steps to prevent further massive losses at our national airline.

Honourable Chairperson, I do not want to go deep into the history of Air Namibia, but just so that we all understand the scale of the problem, it is necessary to give the following figures:

During the past six years Government has pumped something like N\$1,5 billion into Air Namibia through direct Budget allocations. If this money were used to build houses at a cost of N\$200,000 per house, we would have built 7,500 houses. To this figure, we must add another N\$171 million that were paid by TransNamib Holdings in the days before Air Namibia was de-linked from TransNamib. In the same period, Air Namibia also sold its Boeing 737-200.... (Intervention)

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**HON DE WAAL**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Member, can you direct me to where you are now or are you just speaking in general?

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**HON DE WAAL:** I am referring to the Budget allocation of N\$116 million and I am just giving background.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Background is general.

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**HON DE WAAL:** ..As well as three Beachcraft 1900C and used the proceeds to pay its debts. Only if we add all the above figures together do we get the true picture of the scale of the cost of Air Namibia to the Government of this country. To be fair to Air Namibia, we should subtract the price of the two Fokkers F28 3000 that they bought during this period from the above total.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Member, can you assist us please, you may put questions on Air Namibia, but if you continue giving us background, it will take us very far from Committee Stage and others will do the same.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Honourable Chairperson, I cannot make my point unless I explain what my point is. I have a problem with the allocation of the three-year Rolling Budget and how can I explain my problem if I cannot explain my problem. Please allow me. It is very short.

Another way of looking at the scale of the losses of Air Namibia is to look at the notes to the Financial Statements of Air Namibia, which is also in the Budget document, for the Financial Year that ended 31 March 2004. I read from that statement, *“Provision has not been made for taxation as the company has a calculated tax loss of N\$2,273 billion. In 2003 it was N\$1,7 billion which is available for setoff against future tax. This means*

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HON DE WAAL**

*that the company has increased its calculated tax loss with N\$501 million in one year.”*

We know that Air Namibia bought two Fokker aircraft with the intention to operate them on the regional routes, but soon realised that they were not suitable and my question to the Honourable Minister is, in light of the above, can the Honourable Minister tell us where are the Fokkers currently operating? Do they still belong to Air Namibia and if so, what was the income from the lease for the 2003/2004 Financial Year? Alternatively, can the Honourable Minister confirm whether it is true that the two Fokkers have recently been sold for approximately N\$3,6 million while they were valued in the books of Air Namibia for approximately N\$32 million?

Honourable Chairperson, I now want to turn to the current state of affairs at Air Namibia. In this year's three-year Rolling Budget, we are providing N\$106 million for this Financial Year and N\$33 million for the next two years for Air Namibia. I do not know who gave these figures to the Ministry of Finance, but I can assure you, Honourable Members, that these figures are not correct. There is simply no way that Air Namibia will only ask for N\$182 million over the next three years. I say this, Honourable Chairperson, because our predictions on the losses of Air Namibia so far have turned out accurate.

For instance, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2003 we conservatively estimated that Air Namibia would need at least N\$300 million for the 2004/2005 Financial Year. We now know that the actual figure turned out to be N\$366 million against our prediction of N\$300 million.

Earlier that same year, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2003 – and this brings me to my next question to the Minister – the Honourable Minister of Finance in her Budget statement said the following, *“I expect the Corporate Governance Agency to come into operation this year. The new governance arrangement should prevent the need for future bailouts of ailing Parastatals.”* This brings me to my third question to the Honourable Minister, namely whether the Corporate Governance Agency is now operational and if so, whether they have informed themselves about the wisdom of reintroducing a direct flight between Windhoek and London (Gatwick). Have they approved the latest business plan of Air Namibia and do they agree that N\$182 million will be enough for the next three years to cover the losses?

Honourable Chairperson, we ask these questions because we believe that the reintroduction of a direct flight to London will incur massive losses.

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**HON DE WAAL**

Air Namibia has at least four times in the past tried to operate flights to and from London, either directly or via Frankfurt and every time they had to terminate these flights because they incurred massive losses. (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Member, last year you questioned Air Namibia and you are asking the same questions again. I am trying to correct the Honourable Member to question the problems Air Namibia is having this year, not 2002, 2001. That is an old story. Proceed, Honourable Member.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Honourable Chairperson, I am now speaking on the current situation and the current Budget. Let us look at the current prices of tickets offered by Air Namibia on this flight and I am not referring to the special offer between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, I am referring to the ticket prices after the 14<sup>th</sup> of July this year.

According to these prices, one can fly from Windhoek to London for a return airfare of N\$5,545 including taxes. However, somebody in South Africa can fly with Air Namibia from Johannesburg to London and back for N\$5,328, that is N\$217 less than what the Namibian can do. This means that the South African is not only paying N\$217 less for the flight from Windhoek to London, but is also getting the return flight from Johannesburg to Windhoek for free, worth N\$2,000. One can ask yourself why this strange arrangement. The answer is simple. Air Namibia knows very well that there are not nearly enough passengers in Namibia to warrant three flights per week to London and they will be dependent on passengers to and from South Africa to give them the necessary load factor. However, they also know that in order to attract passengers from South Africa, they have to compete with airlines such as South African Airways, British Airways, Virgin Airlines and the low-cost airline, Nationwide.

The current cost to fly directly from Johannesburg to London and back with Nationwide, for instance, is N\$5,340, only N\$12 more than the best price Air Namibia can offer. They further know that the only way to entice somebody is that they must cut the prices of the tickets. That is the main message that I want to bring over. If they continue to fly passengers from South Africa to Windhoek free of charge, then they are crowding out the current passengers that are actually paying for that flight.

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**HON VENAANI**

Honourable Chairperson, in addition to the above, we have done some homework on this flight and I want to give the Honourable Minister the following figures: At an exchange rate of US\$1 to N\$7, the lease cost of the Airbus will be about N\$3,850,000 per month. Maintenance cost on this aircraft will be approximately N\$8,400 per hour. Fuel consumption on this aircraft will be about 8,100 litres per hour and so forth, which comes down to the fact that the total direct cost per hour for the Airbus will be N\$59,650. It takes ten hours to fly from Windhoek to London, which will give you a cost of N\$1,2 million for one flight from here to London and back. Just to break even on that flight and if we are able to sell tickets for N\$5,500, we would need 280 passengers per flight to break even. If we further accept that the Airbus will be configured to take 280 passengers, this will mean that we need a load factor of 78% right through the year.

This simply means that Air Namibia will on average make a loss of about N\$649,000 per flight. Three times a week they will lose N\$649,000.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Time up. Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have a few comments. One is our support for the initiatives to bring the Integrated Financial Management System in the Ministry and that is a very welcome move.

Secondly, on the question of revenue collection, I think that we can really do more in terms of revenue collection if we simplify the tax return forms. If we simplify those, many business people will be ready to submit these forms, because you have many people who simply do not understand how to fill in these forms and due to that they just do not pay VAT or anything. The Ministry could look at some of the problems.

Another issue that I want to raise is the question of the Medical Aid Scheme. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we see a tendency in this country where private medical doctors are charging the Medical Aid Scheme to the ground and sometimes one wonders whether these charges are really justified. (Interjection). Is there already an investigation? I do not have that information. Honourable Minister, I think we really have to investigate these claims by the doctors, because you find

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HON BOOYS / HON KAZENAMBO**

that a medical practitioner starts a practice today, tomorrow he is driving four Pajero's and one just wonders whether they are not double charging the medical aid scheme. I want the Minister to put some measures to curtail corruption if it is practised in this Medical Aid Scheme. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Hans Booys.

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**HON BOOYS:** Honourable Chairperson, I must also congratulate the Minister and I only rise with a small request. I am an AgriBank farmer and I am requesting the Minister to make a Ministerial Statement in this House so that we have proper information.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Worldwide Governments remain the biggest purchasers of goods and services in the economy and this is also true with regard to our small economy. We talk of economic empowerment and Honourable Member Venaani has referred to the market for vegetables at Grootfontein, but our problem is the Tender Board. The Tender Board needs to be transformed and it is not only the Ministry of Finance, which need to be looked into, because it involves various Ministries. We are talking about the Private Sector in this country, but many of the companies in this country do not produce anything, they are just intermediaries. They buy from South Africa and trade here and you find that some of these companies are selling goods and services to the Government and I am going to declare my interest, I am a part-time businessperson. These big companies do not sell anything special which a small businessperson cannot sell, because they go and buy from producers in South Africa, but the advantage is that they buy in bulk. I am not questioning the people who are there, but it looks like there is no

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**HON ESAU**

transparency in the allocation of these tenders.

If you are a beginner, you find it difficult to penetrate the market, even if you are selling the same goods, which big companies are selling, and you do not understand why you cannot be considered. Honestly, there is no fairness in this institution. They are talking of empowering people but the strategy is not there and these goods are being procured by the very same Government that is talking about economic empowerment. Why is it so difficult that small beginners are not making it? Something is wrong somewhere.

I am a part-time farmer in Gam and the road project has been running for years. It has not been completed, but it has gone through the tender process and this is a problem. Let us talk of economic empowerment, open doors for a small beginner or a small company to be satisfied when losing a tender, rather than saying, they do not understand these things. Therefore, we need reform of public procurement. Government must start purchasing goods and services from locals. Even in the case of consultancies, there are smaller people in this country who have expertise, black and white, but you will find foreign companies winning consultancies that can be done by local people here. What is the problem?

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I want to confine myself to the details of Vote 09. On Page 114 the first question: *“This page is left blank intentionally.”* I do not know why this specific Page was left blank intentionally. We want to be transparent.

Secondly is that I have perused the statements of various Parastatals here. The statements on Page 107 are all for the year ending March 2003. Why these outdated statements, why not 2004? We are dealing with the 2005/2006 Financial Year, so why are we getting these old outdated statements on these commercial entities?

Then I refer to the audited financial statement of Bank of Namibia 2003. Are we getting figures from these specific statements of 2003? Why do we

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HON DE WAAL**

not have the latest statements? We need to get the latest statements from these institutions, which have the expertise to compile, take it to auditors for audit purposes and bring it to the Ministry of Finance to obtain that information and plan accordingly. We really need to get updated financial statements.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I do support Vote 09. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Any further discussions? Honourable De Waal.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Honourable Chairperson, I am referring to Page 102 under Parastatals, Air Namibia, N\$116 million and I am saying, just as I said in the case of Safety and Security that it is not enough and I now want to explain why it is not enough.

I am saying that according to our calculations, Air Namibia will make a loss of N\$649,000 per flight. I am further saying that if we take the following costs into account, which we have not done in that figure, air traffic and navigation service charges, landing fees, marketing and reservation costs, catering costs, flight crew expenses, management costs, head office overheads, if we take that into account, Air Namibia is going to make much more than N\$100 million loss each year that they are going to do that flight.

I therefore, in the light of the above and given the fact that the lease agreements for the two new Airbus A340 300's have already been signed, we want to appeal to the Right Honourable Prime Minister in the interest of the principles of the values or value for money and good governance, to appoint a special task force or alternatively, to instruct the Corporate Governance Agency, if it is operational, to immediately investigate the current business plan of Air Namibia and to advise Government on the best way forward.

Madam Chairperson, with those words, I thank you and I support the Vote.



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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 09**  
**HON TWEYA**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I now revert the Floor to the Deputy Minister to respond.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Chairperson, let me thank the Honourable Members for their constructive inputs. *Honourable De Waal*, I appreciate your concern with Air Namibia. Let me start by saying that during the Minister's presentation and tabling of the Budget, it was clearly stated that as Namibians this is our proud airline. We will not let it down. It is ours too. The new management needs time. They have put a turnaround plan on the table, we have already seen the results, and we are referring here to the gap that has been narrowed in terms of operating losses. There is an improvement. If you do not want to believe, certainly, it is your right, but Air Namibia needs our support, it is our proud airline and we shall support it because we see positive results from their initiatives under the new management to improve the performance of Air Namibia. I would unfortunately not get into the history of Air Namibia, but we will support them in their effort to turn around the airline and that we will do.

The two Fokkers and all the others are operational and I will not bore you, Honourable Members, with that one, but we will give Air Namibia the chance to do what they have committed themselves to do and so far, we are pleased with the improvement.

In as far as the Central Governance Agency (CGA) is concerned, I need to remind the Honourable Member that this has been repeated by His Excellency and here, that this is in the hands of the Office of the Prime Minister.

*Honourable Venaani*, thank you very much for your support as for the Integrated Financial Management System. I would want to assure this House that in terms of the restraints of managing public funds, next year this time we would want to talk about something else, we would not repeat ourselves. It will be implemented and we will see the results. There are no two ways about it.

In terms of revenue collection, we agree that there is a need to review the very complicated forms, but it is important that it is not going to be only one page, because we know of people who are experts and I do not want to call it "*crooking*", but manoeuvring to get everything out of the taxman.

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HON TWEYA**

We shall review them without diluting the information that we need from every taxpayer, individual or Corporate Company.

On the Medical Aid Scheme: we certainly remember that last year this was the only cost that was requested from this House. For the Ministry of Finance, it is indeed a concern. You have read in the papers that the Ministry has already demonstrated what it means. There is already a doctor of whom you have very clearly read in the media. Another one will follow and they will be prosecuted. We will not talk and once they are identified and prosecuted, they will be scrapped from doing any business with the medical aid scheme. Thieves will not be welcomed, this is our commitment, and we have already demonstrated that.

In terms of the further investigation of all irregular claims, I wish to remind the Honourable Member that the Honourable Minister of Health in his speech during the Second Reading referred to that aspect. This is not the business of only the Ministry of Finance, we believe in synergy of all Government activities. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, we shall get to those who have been benefiting unjustly from the public funds.

*Honourable Booy's*, thank you very much for the support. In terms of the AgriBank, I wish to inform the Honourable Member and the House to this effect: The Honourable Minister will make a statement in this House tomorrow. I do not need to go further into that one.

*Honourable Kazenambo*, public procurement is one of our programmes. It is true that there is a need for this specific body to be revisited to ensure that its mandate fits the changing times. That Bill will be tabled in this House and I want to request you to get your bullets ready on how you want it improved. The draft is already there and after all this, it will be tabled here. I need to add that as late as last Monday, the Honourable Minister of Finance met with this body and she made it very clear that they have to support the SMEs, as she put it. If these goods and services can be supplied by a Small or Medium Enterprise, why can they not be given a chance and that is our commitment. That shall be on our agenda that Small and Medium Enterprises are the potential big businesses and we are committed to do everything we can to give them the opportunity to grow, because it is them that will grow the economy.

You mentioned foreign consultancies and the fronting aspect and that this is still a reality in Namibia. They always put Namibians up front and as soon as the opportunity is given because Namibians are upfront, then you see the Namibians are really backbenchers. This is a challenge that the

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HON DE WAAL**

emerging business need to take up. I think when the Black Empowerment Bill is debated we need to look into all these issues. There are now some realities that we need to accept although we do not agree with some of them, because black Namibians are being fronted.

*Honourable Esau*, thank you very much for your support. Page 114 that was left blank intentionally it was the best that we could do to say that this page has been omitted. I am not sure whether I have the page here, but it does not really make a big difference to the whole document, but I will still avail you that page. It was not meant not to be transparent and once again my apology for that missing page.

With regard to the old financial statements of Parastatals, these Financial Statements sometimes come after six or twelve months. At the time when the document went for printing, we did not have the latest ones and we could not give statements, which have not been audited. We took the latest ones in our possession, but we have taken note of your advice. I will ask you to bear with me, the same with the other statement of the Bank of Namibia.

*Honourable De Waal* got back to Air Namibia. I appreciate your serious concern, but I really want to plead with you, let us be proud Namibians. Air Namibia is ours. Really, to say that I know Air Namibia is not going to succeed is maybe a bit unfair. We have a new management there. The new management has said this is what they think they can do. All the issues that you have raised, the introduction of the new routes and 2010 is going to be soccer and all these are opportunities. Replacing of the old Boeings and all these are efforts that they are putting in now. If they say over the next three years that we think we will need this amount, certainly it is only fair to give them that chance. I would want to appeal to Honourable De Waal to also give them a chance, because it is ours and really also to bring your part and not to condemn them before they have started. At least take one good thing that they have started so far, because there are good results.

On that note, I would want to thank you for your unanimous support.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I asked the Deputy Minister to tell us what happened to the two Fokker aircrafts, whether they are still in the possession of Air Namibia or whether it has been sold and if it has been sold, for how much?

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HON TWEYA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable De Waal, I said this is part of the turnaround strategy of Air Namibia. Can I please ask your indulgence, let us give Air Namibia time. Whether they have these or not, it is part of the turnaround, let us not interfere in their operational plan. Thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Vote 09 agreed to.

I shall report progress and ask leave to again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning under Rule 90, Automatic Adjournment, at 09:00.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 22:30 UNTIL 2005.06.17 AT 09:00**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
17 JUNE 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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

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

- (a) Vocational Training Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2004;
  - (b) Vocational Training Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2003.
  - (c) Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2003.
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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Deputy Minister please table the Reports? Honourable Kaapanda.

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**TABLING OF 2004 ANNUAL REPORT:  
NAMIBIA POST AUTHORITY**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** I lay upon the Table, the 2004 Annual Report of

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**TABLING: REPORTS AND PAPERS  
HON TWEYA**

the Namibia Post Authority.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Deputy Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: REPORT OF ANALYSIS FROM THE  
NAMIBIA INFORMAL ECONOMIC SURVEY**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of Analysis from the Namibia Informal Economic Survey, 2001.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Booy's.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON BOOYS:** Mr Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 08, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19 be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, early in November 2004, Cabinet directed that the Board of the Agricultural Bank of Namibia, together with the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, then, Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, then, review the formula for the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme to make the Scheme more affordable and sustainable.

Because of the review, it was decided to have another look at the State Guarantees. The Government Guarantee of 35 percent of the loan amount was not a subsidy but was intended to serve two purposes, namely to cover some risk exposure of AgriBank and secondly, to relieve the burden of down payments due by beneficiaries of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. Unfortunately I must say that these noble intentions were not reflected when the Scheme was implemented. What happened in practice was that the 35% was added to the loan value as determined by AgriBank, resulting in inflated farm prices.

A second consequence, which the review unearthed, is that the Affirmative Action farmers who benefited from the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme have often paid prices higher than the agricultural value of the farm. This in turn placed a financial burden on the Affirmative Action farmers, which could not be satisfied from the farming operations alone, but had to be subsidised from other sources of income of these farmers. Obviously, such a situation is neither affordable, nor sustainable and had to be addressed.

We have now completed the review and I take pleasure in informing the public, through this House, that the moratorium on the issuance of State Guarantees is lifted with immediate effect and that the formula according to which the agricultural value, the loan amount and the Guarantee amount is to be calculated has been redeveloped to bring the Scheme back on a sustainable and affordable level.

In terms of the reviewed Scheme, the AgriBank loan value under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme shall be limited to the agricultural value or production value of the farms. In addition, AgriBank would not fund any farm purchased of which the selling price is above the agricultural value. It is important to underline the rational for this decision.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

We should note that the new formula would simply ensure value for money and sound practices, given that in the past the market price of farmland has been above the productive value of the farm. It was, therefore not based on the production capacity and potential of the farm and hence, it has been unsustainable.

Equally, I should point out that this approach should not be seen as an attempt by Government to control farm prices. Government would allow the market to operate based on the sound principles of willing buyer, willing seller. All that we are saying is that AgriBank would not be prepared to advance any loan. It would not be allowed to do so, to any person who is to purchase a farm for which the selling price is higher than the production value. Otherwise, we will be subsidising the inflation of farm prices.

I am also happy to announce that the Government Guarantee under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme will as of now cover the margin between the agricultural value of the farm, as determined by AgriBank, on the one hand, and the AgriBank loan value plus the applicant's own cash contribution, on the other hand. The applicant's contribution shall be based on his or her financial ability to pay, but will be cut at 10%. The Government Guarantee will then cover the remaining portion, which will be between 10 and 20% of the agricultural value, not the farm price anymore, depending on the applicant's contribution. This ensures that the beneficiary of the guarantee is indeed the buyer and not the seller.

In this regard, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement will not grant any waiver to sell a commercial farm to someone else, where there is an Affirmative Action farmer who is willing to buy that farm at the price, which is equal to the agricultural value. This is to prevent a situation where the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiary could be locked out of the farm purchase process because the commercial farmers would now be selling to other people who are prepared to pay the higher prices.

The determination of the agricultural value by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and AgriBank will be fully synchronised so that there is no variation in the determined values by the two institutions which can result in different prices agreed on farms to be acquired under the Resettlement Programme, on the one hand, and those under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme, on the other and subsequently, erode any benefits that can be generated from the implementation of these new measures. We want to ensure that the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement will buy only at the same price that those Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries are



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**QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON T GURIRAB**

prepared to buy and there is no opportunity to be exploited by the commercial farmers.

Lastly, I wish to inform the House that a second phase to this Review will be implemented to cover other aspects of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. Amongst others, we shall look into the recommendations of the Report of the Parliamentary Committee, which was endorsed by this National Assembly, and we will establish appropriate coordination between all stakeholders. This second phase will have an emphasis on the agricultural aspect and not on financial ones, even though there would be some financial implications, and will hence be coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and not the Ministry of Finance anymore. Honourable Venaani, do therefore not ask me tomorrow when I am going to present recommendations in this regard.

The Affirmative Action Loan Scheme remains a central policy in the National Land Reform Programme and I want to assure Members that the Review is not in any way reducing the priority that Government has attached to this scheme, it is merely intended to make it more effective and more affordable. I, therefore, appeal for the full cooperation of both the commercial farmers and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries in this regard, so that we can ensure a smooth implementation of this programme and ensure that the programme generates benefits for all involved, both the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries and the commercial farmers. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. Honourable Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** I seek clarification on the Minister's statement, as I do not know whether I understood the Minister correctly. I thought the law, as it stands now, says in respect of sale of agricultural land that the State has the first right of refusal. If that is the case, then do I understand the Minister as saying now that the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries would have the first right, because I thought the law at the moment is that the State has the first right of refusal. I am just seeking some clarity on that. Otherwise, I think what the Minister has announced is positive and is welcomed by the prospective farmers like myself. I thank you.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA / HON VENAANI**

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** The Honourable Member is correct, the State has the first right of refusal. What happens here is that where there has been discussions between a seller of a farm and a potential Affirmative Action farmer and the Affirmative Action Farmer has expressed interest to procure that farm, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is then approached and asked to consider a waiver in order to allow the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiary to acquire the farm and the Ministry, in order to support the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiary, grants the waiver. It is on this basis then that it is said that if a waiver is given in order to facilitate an Affirmative Action farmer to buy that farm and that farmer is prepared to buy at a price which is equal to the production value of that farm, the farmer cannot turn around and say, *“No, I cannot sell to you, but I can sell to Mr De Waal who is prepared to buy this farm at 20% higher in terms of price.”* In that regard the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement would not give a waiver, a waiver would only be given for an individual purchase.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I just have two questions and, first I want to thank the Minister of Finance for her new procedures for acquiring farms. I am just worried, Honourable Minister, whether commercial farmers would put up their farms for sale now, because there was always a Debate that the agricultural valuation of Land Bank was always lower than the intended prices that the commercial farmers wanted. I am just afraid that land will not be in the market, how would we ensure that land would be on the market or forcing farmers to sell their land? Now they might not even sell their land and I am just a bit worried about that issue.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Venaani. I think that the farms would still be on the market. I do not think that the AgriBank valuation is below the market value of these farms. I actually believe that these farms are currently being overpriced and that overpricing was sustained because the guarantee was applied wrongly, which made it possible for the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries to buy these

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**QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA**

farms at these prices, which are above the real value of these farms. The moment these commercial farmers realise that this guarantee would no longer be used for that purpose and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme beneficiaries will no longer be prepared to buy these farms at inflated prices, there will definitely be an adjustment. Theoretically, that is what happens in economics. The price would adjust to the demand in the market. Otherwise, these people would not be able to sell their farms. However, that is provided we get the cooperation of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme and all the stakeholders in Namibia, because people sometimes want to say that the Government reduced the Guarantee and, therefore, we are not able to buy the farms, Government should increase the Guarantee and actually help these people to take on liabilities that they will not be able to service and at the end of the day they default on the loans and the farms are repossessed by AgriBank or we try to ask that AgriBank should not repossess the farm.

At the end of the day it is only the sellers who are subsidised, because they actually pocket money, which they could not have pocketed without this guarantee of the Government.

I am not issuing any threat, but if it is the case that there are no farms in the market, if people connive to withhold farms in order to frustrate the State and the country in its efforts to reform the land sector, then the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia allows the Government to expropriate farms with fair compensation. We are not saying that we will confiscate the farms, but there will be land reform in this country and if the commercial farmers are not willing to sell these farms, we will expropriate them.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF  
COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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17 June 2005      **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 13**  
**HON HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA / HON DR KAMWI**

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I call on the Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported yesterday, 16 June 2005, Votes 05, 06, 09 and 27 had been agreed to and Votes 14, 17 and 19 had been introduced.

I now put **Vote 13 – “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”, N\$1,308,768,000** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I am standing before you to present my first Budget as Minister of Health and Social Services. I will start by highlighting priorities and targets of my Ministry, as this is the first Budget of the Ministry in the Fourth Parliament.

The Medium Term Plan Priorities are as follows:

The interventions to address HIV/AIDS will continue to focus on preventive efforts, broadening the multi-sectoral national response, rolling out the programmes for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission and anti-retroviral therapy. These interventions carry a high price tag to cater for anti-retroviral medicines and other related pharmaceutical supplies, as well as payments for laboratory diagnostic services.

Malaria and tuberculosis will remain the main target diseases. Improving cash management for malaria is one of the key interventions, while vector

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HON DR KAMWI**

control in the form of residual spraying of houses and use of bed nets will be promoted and intensified.

This year I launched a new National Malaria Policy, which makes provision for changing from Chloroquine to a more effective Arthemeter/Lumefantrine, which, unfortunately, is eighty times more expensive than Chloroquine.

Concerning tuberculosis, the Ministry shall implement activities as articulated in the First Medium Term Plan on TB for the years 2004 to 2009.

Family health focuses on mothers and children. Antenatal care, deliveries, post-natal care services as well as the integrated management of childhood illnesses will remain a key component of service delivery in all health facilities. National immunisation days, which I launched yesterday, will be carried out during June and July in two rounds of two days each. This exercise is crucial to ensure improvement of immunisation coverage of children under the age of one year and to maintain the polio-free status the country has been enjoying for the last ten years. Vaccines procurement will enjoy priority.

Human Resource development remains a key priority area for my Ministry. Three hundred and twenty six sub-professionals, which included enrolled nurses, environmental health assistants, pharmacy assistants and radiography assistants completed training in 2004. This year we have an intake of 728 students. There are 70 students on the pre-medicine pharmacy programme at the University of Namibia. In addition, 89 medical students, 16 specialists and 16 pharmacist students are studying in foreign universities.

Between 2000 and 2003, we trained over 200 personnel from the Regions in management. Continuous education forms part of the Ministry's human resource development strategy, with staff being upgraded in technical areas such as Intensive Care Unit, theatre technique and emergency care.

The Ministry's health system consists of a network of institutions providing managerial and administrative services, health and social welfare facilities and training centres. There are 35 hospitals, 37 health centres and 26 clinics, 5 training centres, 7 sub-economic units, 1 old-aged home and 1 rehabilitation centre. The staff complement of my Ministry stands at 10,625.

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The provision of institutional care to the sick is and remains the responsibility of my Ministry. The Ministry admits on average 172,756 patients a year. The biggest expenditure on institutional care is personnel expenditure. This is followed by medicines and clinical supplies, blood and blood products, catering, security services and patient transfers.

The Environmental Health and Rehabilitation focus this year will be on improving sanitation. Orthopaedic technical services and mental health services will be improved and strengthened.

HIV/AIDS still remains the major challenge facing all sectors and sections of our society today. Indeed, it remains the leading cause of death. Approximately 6,5% of all admissions in public health facilities are HIV related, of which 53% are women. With the introduction of Anti-Retroviral Therapy, it is expected that the death ratio will decline. For this to happen, we need to provide additional human and financial resources as well as to strengthen our health systems to be able to respond adequately.

Secondly, malaria and tuberculosis remain serious public health threats. In 2004, Namibia recorded 639,649 cases of malaria, with 1,185 deaths. Tuberculosis cases for the last Financial Year were 12,183, with a case fatality rate of 149 per thousand cases.

Thirdly, the shortage of key Human Resources, especially in the fields of medicine, nursing and pharmacy continues to haunt my Ministry and hampers the implementation of quality care. The demand for these cadres will never be met at the current supply levels, which hardly meet the requirements of the health sector. This is currently so because of limited funding that prevents increase of student intake.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services had the following achievements:

Firstly, the programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been established in 32 hospitals in all thirteen Regions.

Secondly, Anti-Retroviral Therapy is provided at 25 public hospitals out of the 30 hospitals. By February 2005, the number of patients who are on Anti-Retroviral Treatment reached 10,620. Honourable Members, I would like you to note that the target for 2007 is 25,000. This translates that we are at our target.

Thirdly, fourteen voluntary counselling and testing centres have been

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HON DR KAMWI**

established in the Khomas, Hardap, Erongo, Karas, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Kavango, Caprivi, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati Regions. Two centres will be established in Ohangwena by July 2005, while one centre will be established in the Kunene Region. The voluntary counselling and testing centres are operated in collaboration with non-Governmental organisations.

Fourthly, the Ministry has developed a new national malaria policy, which makes provision for the introduction of Lumefantrine to replace Chloroquine, which proved to be ineffective in most Regions. The anti-malaria medicine unfortunately costs N\$160 per patient for a full course compared to the cost of N\$2 for a full course using Chloroquine.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to motivate my Ministry's Budget for 2005/2006.

To address the challenges and priorities I have outlined before, the total Budget is N\$1,308,768,000 only. The Budget consists of the Operational Budget, which is N\$1,210,496,000, and translates into 92,49% and the development Budget of N\$98,272,000, which is 7,51%.

Honourable Chairperson, I would like the Honourable Members to take note of the typographic error on the Operational Budget where it states 2004/2005, which should read 2005/2006, and that stands for N\$1,210,496,000.

Personnel Expenditure constitutes the single most highest amount of N\$752,863,000, which is 62,2% of the total Budget. This represents an increase of N\$96,874,000. This is mainly due to the salary increase of the last Financial Year, which was not included in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, and the salary increase of this Financial Year.

An amount of N\$370,738,000 has been allocated to the standard item, Goods and Other Services, which is 25,42% of the total Budget. Expenditure of laboratory services, blood and other blood products, catering and security services, medicines and clinical supplies are the highest under this standard item.

The Subsidies and Current Transfers Vote constitutes the third largest standard item with an amount of N\$139,556,000 and represents 11,53% of the total Budget. This is N\$453,395,000, which translates to 76,45%, less than the previous year's allocation and is mainly as a result of the transfer of social grants to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

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N\$129,064,000, which is 92% of the Budget on this standard item, is allocated to mission hospitals, health centres and clinics which are hundred percent subsidised by my Ministry.

The standard item, Acquisition of Capital Assets, caters for equipment and emergency vehicles. An amount of N\$10,339,000 allocated for the acquisition of medical equipment falls short of the amount required to enable the Ministry to carry out its equipment replacement programme. However, my Ministry and the Ministry of Finance are working together to mobilise additional resources to address this issue.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, before I proceed with the Development Budget, I wish to inform the Honourable House that, in support of the above expenditure, the Ministry of Health and Social Services estimates to collect revenue to the amount of N\$35,879,000.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me now to present an overview of my Ministry's Development Budget, which consists of two main funding sources, namely the State Revenue Fund and various development partners' support, which is channelled outside the State Revenue Fund.

The total Development Budget from both contributions will amount to N\$234,430,000. The total amount to be voted from the State Revenue Fund for the 2005/2006 Fiscal Year for primary health care and health systems development and the construction projects is N\$98,272,000, which constitutes 42% of the total Development Budget. The total amount to be voted under primary health care and health systems development category is N\$16,491,000, which is 17% of the total contribution on the State Revenue Fund. This includes the support to the following programmes and services:

- National AIDS Control Programme;
- Disease Control Programme, focusing on tuberculosis and malaria;
- Environmental Health Programme, including radiation protection infrastructure, nationwide sanitation facilities and the strengthening of occupational health services;
- Disability prevention and rehabilitation services, such as orthopaedic technical services and the Blindness Prevention Programme; and



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- Health systems development.

I would like to point out that my Ministry has requested an amount of N\$7 million for the HIV/AIDS programme development. This is in addition to the funds for Anti-Retroviral medicines on the Operational Budget. This, Honourable Members, underscores our commitment to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic in an adequate way.

N\$81,781,000, which is 83% of the total contribution under the State Revenue Fund, has been allocated for the second category of projects under Government funding related to the construction projects, which are subdivided into four main areas:

- Clinics and health centres construction and upgrading amounts to N\$15,500,000;
- District hospitals upgrading, extension and renovation stands at N\$21,120,000;
- Referral hospital renovation and upgrading stands at N\$28,500,000;
- Other services and constructions amount to N\$8,659,000.

The latter includes the construction of mortuaries and it is a pity Honourable Moongo is not here. For detailed information on the construction projects, I wish to refer you to the Annexure to this statement. I would like to mention that we could only manage to utilise the funds allocated to us for capital development if we can expedite and shorten the planning process of capital projects in order to make the Medium Term Expenditure Framework planning a worthwhile exercise. I guess my senior Colleague at the Ministry of Works will be of some assistance to that effect.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I will now briefly provide you with an overview of the projects funded outside the State Revenue Fund by various development partners.

The total amount to be voted on the Development Budget for my Ministry is N\$136,158,000, which is 58% of the total Development Budget. This is a significant contribution, indeed, to the development of the health and social welfare sector, including combating of HIV/AIDS, development of fiscal and human resources, strengthening of health systems management mechanisms and other primary health care programmes. It is worth

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mentioning that the amount of N\$121,245,000, which translates to 89%, of this contribution is for HIV/AIDS related activities. I seize this opportunity to appreciate the support my Ministry receives from our partners in health to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. Amongst others, they include, the Global Fund, Bristol-Meyers from the USA, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, GTZ and KfW, UNAIDS, the European Union, Luxembourg, France, Health Unlimited from the UK, the Centre for Disease Control from the USA, the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf from the UK, and Population Service International.

The Ministry is also benefiting from the President's Emergency Programme for the AIDS Relief Fund from the USA.

Furthermore, Honourable Members, VSO from the UK and the German Development Service and Cuba provide a considerable contribution in the form of volunteers, professional support and development workers. In addition, the Ministry also receives contributions from new development partners supporting HIV/AIDS initiatives. They are the Czech TB Foundation, Medicos Del Munde from Spain and the Department for International Development through the SADC Secretariat. I have attached a list of all development partners with their areas of support as Annexure 2 for your additional information.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, Page 166 of the Budget document before you indicates that my Ministry failed to provide the requested information. The Ministry has requested an additional amount of N\$191,964,000 for salary increases, vacant posts, pharmaceuticals, which include mostly Anti-Retroviral medicines, vehicles, health professional councils, medical equipment and maintenance of the air-conditioning and water reticulation at the Katutura and Windhoek Central Hospital. However, the officials of the Ministry of Finance advised that we only reflect in our submission an amount of N\$50 million, which was allocated.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, my Ministry is rendering an essential 24-hour service to the public. It requires huge financial resources. The funds allocated to my Ministry over the years have never been sufficient to enable us to render a satisfactory level of health care services. I appreciate the understanding and efforts by the Ministry of Finance to meet us halfway. We are also mindful of the many competing priorities, but I also ask the Honourable Members to understand that my Ministry is operating within severe Budget constraints.

Before I conclude, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the hard work and

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support which I received from my Deputy Minister, Comrade Petrina Haingura and, indeed, my most valued staff in preparing this Budget.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to thank you most sincerely for your patience. I anticipate your approval of my proposed Budget to ensure that the health of the Namibian people is taken care of. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put  
**Vote 08 – “DEFENCE” – N\$1,220,475,000** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Chairperson of the  
Whole House Committee today is the day of billionaires only.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I am honoured and privileged to present to this august House the Defence Budget estimates for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. At the outset, allow me to thank His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba for the trust and confidence bestowed on me to lead the Ministry of Defence, which is entrusted with ensuring sovereignty and the territorial integrity of our country, its people and their properties. In the same vein, I wish to congratulate and thank the Former and Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma for the political leadership of our country during the last fifteen years and for the smooth transition during the change of political leadership.

I would also like to express my appreciation and commend the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy and the entire staff component for presenting a Budget which is well balanced in its entirety amidst economic difficulties. Honourable Minister, you can count on our support when it comes to economic development of our country and I wish to assure you that the Ministry of Defence will try to live within the limits of the allocated resources.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry of Defence and, indeed, the Namibian Defence Force, has gone through a period of transformation over the past fifteen years. It started with the establishment of the Ministry of Defence as a Government institution and

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later, the Namibian Defence Force. The NDF is currently composed of the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, as per Article 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

I would also like to pay special tribute to the pioneers of the Ministry of Defence, late Honourable Ambassador Peter Mweshihange and all those who preceded him, like Honourable Philemon Malima, Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, for their contribution to the strengthening of the Ministry of Defence and the NDF and it is because of their foresight that NDF is a formidable force to be reckoned with today.

To ensure effectiveness, the NDF initiated in 1997 a restructuring, re-engineering and retraining programme. It was this programme, which enabled us to participate in the operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 1998 to 2002, to crush the secessionist uprising in August 1999 in the Caprivi Region robustly and to root UNITA bandits out of Caprivi, Kavango and Ohangwena Regions. The end-result of those operations is already known to this august House. The restructuring programme is still on, as this is essential for improving the structure of the Force. Structural design with the aim of ensuring its operational capabilities is also critical to efficiency and cost-effectiveness in our organisation.

Many lessons were learned from those operations. These are the driving force behind the programmes that we have set ourselves for the next 25 years to come to coincide with Vision 2030. These programmes require dedicated funding to be realised within the timeframe set. The current global trend and our national and international commitments require a visionary and professional Force, which is well trained, well equipped, well housed and capability-driven to face the defence challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

Nowadays the world is full of conflicts and threats. The major threat everywhere and to everybody is that of terrorism. That is why we as a Nation should be prepared to withstand the spill-over effects of this threat. The conflicts in the Horn of Africa in the 1980s and early 1990s, the recent situation in Somalia, the internal tensions in Ethiopia and Eritrea, civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone and the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 are very vivid in our minds. This has made Africa and the world at large to recognise the urgent need of conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

Inasmuch as we celebrate our own victory for Independence and the end of civil war in Angola and hope that meaningful peace and stability will one-

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day return to the Democratic Republic of Congo, we should not forget that there still remain threats which can bring conflict close to our doors. We understand that the conflict arises out of a scarcity of resources, but quite often also out of manipulation of situations in our countries by external players whose priority is not the welfare of Africa. The latter is more dangerous and requires our concerted efforts in moulding a professional Force, which would pose as a deterrent to any would-be aggressor.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, on the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2004, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security undertook a familiarisation visit to some of the bases around Windhoek and its Report was presented to this august House. Honourable Chairperson, I would like to request the Honourable Members to take time and refresh their memories by perusing through the Committee's Report so that they would be able to contribute meaningfully to the discussions of the Defence Budget. This Committee was led by Honourable Ben Amathila and the Committee presented their objective Report to this House.

The fact that the Ministry of Defence has been able to carry out its mission over the past fifteen years should not be regarded as if all has been well. The commitments, which were undertaken by the Namibian Defence Force since 1998, have seriously affected our Budgeting process. The feeling was that the Budget was not always sufficient to meet our requirements. We have, however always managed to live within the limits while the burden of a particular Financial Year would be carried over to the following year. The same is true about the problems, which were encountered, that they are always passed from one year to another because of lack of funding.

This year our intention is to embark upon solving the problems, which have overwhelmed the Ministry since its inception. Some of these problems are the terms and conditions of service. I would like to report that last year the Ministry of Defence started with the improvement of the salaries of the members from the rank of Lieutenant Colonel down to the lower ranks. This exercise will be carried out during the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 Financial Years where a new salary structure will be introduced.

The salaries of the members within the said rank groups were very low. That situation has seriously affected the morale of the troops and some even decided to leave the Force and seek employment in the Namibian Police and elsewhere. Yesterday we were talking of the salaries of the Namibian Police Force, but now you see that the Namibian Defence Force

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personnel were crossing over to the Police where the salaries were better, which is unheard of, that a Defence Force member is crossing over to the Police. It should be vice versa in normal circumstances. The hardest hit was the Air Force, which almost lost 50% of its qualified pilots and technicians to Government institutions and private companies. To alleviate this problem, we are now working on the improvement of salaries of pilots and technicians.

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence to look after the health of its soldiers. In meeting that requirement, we have the Military Hospital at Grootfontein and a medical facility in Windhoek. These health facilities require equipment and medicaments, which are the responsibility of the Ministry. That is why you see the Minister of Health has presented his Vote first and now it is Defence, because we complement each other. These facilities are also complemented by the sick bays founded in each base, which has the capacity to attend to minor ailments.

The Ministry of Defence sponsors members who undertake courses in the health profession. It is a requirement that there should be qualified medical personnel at unit level who should be able to be deployed with the units and to attend to the immediate health needs of the troops in the field of operation before they are referred to hospitals. Currently we have two medical doctors deployed with our contingent in Liberia.

The Namibian Defence Force, like other institutions of this country, is affected by the scourge of HIV/AIDS pandemic. This killer disease does not only rob us of the fine and tested cadres, but it seriously affects the operational effectiveness of the Force. There is no policy regarding the employment of HIV-infected members and those suffering from AIDS.

This, therefore, led to a situation whereby members are home-based and cared for, for a long period while on full pay. As a matter of controlling the effects of HIV/AIDS, members are continuously encouraged to have themselves tested voluntarily, so that those found infected will be accessed to anti-retroviral treatment. Equally, we are also in the process to acquire nutritional foodstuffs, which are suitable for the patients suffering from HIV/AIDS. We are also coordinating with friendly armed forces in the Region on issues related to the control and management of HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

The infrastructure of our Defence Force has been and is still a problem. Most of the bases we are occupying are those, which were used during the colonial period. Those bases were built with prefabricated materials and

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not of permanent structures. Those materials have now exhausted their lifespan and are collapsing. Such materials, therefore, need to be removed and be replaced with permanent structures. Replacing them would, however not be an answer because we need to construct our bases in a way that would suit the size and nature of the Force that will be accommodated there. This, therefore, requires dedicated funding for infrastructure development.

Constructing bases is also not an end in itself. When constructed they need to be maintained. There is, therefore, a need to allocate enough resources that cater for renovations and maintenance of bases. We have limited capacity to carry out renovations and maintenance by ourselves. In cases where we do not have the capacity, we seek such services from private companies on Government tender. The quality of work those companies do, despite the hefty amount they charge, is questionable. This, therefore, requires that we attain our own capacity in this field.

We currently have an Engineering Regiment, which is a construction company capable of conducting some minor maintenance, renovations and construction. They have so far constructed sleeping quarters at Otavi, Oshivelo. They are also busy constructing a small base at Kongola. There is thus a need for the recruitment of more qualified personnel, such as architects, builders, electricians and engineers, for the Engineering Regiment.

We should however, be prepared to offer them competitive but attractive terms and conditions of service.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members a substantial amount of the Defence Budget is being consumed by feeding and dressing the Defence Force members. I wish, therefore, to quote from one of the well-known military persons, Napoleon Bonaparte who once stated, *"The army moves on its stomach"*. This implies that you cannot commit an army in an operation on an empty stomach and expect success. Equally, another statement: *"Look after them well, train them well in order to serve you well"*. This implies that if you want our Defence Force to serve its noble obligations, we should sacrifice some funds to feed, dress and provide essential services, such as water and electricity, just to mention a few.

Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry of Defence experiences problems with means of transport and their maintenance. Most of the vehicles in our fleet were inherited from the colonial dispensation and United Nations

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Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG). These vehicles have become old and are very expensive to maintain, which also makes their fuel consumption very high. Transport is, therefore needed to enable the troops to perform their daily duties in administration, training and operations. The Ministry needs to acquire new vehicles in order to perform effectively. (Intervention)

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. When we adjourned, I was going to talk about the NDF weaponry and I would like to give a brief background of how the NDF was armed.

In February 1990, we were putting together a number of former PLAN combatants and SWATF to form a Guard of Honour to march on the parade of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1990, but we had a problem before us. There were no weapons to be used by the Guard of Honour on that particular parade. I think Comrade Hage Geingob knows how SWAPO appealed to the then Administrator-General to give permission for SWAPO to bring in a number of weapons to be used by that Guard of Honour on that particular parade. We inherited nothing and the effectiveness of the NDF depends mostly on donated materials. Ninety percent of our equipment was donated by the SWAPO Party from the liberation struggle.

These weapons have now become old and need to be replaced with modern and sophisticated weapons if the NDF is to fulfil its noble task of defending the territorial integrity, lives and properties of our citizens. I think we all now understand how much SWAPO has saved the new Government in billions and billions of dollars and it is now time for the Government to ensure that the NDF is properly armed and equipped.

Honourable Members, the Ministry of Defence considers peacetime as the period for hard training in preparation for eventualities. Our country is now enjoying peace and stability, hence we need to train hard in order to fight easily. We however do not have the capacities to train both officers and the men in all fields of soldiering. Currently we are relying on assistance from friendly countries and in many cases, the training offered is



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not on our terms, but dependent on such training those countries can offer. It is therefore necessary for us to buy training slots from selected countries to meet our demands. The Ministry is seriously embarking on its human resource development programme with the aim to provide the necessary skills to its employees. Currently we are faced with the challenge of harmonising training of the armed forces within the SADC Member States. The harmonising of training is being called for in order to achieve the required standards of the African Standby Force as well as the envisaged establishment of SADC Brigade this month.

We have to train with other forces within the region and beyond. As I am speaking today, there are 190 NDF men and women participating in the SADC Defence Force joint exercises in Botswana. Individual and collective training is also very important for our troops. They need to sharpen their skills in weaponry, map reading, navigation, field craft and tactics on individual basis and collectively to practise the way they intend to fight. This training takes place yearly to prepare soldiers mentally and physically to be able to play their roles effectively. That training should always culminate in an all arms of service training exercise, like the one conducted in 2003 at Uulunga wa Kolonde in Oshikoto Region.

Therefore, there is a requirement for us to conduct similar exercises in a Fiscal Year where all Honourable Members who would be invited to observe and if need be, those who want to participate, can do so.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we are all aware that the Air Force was commissioned in March this year. Apart from aircraft, the Air Force should be provided with the appropriate surveillance systems, accommodation facilities, such as air bases and their training schools. Pilots, engineers and technicians have to be well trained and properly taken care of. The Air Force, therefore, needs proper funding.

The Namibian Navy was commissioned in October last year. Vessels are expensive and need proper maintenance. The Namibian Navy needs to have suitable Navy bases, effective weapon systems, and surveillance and communication equipment. Continuous training for the officers, seamen and women is as important as with other services. Consistent funding is, therefore, required to the effective functioning of our Navy.

When Namibia joined the fraternity of the United Nations, African Union and SADC, she committed herself to the obligations attached to being a member of those organisations. In this connection, I would like to emphasise our obligations towards SADC. Namibia will be taking over the

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Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security from August 2005 to August 2006. This is a huge responsibility on the shoulders of the Ministries involved. The Minister of Defence will be responsible for the Interstate Defence and Security Committee and its Sub-committees. We are already preparing ourselves towards hosting ordinary and extraordinary meetings, depending on how the situation will evolve during our tenure of office.

Experience from other countries has taught us that this undertaking requires many resources. This is an obligation, which the Ministry of Defence will have to honour during the next twelve months. We will also be expected to travel extensively to assess situations in the Region where there will be trouble.

In May this year, South Africa as the Chair was mandated by the Troika to field an assessment mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo. If the situation did not improve in that country, we will be required to take over the functions.

The SADC Standby Force will be established in this month. We already have a senior officer seconded to the SADC Secretariat as part of the interim planning element of the SADC Standby Force. The secondment is on the Ministry of Defence's expenses. There is another demand to second officers to the organ to facilitate the work of our chairmanship. This will also be at the expense of the Ministry of Defence. We are expected and required to provide more if we are to meet our regional obligations.

In the same vein, Namibia, like all other SADC Member States, has an obligation to implement and honour the spirit of strategic indicative plan of the SADC Organ (SIPO), which calls for the implementation of the said programmes.

Honourable Members, NEPAD demands that Africa must take its own responsibilities. African countries, through continental and regional structures, must take the lead in solving their own problems. We have heeded this call and that is why we have a contingent of 860 peacekeepers, three military observers and four staff officers under the United Nations mission in Liberia. We also have other military observers and staff officers in Burundi, Ivory Coast and in Kosovo. We had one staff officer and four military observers under the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia-Eritrea. In Sudan, we have five staff officers, seventeen military observers and two clerks. There is, however, still another demand from both the African Union and United Nations for us to provide another group of 28 military

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observers to Sudan in order to pacify the situation in that Region.

In order to conduct successful support operations, we need to provide multi-disciplinary training for our officers' corps. Our efforts are to put up comprehensive training of our peacekeepers. Training will not only provide troops with military skills, but it includes conflict resolution, negotiation and humanitarian actions. International Humanitarian Law and the law of the armed conflict has been part of our peacekeeping training for a number of years now. Peacekeepers have to understand what is expected of them. This is an area in which considerable resources will have to be utilised.

In order to achieve some objective outlined in the Strategic Indicative Plan of the SADC Organ, the NDF is participating in the SADC Defence Force military exercise in Botswana from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2005, which we believe, is the first step to have a SADC Standby Force operational.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we have Joint Commissions on Defence and Security with Angola, Botswana, South Africa and Zambia. Those Commissions meet annually and we are expected to host two such Commission each Financial Year. These undertakings require many logistics. These Commissions are very important in terms of promoting good relations with our neighbours. They also facilitate exchange visits between officers at different levels, joint training, sports meetings and many others. These are obligations, which we cannot shy away from on the pretext of lack of resources.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have highlighted the most important aspects which affect the operational effectiveness of the Defence Force. It is, therefore, now my distinct honour to present to this august House the Budget estimates of the Ministry of Defence for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. An amount of N\$1,220,475,000 only is required to enable to accomplish our mission and realise our commitments. That amount is allocated as follows:

An amount of N\$2,790,000 is requested for appropriation this Financial Year to cater for the expenses of the Office of the Minister.

The Administration Main Division is the administrative backbone of the Ministry of Defence, hence an amount of N\$68,951,000 is requested for the appropriation this Fiscal Year. The amount will cover, among others, personnel expenditures, acquisition of logistics, undertaking of various missions and to fulfil obligations entrusted to the Ministry.

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In order for the NDF to effectively play its peacetime role, an amount of N\$57,392,000 would therefore be required to cover expenses related to internal and external training, including personnel remuneration at the Military School.

The Namibian Army is the major service of the Namibian Defence Force and plays a crucial role of ensuring the country's safety and security. Besides its internal role, the Namibian Army also participates in various regional and international peace support operations, as I mentioned earlier. An amount of N\$923,297,000 is, therefore, requested to cover expenses related to Army personnel, remuneration, feeding, operations, combat training and joint training exercises, renovation and construction of bases and other logistical needs.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Guard is entrusted with the responsibility of securing the capital city, provide security to the Head of State, and perform ceremonial duties and securing the visiting Heads of State and Governments. An amount of N\$60,337,000 is, therefore, required to enable them to fulfil these noble responsibilities.

The Namibian Air Force was commissioned in March this year. This means that it has grown in terms of personnel and assets. An amount of N\$47,566,000 is, therefore, required to service the Air Force functions and operations.

The function of the NDF health facilities and provision of health and hygiene to the troops requires that an amount of N\$12,200,000 be made available this Fiscal Year.

An amount of N\$32,620,000 is being requested to cater for the activities of the Navy. This includes personnel expenditure, feeding, training and maintenance of assets.

The Ministry of Defence has accredited Defence advisors in the Region and beyond. We have Defence advisors in Angola, also accredited to both DRC and Zambia and in China. The one in Germany is also accredited to Austria, the one in South Africa is accredited to Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho, and we have one at the UN. Therefore, an amount of N\$7,505,000 is requested to cover expenses relating to the functioning of our Defence advisors.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, we all want to be secure and enjoy peace and

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stability, but we are always hesitant to provide for our own security. I, therefore, humbly count on the support of the Honourable Members by approving the allocation of N\$1,220,475,000 only to fund the Defence programme for this Financial Year in order to ensure defence and security of the Land of the Brave. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put  
**Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM”, N\$120,621,000** for  
Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Comrade  
Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, it is my  
honour and privilege to introduce Vote 18 of the Ministry of Environment  
and Tourism for the 2005/2006 Financial Year to this august House.

I wish to start by congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance for her Budget presentation earlier in this House and to thank her for the proposed allocation to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. I assure her of the cooperation of my Ministry and our commitment to make the most from the resources available to us. I also wish to commit my Ministry to the policy directives given by His Excellency, the President and the Right Honourable Prime Minister in a number of important public statements, including the State of the Nation Address and the introduction of the Budget Vote for the Office of the Prime Minister in this august House. Here I refer to the need to improve service delivery, to invest our resources in outcomes that will directly support the socio-economic development of rural people, in particular, and to transform the Public Service into a modern and efficient organisation.

Madam Chairperson, as this is my first time to present the Budget of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and, indeed, as such a maiden statement, allow me say that I have learned, since taking my new office, that the sector for which I am responsible is very complex indeed. It includes the tourism sector, which is one of our fastest growing economic sectors and a sector in which Government has the role of regulator and facilitator. It includes the environment sector, which in the face of major global and local challenges from climatic change, pollution and diminishing resources presents challenges to each and everyone. It also includes our national parks, game parks, and their management with each presenting its own challenges and opportunities.

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The environment and tourism sector also includes our wildlife resources and challenging issues related to community-based natural resource management, the regulation of sustainable use of these resources, the recovery in some instances of wild species under pressure and the difficult matter of human-wildlife conflict management.

Madam Chairperson, my portfolio goes further to include the regulation of gambling and lotteries. My task is, therefore, diverse and I request all the support possible from my Colleagues in Cabinet and the Members of this august House.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me now to say a few words about the Budget allocations. This now brings me to the Budget allocation for the current Financial Year. The Ministry has been allocated a total of N\$120,621,000 for the 2005/2006 Financial Year.

This amount represents, firstly, N\$106,946,000 for the Operational Budget and secondly, N\$3,675,000 for the Development Budget. This overall amount is a considerable reduction in the allocations of the previous Financial Year, but this reduction is explained by the transfer of the Directorate of Forestry to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. It will not be possible to make any other direct comparisons between the Budget for this Financial Year and that of the previous one because of the introduction of the programme-based Budget approach.

The Budget of my Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, consists of seven programmes.

Protected areas include all the national parks and game parks of Namibia that are proclaimed through legislation and managed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on behalf of the State. This programme is about management of Namibia's proclaimed protected areas and the wildlife resources in these areas. The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$46,325,000 for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. This programme is one of the greatest responsibilities of the Ministry and one of its greatest challenges. The total area, included in protected areas, amounts to 14% of Namibia's land surface, but will increase to over 17% with the final proclamation of new protected areas agreed to by Cabinet in 2004. These areas include some of Namibia's most spectacular, valuable but also fragile natural assets. They are the backbone of Namibia's tourism industry and hold the most important living collections of Namibia's bio-diversity.

I am pleased to say that we already recovered almost 40% of the running

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costs of these parks through entrance fees. This amount, as direct revenue to the State, is nevertheless small compared to the total economic contribution from these parks. We are still working on making the statistics of these matters more accurate, but our national parks are the main broadcast for tourism to Namibia and are visited by more than half of all tourists that come to Namibia. I would thus be more realistic to measure the value of these parks in terms of the entire tourism sector of our economy.

What is equally important to know is that we consider that there would be significant further growth potential in tourism in general, and tourism linked to our protected areas in particular. I would thus like to urge the Members of this august House to bear in mind the value and the role of these protected areas in the broader sense of our economic development objectives.

Madam Chairperson, I can elaborate considerably about the difficulties of managing such large areas, most of them in very remote areas. It is particularly hard to maintain the infrastructure of these protected areas, notably roads, firebreaks and fences and we face very severe challenges in this regard. We need to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing protected areas and to increase their socio-economic value through improved revenue generation, while also increasing their role in biodiversity protection. Our parks need better management plans, better monitoring and better maintenance of important infrastructures. Tourist facilities and services in the past are outdated and not in line with the international eco-tourism demand. Our resources for these parks are limited and the need for more sustainable financing mechanisms for these protected areas remain, as also discussed in this House during the Debate on Vote 18 for the previous Financial Year.

I am very thankful to the Honourable Minister of Finance and pleased to report that we are now in a position to reinvest a portion of our 25% of park usage fees into the management of these parks in addition to our Budget allocation.

The purpose of the Protection and Management of Key Species and Natural Resources Programme is to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing key species and natural resources. The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$10,350,000 for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. The main activities in the programme are:

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- Maintaining and expanding monitoring systems of key wildlife resources and populations in and outside protected areas;
- Management planning;
- Reintroduction of economically viable species, such as black rhinoceros, black-faced impalas, roan, sable and tsessebe; and
- Reviewing the status of endemic species and their conservation needs.

I also wish to recognise that the problems of conflict between people and wildlife are continuing, as many of the Members will know. We are greatly concerned about reports of stock losses due to lions or crop damages due to elephants. I am awaiting a full report from my officials and I would certainly report on the situation as soon as clear and up-to-date information becomes available concerning this unfortunate and serious issue.

My Ministry has also launched a consultative process to develop a national policy on human-wildlife conflict management that would address these problems and its cross-sectoral nature. This august House will in due course be informed of progress in this regard.

In the current three-year Budget cycle, the focus will further be to intensify efforts to address species' specific conservation needs that may be identified through monitoring and a review of their conservation status and making wildlife available through the wildlife breeding stock loan scheme and conservancies, where appropriate. The major impacts from this programme will be to expand the population size of economically important species, reduce human-animal conflicts, reduce threats and impacts on endemic species, improve the knowledge-base for key species, improve management efficiency for key species and increase access by formerly disadvantaged Namibians to wildlife, to complement forms of land-use through game farming and tourism.

The Community-based Natural Resource Management and Tourism Programme strengthens the conservancy system on communal lands and other community-based programmes by improving the natural resource base for economic development, the management of natural resources through such programmes and enhancing job creation and livelihood improvement through enterprise development. The Budget cost of this programme amounts to N\$3 million in 2005/2006, but it should be noted



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that we are able to supplement this relatively small amount through approximately N\$150 million of development partner funding over the next five years in three separate Budget complementary projects.

Madam Chairperson, Honourable Members, our Conservancy Programme continues to grow and 31 conservancies have now been registered, with a further fifteen in the process of registration. We have a major task to help such conservancies to restore the natural resource base on which they depend through improved management of resources and the reintroduction of economically important species. We have had major successes in this regard and it is self-evident how well wildlife populations have recovered in many of these conservancies.

It is equally challenging and even more important to provide support for enterprise development within conservancies. Tourism and hunting are the main sources of income and I am pleased to say that all, except the most recently established conservancies, have initiated such enterprises. The amount of income earned by conservancies have grown in the last year to almost N\$15 million and we expect this figure to increase by at least half as much in the coming year.

We are also expanding the programme to ensure that economic benefits are maximised. Shortly the first community-owned tourism lodge will be launched as the start of a new aspect of this programme. I wish to invite the Honourable Members in advance to support this new venture and the others that will follow.

The Regulation of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Resource Management Programme ensure sustainable development by avoiding environmental degradation and non-sustainable use of renewable resources. The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$5 million only for 2005/2006.

The main responsibilities in this programme are to manage some of our most important regulatory procedures. Examples are the environmental impact assessment process and the system of registration and permits that we use concerning the use of wildlife resources.

In the current Budget cycle the focus will be on:

- Improvements to databases and electronic issuance of permits and registration to enhance monitoring, efficiency and quality control;

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- Finalising policies and legal instruments that are in various preparatory stages regarding parks and wildlife; environmental protection and management; access to genetic resources; pollution and waste management and tourism development;
- Increasing the Ministry's support for sustainable land and natural resources management as part of the land reform programme; and
- Environmental planning, management and compliance, monitoring at regional and local level, also in support of the decentralisation programme.

I wish to inform the Honourable Members that we have completed our work on the long-awaited *Environmental Management and Assessment Bill*, which will considerably strengthen the legal foundation for environmental protection in Namibia, which Bill will be tabled in the very near future.

The purpose of the Tourism Development Programme is to support the development of environmental and socio-economically beneficial tourism development and the further growth of what we believe is the third largest and fastest growing economic sector in Namibia. This sector holds considerable further growth potential and holds high potential to create new jobs. It is often said in southern Africa that one new job is created for every additional twelve new tourist arrivals. It is, therefore, in our interest to expand tourist arrivals and ensure that the socio-economic benefits from this industry are more widely distributed.

Tourism development, nevertheless, requires export marketing because Namibia is in the situation of having to compete with other destinations. Peace, stability, our unique environment and good infrastructures are the essential ingredients for tourism development, but marketing is necessary to make people aware what we can offer.

The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$27 million for the current Financial Year. N\$21,330,000 of this amount is to be allocated to the Namibia Tourism Board for marketing the country and providing quality assurance through registration and grading of the tourism industry. The Namibia Tourism Board is expected to raise a further N\$6 million through levies and registration fees, which will therefore bring their resources to N\$27 million.

The priorities of the Namibia Tourism Board include tourism promotion

and marketing, including targeted corporative marketing, registration of operators in the tourism industry, quality control through inspections and grading and in general promoting cooperation liaison within the industry. These services are essential for Namibia to maintain or increase its competitive position, increase and improve its tourism products and services, ensure value for money and thus, gain the economic benefits from its rapidly growing industry. Through the allocation to the Namibian Tourism Board, the Namibian tourism industry can grow substantially and we are convinced that this investment will result in many-fold returns to our economy. This is an area where, I believe, that we should greatly increase our national investment and I will seek the support from the Honourable Minister of Finance to find ways and means to do that in future.

Other important responsibilities in this programme include the finalisation of a National Tourism Policy, a Policy on Tourism Concessions in areas under our jurisdiction, supporting community-based tourism enterprise development and management, supporting the development of empowerment incentives in the tourism industry and finalising the National Tourism Satellite Account. This account will enable us to measure the economic value of the tourism industry in a better way. A further focus will be on the development of trans-frontier tourism incentives, for example the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area.

Although not only linked to tourism, this programme includes gambling and lotteries. It is worth noting that State revenue from the Gambling Industry is in the order of N\$20 million per year. In the coming year, further consideration will be given to the problem of illegal gambling and issues such as the moratorium on new gambling operations and the establishment of a State lottery will be revisited.

The purpose of improving the Economic Value of Natural Resources and Protected Areas in the Ministry's jurisdiction is to enhance the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's contribution to State revenue and to improve the understanding of the value of the assets that this Ministry is responsible for and the cost of maintaining them. The budgeted cost of this small, but important programme amounts to N\$621,000 for this Financial Year, supplemented of course by funding from development partners.

The main priority for this Financial Year's activities is to mobilise the Environmental Investment Fund, as earlier decided by Cabinet. Although no amount for the initial capitalisation of this Fund has been allocated in

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this Budget, further consultation with the Honourable Minister of Finance will be held on the way forward.

The Administration, Utilities, Office Accommodation Programme contains all the crosscutting institutional requirements that could not be split into the previous six programmes. The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$28,325,000 for this current Financial Year. The main responsibilities are administration and office accommodation. One of our greatest needs remain in the establishment of a headquarters for the Ministry in Windhoek. You will not believe me, we are experiencing severe management and communication problems because the Directorates of this Ministry are scattered in different buildings all over Windhoek. We are grateful, however, that an amount of N\$2 million has been allocated in the Development Budget to initiative work on the refurbishment of the Trotsky Building in this financial year to become the new headquarters for my Ministry.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, I want to return to the subject of tourism before concluding. Tourism is stated to be the largest industry globally and accounts for an astonishing one out of every twenty jobs worldwide. In several countries, including some of our neighbours, tourism has already become the largest economic sector. Tourism is also known to be our fastest growing economic sector in Namibia and one of our most important earners of foreign exchange. It is also an industry where jobs can be created at comparatively low cost and where skills can be acquired relatively easily in principle. It has been estimated that tourism contributes 7% of our GDP or, N\$2,7 billion. It already provides for more than 54,000 jobs in Namibia. This is a substantial part of our job market in Namibia.

Our Tourism Board is in the process of registering all tourism enterprises and the indications are that we already have almost two thousand individual businesses in this sector. We are in the process of compiling a Tourism Satellite Account that will more accurately describe these statistics, but the preliminary numbers are nevertheless already impressive.

Tourism is also an important way of capitalising on our comparative advantages as a country. Our natural landscapes, clean environment, wildlife, national parks, world famous deserts, cultural diversity, peace, stability, comparatively good infrastructure, and services give us this advantage. Furthermore, tourism is a way for us to make the transition from a natural resource exporter to a service economy and this transition is

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a key requirement for us to reach the vision for Namibia articulated in Vision 2030.

We have had a situation in the past and it still prevails where tourism only benefited a few. This situation is to change immediately and rapidly, with both entrepreneurs from all sectors of our society and our rural communities in particular, becoming involved as investors, operators, shareholders and partners in this industry. Our tourism industry has adopted a Transformation Charter, the first industry to do so, and we have several innovative programmes to facilitate access to the industry and spread its benefits to all Namibians. Here I refer, for example, to our registered communal conservancies where 31 communities already, in one way or the other, have become tourism entrepreneurs or partners with the private sector in the tourism industry. The more than 40,000 conservancy members are now direct stakeholders in, and beneficiaries from conservation and tourism. If this number is put in the context of households, many more people are directly benefiting.

The number of tourists visiting community-based tourism enterprises have increased from 30,000 in 1999 to over 70,000 in 2002 and were projected to grow to over 90,000 in 2004, almost 13% of the total number of tourists coming to Namibia.

A further example is the first community-owned lodge that will shortly be launched. With a relatively small investment of N\$4,5 million, from our development partners in this case, we have created in this one project, first, an asset with a real capital value, secondly, a functioning business enterprise, thirdly, twenty jobs in a community where there are virtually no other jobs and fourthly, a benefit-sharing arrangement where the conservancy will earn approximately N\$200,000 in dividends per year in addition. Furthermore, the way it was established was designed to transfer skills and create management capacity within this community. There is no reason why we would not be able to replicate this achievement in other communities.

It has been stated in the past that the Tourism Sector is vulnerable to economic leakage. Much awareness has been raised about this problem and a better understanding of the value chain in tourism has brought a better perspective on this matter. While there may be some businesses that avoid local taxation for whatever reason, we now believe that this industry is no more vulnerable to leakage than any other is. We believe that we have the support of the great majority in the Tourism Industry and that

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vigorous enforcement of existing laws will be sufficient to deal with those in default.

A further noteworthy achievement is that our Tourism Board has developed a marketing tool with the Budget that is allocated to them that leverages an equivalent tool for greater investment by the major tour operators and tourism wholesalers in our source markets.

The Namibia Tourism Board's investments are showing a rate of return for the country in excess of ten times the investment. This is a case where the more we can put into this marketing, the more we will get out and where the return on the investment is clearly measurable. The only limits on growth are the resources that we have available for this purpose. There is much potential for growth in this sector. Tourism has grown three-fold since Independence from about 250,000 to over 700,000 by the year 2004. Arrival statistics for 2004 are being compiled and the preliminary results show an increase in tour arrivals of 8,5% over the previous year.

Namibia's market share of Europe seems to be increasing, while those of some of our neighbouring competitors are shrinking. This we have achieved despite the strong value of the Rand and the Namibian Dollar and negative global influences, such as war in the Middle East, global terrorism, SARS, etcetera.

My view is, therefore, Honourable Members, for us as Namibians to recognise the strategic value of the Tourism Sector and to elevate it in terms of a priority development focus for Government to the benefit of all our people. This sector can deliver in terms of growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. Tourism is no longer a matter of interest to a few, but should become a matter of very great importance to all Namibians and Government as a whole. Additional investments in tourism, also by Government, is however necessary to achieve further growth and to realise the potential of this sector. Government's total direct investment in an industry worth N\$2,7 billion per year is only N\$27 million per year or 1%.

While much of the needed investment would come from the private sector, there is a great need for Government investment in this sector to enhance the foreign arrivals that are so critical to growth significantly and to ensure that the benefits to our rural areas can increase through the development of new tourism infrastructure and community-based tourism enterprises. We should not miss this historical opportunity.

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Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for allocating the Budget of Vote 18. I will also fail in my duty if I do not express my appreciation for the hard work and support of my Deputy Minister, my Permanent Secretary and the staff of the Ministry. I would like to ask the Honourable Members of the House to support the Budget for Vote 18 as presented with immediate effect. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put **Vote 17 – “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT”** for Discussion.

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development unequivocally. I think it is one of the most important engines to bring about human development to our people.

I further want to congratulate the Ministry for handling the work of the National Housing Enterprise. The National Housing Enterprise is doing our country proud with the superb management of that company and the profits that they are making, knowing that the National Housing Enterprise is forced to compete against commercial banks, which are selling houses to people. I am really impressed by their work and I want to thank the Minister for that. (Interjection). When I oppose I am campaigning, when I congratulate I am campaigning and there is a saying that the Opposition will have its say and the Government will have its way. Therefore, Honourable Members, allow me to have my say.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to bring the attention of this House to the Boards of Directors at some of our Parastatals and especially Government representatives at the Parastatals. It is important for Government representatives to be true representatives of the people of this country on those Boards, but you find Government dedicated Directors are not even attending many of the meetings of Boards and they end up just quarrelling with the Managing Directors because of salaries, which is an untenable situation and uncalled for. If Government seconds a representative to a Board of Directors, we must make sure that

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that person is going to be a people's representative, looking after the interests of Government. The Ministry should look at this area. I know what I am talking about.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, housing in this country is a political, social and economic question and the way we as a country are treating it is not in the interest of this sector. In my opinion, housing is a topical issue equal to land reform, because thousands of our citizens cannot be accommodated in the land reform process, but at least we should alleviate their living standard by providing proper housing. I want to urge Government to consider subsidising the prices of houses to first-time homeowners, as I moved in my last Motion.

The Minister has mentioned that the National Housing Enterprise has built ±13,000 houses, but I must remind you, Honourable Minister, to be cognisant of the fact that 7,000 of those houses were built during the term of NASBOUKOR. (Interjections). Yes, it is a fact. Look at the report of the National Housing Enterprise of last year and it will tell you that some 7,000 of those houses were built last year. Therefore, housing should really become a topical issue and we should try to assist people to get houses.

Honourable Minister, you spoke of the Build-Together Programme and you mentioned areas where houses were built. You mentioned some of the villages where I come from and I know many of these houses are incomplete. I do not know whether the money given to the home owners is not enough or whether they divert these funds to do something different, but it is a matter of great concern, because when you report that so many houses were built, I want to draw your attention to the fact that many of these houses are incomplete and perhaps the Minister can shed more light on why these houses are incomplete.

I also want to give my support to the Regional Constituency Offices that your Ministry has been building and especially in the Caprivi Region where the community now has a vocal point to take their concerns. Even family matters are taken to the constituency offices, it is a focal point of taking Government to the people, and I really support those efforts.

Honourable Minister, I wait and pray for the decentralisation policy to be fully implemented and I do not know when that would be.

On the question of Local Authorities, I am concerned about the activities of our Local Councillors elected to certain Local Authorities. Every now and



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then, you find that a town's water and electricity are cut and the political leaders on the ground do not seem to control these Authorities. I do not know whether the Minister has tried to train our Local Authorities to be able to run these bodies in the interest of our citizens. Most of the time the Local Authorities would only complain about the money that is not enough, but they do not really take the interest of the electorate very seriously.

The question of rural development is a very complex one, which needs the support of everybody and we support the Ministry's initiative to bring about a policy framework, an indaba that would talk about the different facets of rural development. With these few remarks, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** I thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I support the Vote, but I have one question I would like to put to the Honourable Minister, which has to do with the Colleagues nominated by their respective Political Parties and elected by the communities. These Colleagues in the Regional Councils are being paid by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and I want to know to whom they are responsible. If one, for example, is not doing his or her work, who is actually the supervisor of these Colleagues? Is it the Political Parties which nominated them or is it the Ministry that is paying them or is it the community which has elected them? I only have that one question, Comrade Minister, through you, Comrade Chairperson, and I once more support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me congratulate the Minister for the good plans the Ministry has for the future, which, if

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fully implemented, will bring about progress.

On Page 14 there is mention of Traditional Authority coordination and that N\$6,3 million was allocated for the allowances of Chiefs and Traditional Authorities. I feel this is peanuts and the Honourable Minister of Finance should try to increase this amount to include the junior Traditional Leaders as well, because they are also serving the Nation.

There is a lot to be done about the training of Traditional Leaders as they are experiencing many problems. Some laws of the Traditional Authorities are only verbal, others are forgotten, and they need to be reviewed not to be in conflict with the Constitution. There should be thorough training and the traditional laws of the different groups should be coordinated.

Honourable Chairperson, there are development programmes, such as the one for the San community which will enable them to produce food. This is a good programme, but the Ongandjera San community has been left out as well as those at Oshivelo and other places. In addition, other communities do not cultivate and do not have good living standards because they do not have enough food. Therefore, we also have to train other ethnic groups to be able to produce more food, not only milk and meat. This type of training should be a national one, not only for the San community. (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, in view of your statement, saying that others should start doing crop production and not only having milk and meat, would you also propose that the crop producers should also start having some milk and meat?

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**HON MOONGO:** I will support that, but because of global warming, there is not enough rain in order to survive from meat and milk. We must train our people to be self-reliant and produce enough food.

The Honourable Minister mentioned effective administration by the Traditional Authorities. How can you have good administration without transportation? The Traditional Authorities have no transportation. (Interjections). I had enough vehicles even before I came to Parliament, I do not need it. I do not even need the allowance for Traditional Leaders, but what I am saying is that they are suffering. They need transportation. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Will you accept a question? Honourable Moongo, you said you had many cars before you came to Parliament. Did you buy those cars with the slush funds from South Africa and Savimbi's diamonds?

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**HON MOONGO:** I do not have to respond, but after I completed my task in the liberation struggle, I did not join the internal force. I was only an international figure to fight for democracy. I wanted to see true democracy, as we are here now, because some of you wanted one-party rule, one-party Government and that was your intention. That is why I came earlier in order to prevent you and now you have a true Government and true democracy in Namibia. With this I support the Vote.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Diergaardt.

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**HON DIERGAARDT:** Madam Chairperson, Honourable Members, I rise in support of Vote 17 and I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister for a well-presented motivation speech. However, I have a request to the Honourable Minister.

Madam Chairperson, Windhoek is known as one of the cities, if not *the* city with the most expensive residential land in the SADC Region. I know the prices are not determined by the Honourable Minister, but I was wondering whether it would be possible for the Honourable Minister to make use of his good offices to intervene, because I believe that it is completely inflated.

It is often said, and it is a fact, that the struggle for liberation and Independence was about land, to my understanding, not only farmland but also land for residential purposes. It concerns the dignity of people, it concerns the standard of living of our people and I feel that something drastic should be done. Of course, developers and the banks also play a significant role in inflating these prices. I know of some banks that would accept the valuation of developers to the detriment of the customer, the buyer, because they do not want to lose the business of such developers and

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at the end of the day, it is the buyer, especially first-time buyers, who suffer under these circumstances.

I know that the Minister is not directly involved, but maybe something could be done, because, it will again be the poor people that suffer at the end of the day. They cannot afford decent housing and the goal of Government of shelter for all is undermined in the process. I support Vote 17, Honourable Minister.

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Nicky Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members. I rise to register my support for Vote 17 and to congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister and their staff for the work that they are engaging in, in this important Ministry.

If there is a Ministry, which is so important as far as the grassroots are concerned, of course this Vote 17 is intended for the Ministry. However, I have some comments and a few questions to the Honourable Minister.

On Page 31 the Honourable Minister wants to establish Local Authorities in various places, as listed on that page, namely Okahao, Oshikuku, Omuthiya and many others, but I want to know at which level of Local Authority, is the Minister contemplating establishing these Local Authorities. It is fine if Omuthiya is established as a town, because it is intended that it should be the capital of the Oshikoto Region, but if the intention is that the rest of the places should be proclaimed as towns, my concern is that it is going to be very expensive in the sense that the status of town would require personnel for the administration and we know that most of these places in the rural areas do not have the basis from which to derive finances. It might, therefore be advisable to start with village status, because at least you will be able to Budget for a village in one way or the other. I hope the idea is not to establish them as towns, but rather to start at a lower level. As the economy and conditions improve, their status can be changed. Otherwise, it is going to be extremely difficult. Even if it is a village, people must be able to have title deeds on properties, so that at least we provide value for anybody who has a building.

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Honourable Minister, on Page 34, you mentioned Traditional Authority coordination and I want to know what role the Traditional Authorities play in administering the laws of the country. Last year the *Community Courts Bill* was passed here and I am sure it is now an Act and I want to find out how much the Traditional Authorities are assisting the legal system in order to address some of the court cases. We have heard yesterday how many people who have not yet been convicted are at the police stations and they are milking the State as far as feeding and accommodation are concerned.

On Page 33 you budgeted an amount of N\$4 million to take care of the Local Authorities that may find themselves in financial difficulties and which are not able to pay the utility companies for water and electricity. I just have a feeling that this amount of N\$4 million is not enough. I am sure the debts exceed N\$15 million and it seems the N\$4 million will not be enough, although they also have to contribute.

The other point is on Page 29, namely the Shack Dwellers. I remember during my time we decided to give the Shack Dwellers Federation N\$1 million per year, because this organisation is mainly run by women who are really doing a quite commendable job as far as housing is concerned. I am just wondering why they are still only being allocated N\$1 million after six, seven years. Maybe you could consider an increase as they are really doing quite a lot.

It was mentioned that members of the GIPF, might use one-third of their pension for housing, particularly in the rural areas. The idea was to develop the rural areas so that people have decent houses, but Cabinet has decided on this long ago and it seems it is not going anywhere. I want to know whether the problem is with the GIPF or whether the Ministry did not find the time to concentrate on this issue. I want to ask the Honourable Minister to do everything in his power that people have access to this one-third of the pensions for houses to be built in the communal areas. I wanted to know about these few things from the Minister.

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

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, in my support for this Vote, I would like to state that I am not supporting it just in the simple terms of approving the specific amounts put aside or being proposed for this particular Vote 17, but I am supporting it also in recognition of the strategic importance of this particular Vote for the people and for their development. I think it can easily be said that this is one Ministry and one Vote that is closest to the achievement of the basic rights of most of the citizens of the country.

Perhaps before go any further, I should congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister and his team. This important Ministry definitely needs such open-minded and competent people and optimistic and positive-minded people. Following the Minister's statement, the Minister is showing all these qualities. The third Paragraph of his speech, for example, demonstrates that this Budget is historic and it is finally destined to eradicate poverty and deal with the problems involved in his particular Ministry perhaps in the end, so that these problems can be resolved forever. I am sure it is a long way from that, but if the Minister is so optimistic and so positively minded, even the impossible will be able to be achieved.

Honourable Chairperson, I have a complaint, I hope you will not rule me Out of Order. This is one of the Ministries and Votes, which include so many divisions, and really, the time is too short to have to deal with this kind of speech of almost thirty pages and not of large letters overnight. Perhaps next time when we deal with the Budget, we should deal with it in a different manner than this year.

So many aspects need attention and I want to concentrate on housing. The policy is clearly outdated and it is backward looking. It does not put the long-term aims and goals of the Government, not just of the Ministry upfront, in terms of resolving the housing challenge in this country. I am also not aware of any long-term plan that has defined timeframes, outcomes and benchmarks. I am surprised that some people find the National Housing Enterprise a commendable exercise. The National Housing Enterprise is one of the most self-serving organisations in this country. It has abandoned building houses for poor people, because the National Housing Enterprise constructed houses have long gone out of the brackets, which can be afforded by poor people. It is high time that the Government and the Ministry look at strengthening other stakeholders and other developers who can really build houses for the poor.

I know about the Build-Together Programme, I have also worked in this Ministry for a while. Unfortunately, the Ministry has not continued to

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develop such a commendable programme. It is a programme with potential. It is underdeveloped, it is not nationally integrated and I think it is high time that the Ministry perhaps looks into developing the Build-Together Programme and, of course, talking about the Shack Dwellers Association, it is worse than underdeveloped, it is embryonic and it has remained that way for a very long time, perhaps an unacceptably long time.

I have tried to see from the Minister's statement the exact magnitude of the housing challenge. It is not coming through. It is clear that there is a challenge and the Minister is rather talking about what they intend to do next year and what they did the previous Financial Year. I think it will be more helpful if the problems and challenges concerning housing, which is such a basic problem, are put into proper perspective so that everybody can immediately realise the challenge and the need, because in doing that, you will have the support of the whole population, let alone the whole Opposition.

Honourable Chairperson, on the problem of single quarters, this is now the fifteenth year of Independence and it is now for some time that Government has been seized with the matter of single quarters, but how long do we still have to go? Perhaps it would be helpful if the Minister can tell us how many have been transformed and how many are still to go, because it seems every single Budget Year we have to deal with the transformation of single quarters.

Last year when I had the opportunity of visiting Grootfontein for the elections... (Interjection). He has not lived in single quarters. That is why it bores him. The single quarters at Grootfontein, Chairperson, and through you to the Minister, is the worst one. It is the filthiest and is the one that needs the most immediate attention. I do not know why it is always left out.

I must commend the Ministry for the quick development of Constituencies through provision of constituency offices, but I have a question there. I am asking this, because from what I am getting from some of the communities it looks like this is one potential area of conflict amongst the communities. Are the sites chosen according to the vicinity of the Councillor's house? In other words, does the current serving Councillor decide that the office must be here because this is my house? Is it a question of ethnic allegiance of the Councillor, for example, and when there are new Councillors, will this kind of situation change? I am not now talking about the Party affiliation of Councillors, because Councillors, despite belonging to Parties, are elected by the Constituencies, but still it looks like there is quite some

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disagreement on the question of identifying the site of the constituency office. I think it is an important issue because in the end it also determines where the centre of development of the Constituency is located.

Let me briefly move to Traditional Authorities. The question has been touched on by one Traditional Leader in the House. How low down, in terms of the hierarchy, does the Government go? I am asking this question in terms of payment of Traditional Councillors, for example. It seems that in many areas, these people are really carrying out development work and it is not necessarily Chiefs and Senior Headmen, it is actually the Headman. In rural Namibia, these people go out and explain to the citizens how the nature of the traditional system links up with the Constitution and especially the important changes, which have happened in the last fifteen years. I understand these are actually the people who work free of charge, who volunteered, while those who largely sit at their homes and give instructions are those who are being paid. I am duly aware of the problem regarding resources.

Local Authorities – I do not even want to get into this, everybody knows the huge problems which confront the Nation through the Local Authorities. I am sure my Colleagues will also touch on that one. I just want to say that the Minister has half-touched on the problem of the dying towns and the causes, but I think it needs to be properly focused on. Why are the towns dying? It is not only because people are migrating, I think the whole focus of economic development is totally overlooking the question of these dying towns. If we plan our economy and our development without taking into consideration the need to keep the existing towns and communities alive, then we are missing the point.

I do not think that the problem of people not being able to pay for their services is mainly because the people are old. You find young and vibrant looking people in all these towns. The fact of the matter is that they are not employed. (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Time up. Honourable Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Chairperson, let me commend the Minister for his maiden motivation of this important Vote. I too share the



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sentiments of others who feel that this is a Vote which deals with matters that are important for all our people at the grassroots levels. I have a few questions in this regard and the accent of my questions is on good governance in view of the new administration's focus on the issue of good governance.

Honourable Chairperson, the first one relates to local Government. I have already said during this Debate that the governance at that level has now become a national scandal, but what I want to raise today is that in terms of the Regional Councils Act and in terms of the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions, it empowers the Minister to intervene and to assist in the functions of this level of administration.

Now we have a situation in the country where water and electricity would not be in towns and villages for weeks and months and Government is sitting on its hands. My question is what is the Minister's notion of a crisis? Do we wait until somebody dies, because if there is no water for weeks or months, both the survival of man and beast are threatened, these businesses do not operate, therefore there are no jobs, and therefore we are creating unemployment? What is Government's idea of a crisis? I would have thought in terms of the powers granted under the Regional Councils Act as well as the Trust Fund, we would have expected Government to intervene, but we wait until they die. That is my first question, why there has been no action from Government's side while there are clear powers in terms of our own laws for Government to help.

My second question is on the Regional Councils' activities. Again, in terms of the Regional Councils Act, it requires Regional Councils to draw up income and expenditure statements annually. Part of this money, of course, is derived from Local Authorities and that probably partly explains why the revenue of Local Authorities is going down, because 5% of the income of Local Authorities goes to Regional Councils. Part of the moneys come from Central Government, part of the money – we hope – Regional Councils are raising themselves, but the law again expects from Regional Councils to annually draw up income and expenditure statements at the end of which these statements are audited by the Auditor-General. Why is this not done? The latest statements, which the Parliament has seen from the Regional Councils go back five years. For some it goes back to 1999, 1996. These include the Khomas Regional Council. Why are we not doing what is expected of us in terms of the law, because then we will see where the money is spent.

Honourable Chairperson, the Minister has raised the question of traditional

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boundaries between two traditional communities. Did I understand correctly that he is suggesting that so-called border disputes would be settled by way of negotiations between these communities? Does the law not provide for settling of these boundaries? I would have thought this is something that is governed by legislation or do the leaders of two Traditional Authorities go out with beer and settle where their boundaries are?

Honourable Chairperson, we also note that N\$1,7 million are being provided for assisting Regional Councils. N\$141,000 of that will be spent on capital investments. The Budget document says to buy furniture and vehicles for new constituency offices built last year. My question is what contribution Regional Councils make to acquire these assets from funds, which I have referred to earlier? I am asking this because we have no reports on how they expend their funds, so we do not know what money they have and what they are using it for, but we are being asked to make provision of N\$140,000 for furniture and vehicles. If we knew they are using their moneys raised through income and other sources, of course, we would not be asking this question, but as it stands now, that they do not file reports, we have to raise them.

Honourable Chairperson, the question of Build-Together Programme has been raised already. I think we cannot argue on this matter here. We simply need to get a list of the towns where Build-Together programmes have been undertaken and drive through to see their state of completeness. The place where I come from, Usakos, these Build-Together houses have been standing half-built and I think it is the same for 80 or 90% of towns where this Build-Together programme has been attempted. I do not know whether the Ministry is doing anything about this.

There was a report, which was produced, I do not know how long ago, about 2001, on this programme, which made specific recommendations for improving on how we deliver this programme. I do not know whether any of these recommendations have been implemented. However, as I said, 80 to 90% of these houses are half-built and I do not know whether there is any intention to change so that these structures become shelters to be inhabited by our citizens.

Finally, Chairperson, we note that the Ministry intends to build a Habitat and Development Centre. We believe this is an important part of development of our own national capacity and institution building, which reduces dependency not only on South Africa, but also on other foreign

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suppliers and for that reason we welcome that initiative and commend the Ministry for that.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Time is up. Honourable Geingob.

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this Vote is one of the most important Votes. I said several times that this Vote is important, but it is a Vote for democracy, taking the Government to the people and I am pleased to say that all the Ministers who headed this Ministry were giants, because this is the most difficult Ministry, given our country's history, and the Minister is doing an excellent job, because taking the Government to the people in the three-tier Government system that we have, that of Central Government, which is now up and running but which is not close to people, which is aloof in Windhoek, then Regional Authorities will be tackling regional matters which are closer to the Regions and then Local Authorities, the heart of people. Therefore, this is a very important Vote as we talk about democracy, about empowering people so that they can decide their own future. They will be the ones who know what their development needs are, where hospitals and clinics should be built, etcetera.

However, some people confuse de-concentration, decentralisation as just one term and forget that in a unitary State and a federal State there is a difference. Many want total devolution. I was talking to somebody who was arguing about Ministers still controlling from Windhoek and they must be given absolute power to decide on the spot, but here we have a unique situation where we are a unitary State and within this unitary State, there is this decentralisation, consciously decided by the SWAPO Government when we came into power. Knowing that we were divided according to Regions and tribes, we thought of having a strong Central Government to first unite us, but immediately thereafter realising that there cannot be proper democracy, there must be some way of going down from the top to bottom, hence this Ministry, which is very important.

Therefore, I am very happy they were given enough money and I would have said many things about administrative decentralisation, about fiscal decentralisation and political decentralisation had there been time. However, on political decentralisation just one little question:

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We need Authorities in the Regions. My father said first educate people, train them and then build facilities, because you cannot send passports to be issued in a Region if there is not even a strong room. Therefore, build the offices as people always go by symbols. I do not know why people are talking about State House and cars. The trappings of statehood are symbolism. People look at symbols of authority and unless you have proper structures in the Regions, offices and places to meet, you are not going to see people respecting the authority, let us face it. Therefore, first, it is training and then facilities and then we give the administration to them.

Now we have Regional Councillors who are democratically elected from the Regions to come to the Parliament. The current Minister used to be the Governor of this great Region, but I know how he might have been frustrated because this is the seat of the Government, but in the Regions Governors are supposed to be *the* officers. When are we going to regularise the issue where the Governors can really assume proper political power and authority, either by being appointed by the President because it is a Unitary State, so that that person can represent the central authority there or through elections? However, elections could be dangerous.

Supposing the UDF wins Kunene, their Governor is rejected, and we have the Central Government here, what would be the link? It will be a breakaway province. It will create problems, no link with the Central Government. Therefore, appointing the Governors may be best. If we know we are a Unitary State and Central Government must still play a crucial role, maybe appointing a Governor by the President to represent the President in the Region may be the best. My question really is how are we going to address that issue? (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You are talking about democracy, Government by the people for the people and our Party is governing together with the UDF in Kunene. You are arguing that a Governor must be appointed by the President. Would that not take away the democratic authority and the power of the people? We know that if the Governors were appointed by a particular Party, it would be the Ruling Party cadres. If the people of Kunene do not give the authority to SWAPO to govern, why do you want to impose your authority on people if you are talking about democracy?

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Yes, a very good question. Democracy is tampered with in many countries. Take the United States, a democratic country, you had an Al Gore who got popular votes, he was elected by people, but they have a system, electoral college, a minority who tampered with the democratic view and President Bush became the President. Democracies are being tampered with in the national interest and it is a fact. Do you deny that? Al Gore won the elections by popular vote democratically, but he did not become the President. Why not? (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** On a Point of Information. It is true that Al Gore had the popular vote, but the decision for the American citizens to have an electoral college was an American decision, it is a system that they have accepted. (Interjections). Let us have a referendum and decide on this.

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** He has disputed himself. I am talking about Namibian characteristics. We come from apartheid division, that is our history and I think it answers that question. Anything you create is based on answering where you come from and we are not Americans. The Americans have that system because of their history where they had civil wars and, therefore, they thought of having that system to answer to their needs. It is a very backwards system, but they have it for their own survival and we have to create what will fit our unique situation. Thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable De Waal.

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**HON DE WAAL:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, I have only two issues to address. The first one is the question of the funds that we have budgeted, the N\$4 million, to assist Local Authorities to pay for water and electricity. I want to agree with Honourable Minister Nicky Iyambo that that amount is definitely not enough and I assume that we will have to use more of the Contingency Fund to solve that problem.

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However, I have one request to the Honourable Minister. If we face a situation where we know that the Municipality cannot pay their water and electricity and that we will have to pay on their behalf, let us pay before they cut the electricity, because towns are going without electricity and water for a weekend and apart from the problem that it creates for the inhabitants, it also creates a wrong impression. People look at Namibia as one of the best countries in Southern Africa. I do not want to talk to a foreigner and he asks me why this town did not have electricity that weekend. It does not create the correct image. Please, if we have to pay, let us pay before they cut the electricity. Let us not wait until they cut the electricity and then the next week we pay. That is my first request.

Honourable Chairperson, I want to propose a new Affirmative Action Loan Scheme formally and I would like to call it an Affirmative Action Loan Scheme for first-time homeowners. It is not fair that we subsidise people to buy farms, we even subsidise rich people to buy farms, people who already have houses in Windhoek and who earn huge salaries, yet because they are Affirmative Action cases, we still subsidise those persons when they want to buy farms. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** What is wrong with that?

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**HON DE WAAL:** There is nothing wrong it. What I am saying, Honourable Chairperson, is that the normal Civil Servant, the Committee Clerk here in Parliament, who got married and now wants to buy a house of N\$120,000, N\$150,000, should also have an Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. We should guarantee part of the cost of the house and we should subsidise the interest for first-time Affirmative Action Homeowners. I want to propose that such an Affirmative Action Homeowner Scheme be introduced. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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This is *the* Vote, as others have said. It has a double effect on some of us. When I am a dweller in the Local Authority, I am affected by this Vote by paying my rates and taxes, but this time I am going to talk about when I am a dweller in the communal land.

I am directing myself to Programme 3 – Traditional Authority Coordination and Page 239 in the big book. There is something called, “*Investigating Committee on Tribal Disputes*”.

There are problems in these communal lands. I think some of them are psychological. When we are in Windhoek, we are acting as citizens of the Republic, we have a republican consciousness, that we belong to Namibia, but when we go to our communal lands, we have a split kind of citizenship. You are a subject of a kingdom and somehow you are also a subject of a Republic and this split is causing problems in our communal situation, because you find that sometimes the people there are citizens of Namibia and sometimes they are citizens of Ondonga or something. Therefore, these boundary or frontier conflicts.

My question to the Honourable Minister is whether we have a programme to de-programme people from being citizens of kingdoms in a Republic and make them to be citizens of the Republic, in the first instance, rather than a split kind of citizenship, belonging to a kingdom within a Republic. We make history as people. Can we not make history by really educating our people that they are citizens of Namibia, rather than regarding themselves as citizens of a kingdom somewhere and therefore, creating tensions among the population literally for nothing? I think these tensions are created by these tribal.... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a small question? Comrade Prime Minister, in addressing this issue, are you telling us that there are people here who are instigating tribal conflicts somewhere else?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** No, I am not saying anything about instigation, I am saying our psychological proposition is that at certain times, we belong to Namibia as a Republic, but at a certain time, we belong to our ethnic communities as kingdoms. When I am at Bukalo, I am a Subia, when I am at Olukonda, I am Ndonga, but as soon as I come to

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Windhoek, I am a Namibian. This is what is happening psychologically in our heads and I think part of the problem is this something called the traditional tribute. It is a kind of levy or tax. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a small question? The point that is being advanced by the Right Honourable Prime Minister needs some clarification and I want to ask whether the Prime Minister is really referring to people in this House who behave the very same way the Right Honourable Prime Minister is describing?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I thank you for the question. If we want to be honest to ourselves – and we must start being honest – those of us who live these double lives of being in an urban environment and with our royalty in our traditional settings. We cannot escape it, unfortunately, that is the reality. It is a psychological reality. If you want to deny it, you can do so, but I know that you are denying a psychological reality.

I am saying that this psychological reality is perpetuated by this kind of levy paid by the settlers in the communal lands to the Traditional Authorities. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Comrade Prime Minister, I am sorry to intervene, but the topic that you are dealing with is very important and sensitive. My understanding of this is that even if I am in Windhoek, I am a Windhoeker, but I am also a “*Hochlandparker*” when I go to the suburb where I come from and when I am in Hochland Park, I belong to a certain house and then I have aligned myself to that house and that neighbourhood. I cannot see where as Namibians we will just be Namibians and nothing else and even when it comes to clans, I belong to a certain extended family, but within the extended family there are also those who are very close to me and then it will end with my brother and it will end with my mother. Therefore, I cannot see how we cannot align ourselves with this kind of set-up.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I think there is a misunderstanding of what I am saying. I am speaking in relation to the Investigation Committee on Tribal Disputes and I am speaking for peace. If your association is a physical one, I do not see a problem, why should I speak about it. I am speaking about the Investigation Committee on Tribal Disputes and I am saying the origin of these tribal disputes is this split loyalty to Namibia and to our tribes.

Secondly, this is reinforced by our Traditional Leaders when they levy this tax on our communities. It is an income for them. Since it is an income, it makes sense for them to claim boundaries because the more people you have within our boundaries, the larger the traditional tax.

My question to the Honourable Minister is whether he is thinking of doing something about this. This tax should rather be collected by the Land Boards and distributed by them, since the members of the Lands Boards are paid by the Government, they have no vested interest, so that they can collect the tax and distribute it to the Chiefs, so that these Chiefs cannot cause confusion among the citizens of Namibia in the name of these citizens being citizens of their fiefdoms, called Traditional Authority. Otherwise, we will go on with these things and we are diverted from our development programmes.

The other day I was addressing a meeting in the general area of Ekoka, Ekongola, Ombudi, and the meeting ended up just about the border between Ondonga and Oukwanyama and interestingly enough, in that area everybody speaks Oshikwanyama. Very few people speak Oshindonga there, but because of this *ompare* thing, the Headmen want to have access to this resource called *ompare* and instigate the local people, because the local people who live with this split loyalty to Namibia and to their tribes buy the thing and you see people running around with traditional assegais and arrow and bows and knobkieries.

I do not want to have this committee. I want to have a solution so that we do not need this committee. If we can do certain things, which can remove the reasons for people to fight about boundaries within a Republic, this committee will not be needed. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Chairperson, I do not intend to interrupt the Honourable Prime Minister, but I am deeply concerned. Knowing what the

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rules say it becomes very difficult to continue on the present basis. The difference is between details and principles. Let me just end there, Honourable Chairperson.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I have made my case. I just want an answer from the Minister on how he is going to defuse these quarrels about boundaries within a Republic. That is my question.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 17. My intervention will be brief, because the Budget speech by the Honourable Minister was very clear.

My first intervention is on the housing programme, specifically the size of plots in the newly established villages and towns. I believe that Namibia is a big country and we still have enough land. I would therefore like to humbly request the Honourable Minister to intervene with the town planning, at least that the size of plots be expanded. For example, the plots for the Build-Together Programme are too small.

Another point is about the programme on the San community for household food security. Apart from those mentioned in your statement, we also have other San communities throughout the country. One is Onamatanga Village in the Omusati Region, about 85 kilometres from Okahao to the south-west. We have those San people who also need to be included in this programme. We have the Bravo San resettlement in Kavango Region about 145 kilometres from Nkurenkuru on the Tsinsabis road to Tsumeb. We also have the Tsinsabis San resettlement area about 30 kilometres from the Bravo resettlement.

We have San communities at Gobe and Mukekete Village in the Opuwo Constituency and many others, who are scattered throughout the Kavango, Oshikoto and Omaheke Regions, the Grootfontein area. It seems

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that those San people are owned by the farm owners and the Ministry should look after them.

Otherwise, I support Vote 17 and I thank you.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 17, but before I do that, I just want to be informed on one or two things. On Page 3 of the Minister's motivation, the last Paragraph, it reads, "*Since the 2003 Financial Year the Build-Together Programme has built 3,650 houses.*" What I want to find out is whether the 3,650 houses are the houses which have been built in all thirteen Regions. It seems that these houses were built over a period of two years, which gives me an impression that every year the housing enterprise was just building 1,825 houses and since it has not been indicated where, I would assume that they were built in all thirteen Regions, which means that they have built 140 per Region and if you divide the 140 by seven Constituencies, I got a figure of twenty houses per Constituency. Am I right to understand that the housing enterprise are building twenty houses per Constituency per year?

Secondly, I want to know at what cost were these 3,650 houses built. On Page 4, I have also noted that an amount of N\$3 million was earmarked for transformation of two single quarters in Swakopmund and Otavi where sixty housing units are expected to be constructed. Am I right to say that the Build-Together units costs N\$50,000 per unit? Is it true that we are spending N\$50,000 per one unit?

It is also indicated on Page 4 of the motivation that during 2004/2006 the Parastatal constructed 147 houses in Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Ondangwa and Lüderitz. Is that the only areas where these houses were built?

The Honourable Minister went on to say that *since its establishment, the National Housing Enterprise has constructed 13,666 houses.* When was the National Housing Enterprise established, so that we know exactly how many houses have been constructed per year and I would like to know in which areas these houses were constructed?

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Honourable Chairperson, my last point is on Page 15, Paragraph 6 – Rural Development. I have noted that the Honourable Minister mentioned that they are planning to upgrade the Rural Development from a Division into a fully-fledged Directorate and looking at the functions mentioned in the motivation, among others, it is to cover more areas. What I want to find out is what would be the difference between the function of the Rural Development Directorate and the one of Regional Development of the Ministry of Trade and Industry? The Ministry of Trade and Industry has thirteen regional offices with established structures that have exactly the same development objectives. Who is going to do what and how is that going to be coordinated? Would it not perhaps be a good idea that instead of opening a new bureaucratic structure that would cost more than what we are spending right now, to perhaps look at strengthening the existing Government structures which have exactly the same function and unify the two directorates, Rural Development and the Small and Medium Enterprise Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry? You either have it within the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development or you have it within the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It will be money well spent. It will get down to the people who need it, rather than spending the money on creating a new Directorate with a Director, Deputy Director and the whole structure.

I would, therefore, propose that the two Ministries should seriously look at that and perhaps come up with recommendations. With those few comments, I will support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support the Budget of my successor. Actually, this Ministry is still close to my heart, I have a passion for that Ministry and I would like to comment on two issues only.

I support the two programmes enumerated by the Minister in his Budget speech, namely the construction of the Habitat Centre in Katutura, which would definitely respond to the shortage of housing in this country.

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Housing is the core function of the Ministry, but there are constraints that inhibit the successful delivery of housing to the Namibian community.

The second question, which is a brainchild of my Colleague here, will facilitate the conducting of research on alternative construction materials. Currently construction materials are expensive, coming from South Africa and that defeats the purpose of affordable housing. The Ministry is tasked with the delivery of affordable housing for the lower income brackets in our society. Therefore, the construction of this centre will answer to that. Alternative materials will be affordable and I would like to invite the Honourable Members to visit this centre and learn what is happening at that centre to understand the efforts being made by the Ministry in addressing the question of shortage of housing in this country.

Thirdly, I want to comment on the programme to abolish single quarters housing. There is a programme to abolish all the single quarters in the country, but remember, we are in a new Namibia and you cannot abolish those single quarters overnight and drive the inmates to a new location. This is no longer possible because there is a process to be followed and it is a long and tedious one. Each household in those single quarters have to be interviewed to know their financial position, the number of members of the household so that it corresponds with the number of houses to be constructed. Remember, most of those inmates in those single quarters are seasonal workers, they are not living there permanently, they have houses somewhere in the villages and they resist being moved to a house where they have to pay water, electricity and rent. This makes the process so long and tedious.

The programme in Grootfontein is progressing well. I wonder why you did not go to the new site where the houses are being built and where people will be relocated. Houses are built based on the requirements of those who will occupy them – the size and the cost.

Sometimes the Honourable Members of the Opposition seem to live in isolation, because they are not aware of the programmes being conducted by the Government and sometimes it seems they would not like to know.

I also want to talk about the condition of the Local Authorities where the Ministry has intervened several times to turn around the administration by putting up new structures, reforming the system, particularly in Usakos, Karibib and Okakarara. (Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA / HON NAMBAHU**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Order. I want to find out whether the Honourable Minister is now making a second motivation.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Proceed, Honourable Member and stick to the details.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Local Authority has been mentioned, where N\$4 million have been allocated. Yes, it is not enough, but the responsibility of the Ministry as far as Local Authorities are concerned is to set policies and standards and to set up the administration. However, when it comes to economic development, it is beyond the scope of the Ministry. Let us be serious when we look at the allocation. I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Chairperson, mine is just a short question to the Minister. What is the possibility of subsidising the installation of prepaid water and electricity meters? The reason for this is to avoid the suspension of the services and to avoid conflicts between the Municipality and house owners. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Chairperson, I will be very brief. I support this Vote, but there is one thing that I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister and that is the capacity building at the Regional Development Constituency Committees and the Constituency Development Committees.

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**HON DR ANKAMA**

As far back as NDP1, provision was made for the establishment of the Development Committees, which actually had great potential of igniting or sparking development in the Regions. Presently the capacity of most of them is still shaky and technical support and resources should be allocated to these bodies so that they could really play their role. If you attend the meetings of these Development Committees, you will find that these people have the zeal and commitment to deliberate on the issues of rural development, but they do not have the capacity and resources to carry out the programmes. They should be equipped with the necessary tools in terms of allocations and workshops, so that these citizens can really play their role in the Regional Development Committees and Constituency Development Committees, respectively. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Ankama.

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am supporting the Vote and I would like to touch on specific issues pertaining to Local Authorities highlighted in the motivation.

While there are quite a number of cities and towns, which are doing tremendously well in terms of development, others are going backwards or have stagnated. I would like to ask the Minister what the Ministry is doing currently to ensure that Local Authorities are in a way evaluated on an annual basis on how far they have gone in terms of development, in terms of servicing of new erven. Some Local Authorities probably have money. Is this money however used for the development of the town as such, because you find some cases where for two, three years there is no servicing of new erven and the economic development is going down? I could mention some of the areas.

You have people coming to the Regions who want to build their own houses, but there are no serviced erven. For example, in Oshakati, you have a new campus and you want to send professors there who want to come with their families, therefore you need an area where these people could settle, could build houses, which they can sell if they have to go and work somewhere else later. You need a place where these kids of these professors or doctors could go and play.

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HON MOONGO**

What I am saying is that if we look into this kind of situation in terms of the Local Authorities, we will realise the need for servicing land, the need for parks and hospitals and clinics. It is just a question on how far the Ministry is going in addressing this kind of development. I thank you.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I will be brief as I am aware that the Honourable Minister also lives in the communal areas and he is aware of the problems.

One has a situation where a person lives within the municipality and the neighbour lives outside the boundary of that municipality and keeps cattle and donkeys. If one compares the water bills, the one living within the municipality pays N\$1,700 and the one living outside the boundary with the donkeys pay only N\$50 and they are neighbours. They are enriching themselves and I hope and trust that the Minister will investigate this matter.

Another matter I want to mention is the cattle entering the towns. Can the towns not be fenced off in order to avoid the cattle being kept in the kraal where many of them have already died? The people are unhappy about this situation and I hope the Honourable Minister understands what I am saying.

Forms are distributed by Traditional Authorities to households and every house has to measure 20 hectares for a garden, which is complicated and can cause land disputes if we continue this way. Can the officers not come and measure the land of those who are already resettled, whether it is 25 hectares and then accept it as it is? Then those new ones applying for farmland can apply for the 20 hectares. Otherwise, if you measure my land and find I have 25 hectares and cut one piece off it, it will cause trouble. I know the Minister will not say the municipality is autonomous and he does not want to interfere. I trust the Minister will bring improvement. Thank you.



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**HON ULENGA**

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

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I will also be brief, I hope.

Issue number one: This Ministry is now entrusted with the important issue of rural development, which I think is a very good move by the Government this time. This particular sector has been very much neglected before and hopefully, now that it rests with a new Ministry, proper attention is going to be paid to it.

Roads in rural areas, and I am not talking about properly developed roads, which the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication is responsible for: Especially in those flat and non-mountainous parts of the country where some of the largest communal areas are situated, there are roads springing up everywhere. These roads spring up everywhere, perhaps because of the fact that so many of the people in the communal areas can now afford vehicles, but these roads have become a serious danger and problem to the maintenance of the environment. Erosion escalates simply because there seems to be no control of where roads should be or not be.

I am glad that attention is being given to the empowerment of the San communities, especially for food security and nutrition. There seems to be contradictions regarding the development and empowerment of those communities, called the San communities. First, I hope the Minister will pay attention to just the mere definition, who are the San communities. Is this an ethnic derivative or is it a social derivative? I am saying this in the light of the fact that one Minister stood up here and added almost double to the list that the Minister already has. The other person who was speaking was actually saying that your attention seems to be focused only on a mere fraction of the people who should fall under this programme. It is important for us to identify exactly which kind of people do need this kind of assistance in the country.

The question of the appointees in the Regions has been raised by the former founding Prime Minister, especially regarding flexibility when it comes to the developments in the Regions. I think it is important that we as a country look at this situation still as a developing situation. For example, we have thirteen Regions right now and nobody said that this is

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the right kind of division of Regions. We may need to look again at the way that the Regions are divided and we may want to throw together one, two, or three Regions and make it a more viable Region. I am very much interested in hearing more about this whole question of appointing Governors. It does not necessarily mean that when an Opposition Party is in charge of a certain Region, that the recipe is there for breakaway provinces. I want to say that the governing Party must not determine the patriotism of any other Party, but of course, it will be seen on the ground whether a Region becomes a breakaway Region simply because it is run by an Opposition Party. (Intervention)

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** On a Point of Order. I did not say what is being quoted. I said we can either elect or appoint. I gave options and I asked the Minister on that, but you always harp on that. I said we must do something about Governors to have authority in the Regions. Either we can appoint and I elaborated on that, or there could be elections and I gave the option.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you. I do not want to worry too much with the comments of my senior brother there. To tell you the truth, I agree hundred-and-fifty percent with all these as options. I also see the problem with the option of a particular Party running a certain Region and I am just adding my voice to what you are saying, I am not harping on it. However, I want to harp on the second issue.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Do you not think it is proper for Governors to be appointed, because all the Governors are just from one Party except one? If twelve Governors are from one Party, what is the problem that SWAPO cannot appoint them? There is no CoD Governor, what is the problem with appointing them? All of them will be SWAPO Governors in the future.

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**HON ULENGA:** Yes, it is all right, if there are SWAPO Governors, SWAPO won the elections and as long as SWAPO wins elections in future,

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**HON MUNGUNDA**

there will be SWAPO Governors. There is no problem with that at all. The question of appointing them or electing them has nothing to do with the Party that wins.

The issue that I want to harp on is the quarrels, which are now becoming more frequent between communities and the issue of the split personality that the Prime Minister referred to. I think it is a very important issue and I am glad that it is being attended to or it is at least being thought about at the highest echelons of the Government. I will tell you, it is the problem of patronage and clienteles. What these people are trying to say is that one identity is not enough or the way they are reading the situation is that they think they have to strengthen themselves additionally. There are people who are even changing their names, making them sound slightly differently because they think that if my name is Ulenga, it does not seem to attract the right attention, I must become Haulenga or Uulenga. In the end, it actually makes no difference. (Interjections). Exactly, Viljoen Ya Viljoen or Viljoena.

Therefore, it is necessary as a country and as a Nation that we go back again and see where can we make the corrections. People feel that I have to be Ndonga because Namibian is not enough and of course, other people are taking advantage of that kind of situation and they continue to exploit people even further.

It is high time that this matter that amounts to social or ethnic insecurity is properly attended to. We talk about it within my Party and it is good if SWAPO can also talk about it. Thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Minister Mungunda.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister, the Deputy Minister and his entire staff for the marathon motivation speech. The motivation was a marathon, that is why the discussions are also a marathon, and that just shows that they have a mammoth task ahead.

I wish to refer the Minister to rural development on Page 15. The

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information and access to programmes does not reach the marginalised groups and I know what I am talking about, because in my Ministry we also have some grants, but only certain people know about it and benefit and the rest do not. It is also very difficult to draw up project proposals for them because they have to submit a project proposal to benefit from the development funds. How can these poor rural communities be assisted to have access to information and receive capacity building in drawing up the proposals?

With regard to the empowerment of the San community, the San community in South Africa have a certain environment in which they are operating comfortably. The Ministry of Agriculture is now developing the hoodia plant, which is for losing weight and called *koba* in my language. This plant does not need much water and attention and they can also concentrate on planting traditional herbs, because this will contribute to giving a boost to the HIV/AIDS infected people. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** On a Point of Order. I am afraid this is once again becoming Second Reading and interfering in my area. *koba* and hoodia are plants and have to do with the environment.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister, it is true, there are Members who have been sitting here, they never went anywhere. You went for supper and come and prolong the discussions.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** That is why I am mentioning the *koba*, because when you eat *koba*, for four to five days you will not get hungry.

I would like to congratulate the Minister on the Food/Cash-for-Work Programme which is very good for job creation and I know that some of our communities are benefiting from that and it also contributes to rural development.

Lastly is in connection with the FAU Trust Account. How will the rural

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**HON PANDENI**

communities benefit from this Fund and have access to it? Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I give the Floor to the Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to use this opportunity to express a word of thanks and appreciation for the overwhelming support that the Ministry has received from the Members of this august House and I would like to respond to your questions and remarks.

*Honourable Katali*, thank you very much for your support. You had only one issue and that is the accountability of elected Councillors, especially with a view that before the elections they happened to have been nominated by Political Parties. It is true, it is in accordance with the law, but once one has been elected, you do not remain an appointee of that Political Party, you have now become the servant of the people who have elected you and you now have to serve the community in the Council, whether Regional Council, whether Local Authority Council and you work in accordance with the Act which regulates the activities of the Council and it has nothing to do with Political Parties. I am aware that some people want to interfere, but you are now the servants of the people.

I should believe it is the same situation here. Members of this august House have been elected by the people through their Political Parties, but once they are in this Chamber, they represent the Nation as a whole.

*Honourable Moongo*, thank you very much for your support. I am happy that you are asking questions as someone who belongs to a Traditional Authority. I am also aware that the allocations to the Traditional Authorities are not enough, but it is a question of the financial resources, whether as a country we have all the funds required to create wonders. I would like to do that, but if the Ministry does not have adequate financial resources, we can only do with what we have.

You mentioned the San community, the crop production programme, and the assistance to make them self-sufficient and self-reliant. We should be

looking for programmes to assist our communities in making a living. If there is a possibility for people to cultivate, yes, let them cultivate in order to support themselves. The big forests, which existed when we were young has vanished and we have to rely on other things that can be sustainable.

*Honourable Diergaardt*, thank you very much for your support. Yes, Windhoek is very expensive, all of us are aware of that, but I am not quite sure how the Ministry could intervene in determining the prices of erven. Possibly proposals should come our way. I happen to know that some people are saying these things are determined by market prices, the banks and developers are also involved and I am just saying that all of us would like to build our houses on affordable erven, but possibly it is not always the case. If there are proposals that would help us getting out of this, please do bring them.

*Honourable Dr Iyambo*, thank you very much for your support. In fact, the credit voiced by the Honourable Members is due to you and other Ministers that preceded me. I have just started and I have just elaborated on what you did.

On the question of the proclamation of Omuthiya and other areas, there is a law, which guides the various stages of the proclamation and I believe the Ministry will just follow that law regulating the proclamation and I believe we are talking about villages and towns before we get to cities.

I also want to make it clear that the N\$4 million set aside to assist especially small Local Authorities that might be facing problems, is not really meant to do away with their responsibility to manage their own towns and villages. Some changes are not of their making and I would presume that if NamWater would increase the water tariff in the middle of the year or towards the end of the year and the Local Authorities are now buying this water at that increased price, then those problems are not of their own making.

I would like to indicate here that the existence of Local Authorities depends on the residents in that particular town or village. They have to pay for the water and electricity and it is sometimes very disheartening to hear politicians telling people not to pay, because you are in fact advocating the downfall of these Local Authorities because they depend on payment for the services that they are rendering. It is very important that we encourage the communities to pay for the services rendered, so that they will be able to administer the affairs of Local Authorities.

It is true that a decision was taken on the one-third of the GIPF pension to be used for housing, but I believe we all understand that certain measures need to be in place before some of these things can be implemented. I would also like to indicate that the one-third is specifically to be used as a guarantee, so that you can get access to financial resources to build your house in unproclaimed areas.

*Honourable Gurirab*, thank you very much for your comments and for congratulating me. Your question on good governance is exactly the idea, that we should ensure that towns are administered in an acceptable manner. You mentioned the water and electricity being cut. The Local Authorities are buying these resources somewhere else and providing the services to the communities. The communities are the ones required to pay for these services rendered, but sometimes they do not pay and the debts are escalating. I agree that it is not good if a whole town is without water or electricity. Not all of the Local Authorities have the necessary capacity to ensure that the individuals are billed timely for the services to enable them to pay. One still has a situation where people are receiving water and electricity, but no bill is coming their way.

In many of our smaller towns the water infrastructure is now really becoming old and the pipes are bursting. They lose a lot of water in the process and they have to pay NamWater for that water. We are discussing with the relevant Ministries to find lasting solutions, but it can definitely not be without the end-users of these services making their contribution.

You made some recommendations and said most of the Regional Councils have not submitted audit reports. I do not know whether this question should be directed to me, because the auditing function does not really lie with the Regional Councils. The audit function is with Central Government and maybe it is a question of having enough personnel to deal with all the statements of the Regional Councils. Possibly there is a backlog which needs to be speeded up in order to meet the expectations.

*Honourable Geingob*, thank you very much for your support. You mentioned the issue of Governors and I think it good that Namibia has this culture of discussing proposals and following the channels in order to make the necessary Amendments to the existing laws after it was agreed to. If that discussion is conducted and an agreement is reached, I am sure the Ministry would be in a position to effect the necessary Amendment to the existing legislation.

*Honourable De Waal*, thank you very much for the support. *Right*

***Honourable Prime Minister***, thank you very much for your support. The quarrels over the borders and areas of jurisdiction by the Traditional Authority are really a problem. We would like to emphasise that you can only come to the bottom of an existing problem after you have made an investigation and that is what we are trying to do. We look at the history of the past, where were these borders understood to be and as you know; I do not think that the borders of Traditional Authorities are straightforward. They take this house and they go around that village. I am also emphasising in the investigation that, despite the fact that we exist as various Traditional Authorities, we are still one country and that is Namibia. Therefore, we should reach a common understanding on how we would regulate the adjacent Traditional Authorities. When we have the necessary recommendations on how to deal with the issue, I will not hesitate to approach the offices, as required, in order to make proposals.

There was a proposal on whether we could not consider the tax so collected by Traditional Authorities to be collected by an institution other than the Traditional Authorities themselves. I have taken note of that.

***Honourable Tjihuiko***, thank you very much for the support. The 3,000 National Housing Enterprise houses mentioned should not be confused with NASBOUKOR houses. The 3,650 houses of Build-Together again is separate. The total number indicated is the existing houses.

***Honourable Kaapanda***, thank you for your support and your elaboration on the construction of the Habitat Centre. I cannot say more than what you have said other than inviting the Members to visit the centre to see the work being accomplished there.

The programme on transforming the single quarter is an ongoing programme and not only meant for certain single quarters. Government does not want people to live in single quarters as in the colonial times and want every family to have a proper house. This is a continuous process.

***Honourable Dienda***, the prepaid meters are initiatives that we are looking into at the moment. I agree that once we have reliable prepaid water and electricity meters it would assist with the accumulating debts. We are looking into that.

***Honourable Mungunda***, thank you very much for the support. I agree that we need to empower our people. I was just a little sceptical whether I should go into the venture of the Environment Ministry.



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**HON VILJOEN**

I thank the Honourable Members of this august House for their support.

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

**Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY”** is put for Discussion.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wish to support Vote 19 and congratulate the Honourable Minister on the long and well-prepared motivation. Before I proceed, I just want to get clarity on one issue. (Intervention)

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**HON B AMATHILA:** On a Point of Order. I am not sure of the legal basis of taking these decisions when it looks like we do not have the numbers in this House and I am just wondering whether we can continue with the Debate when we cannot take decisions.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The bells will ring for two minutes. We have a quorum of 39 Members. Proceed, Honourable Viljoen.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Chairperson, before I pose a question, may I ask your advice? According to this document of the Honourable Minister, on Page 12, he refers to a possible partnership between the Private Sector and the Government on an issue such as aquaculture. My question is whether aquaculture is also a responsibility of this Ministry or shall I wait for the Vote of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources? It is on Page 12, aquaculture. (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Yes, it falls under Fisheries.

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**HON T GURIRAB**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Chairperson, I have a very short question. There is a statement that Namibian companies must be protected against competition from other countries. The Honourable Minister pointed out that doing business in Namibia is very expensive. He mentioned the high cost of transport, energy, water, municipal rates, property rentals and job creation.

I visited a factory in Windhoek in Cimbembasia whose main task is to build trailers for the transportation of livestock. I was informed that after the completion of a trailer, it has to be taken to the Police to receive a police clearance number, you have to pay for that and then you must take this trailer back to your workshop and engrave that number on a metal strip. Then you must go back to the Police so that they can clear their own number. After that you can take the trailer to NaTIS Valley, complete all the papers, pay the money and at the end of the day you can register your trailer as a built-up, an inferior product. If you import the same trailer from South Africa, you can take it straight to NaTIS Valley without police clearance and register it as a new vehicle. Is this not discrimination? Can we do something about this?

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

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Chairperson, I shall be gentle in dealing with this Vote for two reasons: One is because it is my own baby and secondly, the Minister and myself are old boys. I have five comments-cum-questions.

The first one is arising from the Minister's statement on the envisaged work on the EPZ and Investment Acts. We agree with this, as this is long overdue, because the current set-up simply duplicates the work and increases the cost of doing this. It is more money from the Treasury, which could have gone elsewhere being spent on the same service being done by two agencies and we would like to commend the Ministry on that, it is long overdue.

I have a question with regard to the proposed Industrial Development Board, because it says in the Minister's statement that all major players and facilitators of trade industrial development investment will form part

thereof. Honourable Chairperson, this is the core business of the Ministry in any case, so why would you want to create a body separate from what the Ministry's core function is? It defeats what the Ministry wants to do in the area of EPZs and the Investment Centre. Here there is a proposal to create a new body. I know in Namibia we like to create more and more of these Boards and Parastatals, but it simply increases the cost of doing business.

The third observation-cum-question is with regard to the moneys we are spending on creating industrial parks or industrial stalls. In many places, such as in Karibib where the Ministry has created an industrial park, there are so many disused buildings which Government could probably have acquired at a lesser cost. This industrial park programme is simply to go and build buildings and I do not know how much value it adds in terms of what Treasury proposes to do for people. You can buy an old building in Karibib, you do not have to build a new one.

Chairperson, with regard to the proposed creation of yet another body, there is the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust and the Minister is telling us that yet another body will be created. Now we are abolishing the Development Fund, which does that function, and we are creating another body in its place. Years ago, already we have suggested amalgamation of these functions, because you are again duplicating and increasing the cost of doing business. Now we have a Development Bank and we will create a separate entity for small loans. Is it rational? Are we not increasing the cost of delivering this service to our people and using money from Treasury unnecessarily?

The second-last question is on the Namibia Communications Commission. When the Bill was introduced here, I argued that we do not need it. We are part of a Customs Union. In your Customs Union, your definition of "*home market*" is the entire Customs Union and typically, the competition policy, the competition law regulates monopolies, abuse of market dominance and market imperfections. What is our home market? Certainly in our case not the geographical Namibia, but SACU. Our recommendation – and this was my point when this Bill was tabled – is that Namibia leads as we have done with the reform of SACU, that we have developed a proposal at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Our suggestion is that we lead again in this respect and propose the development of a SACU-wide competition policy. It is a question of the market, who would you regulate, who would be a monopoly in Namibia? Pupkewitz? If you create a national competition policy, all the players

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**HON VENAANI**

from SACU sell here and how do you regulate them with a national policy? You need Customs Union-wide legislation to do this.

Finally, Chairperson, there is a proposal of yet another agency, the Export Promotion Agency and we do not understand what this will be adding to what is already being done. Honourable Chairperson, we support this Vote.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote under discussion and wish to make a few comments and pose questions.

I want to thank the Ministry of Trade and Industry for improving the exports of our country. However, the trade deficit of N\$3,5 million is also a matter of concern. The Minister in his motivation speech spoke of 32,000 jobs created under the manufacturing sector. Honourable Minister, this is good news for Namibia and if it is really true that 32,000 jobs have been created during the past three years, it is a positive sign. Could the Minister just substantiate that?

Honourable Minister, the Trade Centre development in Luanda, in my opinion, is a very welcome move, because I think Namibian entrepreneurs should take this opportunity to enter Angola and I am really worried that although we know that South Africa is a big economic power house in the southern African region, they have strategies to enter countries. Go to Kinshasa, Dar-Es-Salaam, Nairobi, you will see South African retailers there and I do not know whether we cannot... (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** To sell what?

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**HON VENAANI:** We can sell meat and we can sell fish. For example, we went to the DRC to try to protect the people, but the influence of South

Africa in the DRC can never be equated with Namibian interests and we are supposed to get our entrepreneurs on the ground there. It is that attitude of saying, "*sell what*", our country has many possibilities. That is my position. I am really a concerned person when I see the South Africans and Chinese entering these markets and the other South African countries do not have access to those markets.

The sites and premises for the Small and Medium Enterprises is a good move. It has created the possibility for small and medium enterprises to come forth. I remember before Independence when our respected Dr Frans Indongo bought JL Cohen and those years we were at junior secondary school and it was written big that, "*'n Swartman Koop in die Stad.*" I think these markets that we have created will give people confidence to start businesses and people now have better initiative to start business because there is no longer a white controlled process. People are just really open to go. People had shops in Katutura, but now you see they have created businesses in the city. During those years, they were afraid of doing that and I welcome that initiative.

I support the arguments of synchronising some of these sectors, because my other concern, Honourable Minister, is that our people are borrowing very little. A person comes with a project proposal, he wants to borrow N\$10,000 and then they are really discouraged. A person must come with a proper business proposal and borrow a significant amount of money to be able to generate income.

What I am trying to say is that you have a person manufacturing coffins in Windhoek, one is manufacturing in Caprivi, one is manufacturing in the south. Put these three people together and let them borrow a million and give them a tender and let them enter into a joint venture. This borrowing of a one thousand or two thousand from the Development Bank does not really make the country grow at the pace that we want.

Lastly, Honourable Minister, I was speaking of cleanliness. Honourable Minister, you can go to the place where one goes for the registration of companies, I do not accept it from a country such as Namibia. Papers are lying around, piles are lying around at the reception area. I was there just last week to register a company and I feel we could really do more, because that counter reflects our country and its potential. Thank you very much.

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**HON BOOYS / HON DR GEINGOB**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Hans Booys.

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**HON BOOYS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I start, allow me first to thank the Minister of Finance and her Deputy Minister for the Ministerial Statement this morning.

To come back to the Minister of Trade and Industry, congratulations Comrade Minister, for your appointment. My question is very straightforward and it concerns the Japanese cars or second-hand cars. Those are Cabinet matters. We do not have inside information. Some Namibians brought those cars into the country last year and these cars are not yet formally registered and the people have to go back to the Police every 21 days to buy a temporary permit. The story is that it is an issue of Trade and Industry and import permits. There are over 300 of these cars. We understand some of these cars are parked at the Durban harbour and these people are paying daily harbour fees. Some rumours have it that Cabinet took a decision.

Comrades, these people have elected us. We are always claiming that we were elected, so let us talk about issues affecting those who elected us. People are paying for these cars, which are not here and the request is whether the Minister could not go into this matter and make a Ministerial Statement, because Ministerial Statements are becoming popular. I do not know whether the Cabinet briefings are still on or whether you have cancelled it, it is not always heard by everybody, but once you make a Ministerial Statement, we have documents which we can take out to Sesfontein and inform those who are running after us for information. My request is that the Minister goes into this matter and just makes a Ministerial Statement, which could help us, because we were elected by these people.

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

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole

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House Committee. This is another important Vote for business people and one should like to congratulate the Minister. Some names are maybe taboo here, but starting with Comrade Ben Amathila, who started the Ministry and the man who really made it to run, Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya – I do not know whether the name is outlawed or not but what people have done, they have done and there is no way we can undo the history and reality. He has definitely built up the Ministry that is history, that is record and we should acknowledge that.

On Page 274 there is the question of Small and Medium Enterprises, which are the engine of creating wealth and employment and our Small and Medium Enterprises are failing, because I learnt something about how the Asian and other Small and Medium Enterprises are working. They have what is called the “*principle of bonding*” or “gluing”. They first discuss with the family members that they are going to start a certain business and sell the idea to the family member. They bond, glue and get a solid base.

Then they have a principle of bridging and the bridge out to sell the idea to friends and they get commitments from there. (Interjection)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Committee Stage.

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** The SMEs are mentioned here.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Are you in Asia or somewhere?

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** I am talking about SMEs, they do not have a place. They are everywhere. (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** It sounds like you are talking about how others are organising that side.

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** It is the principle of the SME concept, which is creating jobs to reduce the poverty we are suffering from and I even mentioned Page 274.

Then they have linking. Linking is to link out, to go to the banks and to go outside. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask a small question? Is Honourable Geingob aware that our Small and Medium Enterprises are not doing well because once you employ your relative, you are finished?

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** I do not know about that, we did not do it properly, because what I am saying is that the principle that works, that all of you do is to create the support base. If you look at the Indians, if you look at the Chinese, who have now invaded us here, you will see how they are lining up. That business is going to be supported and it is going to be successful. That is all I am trying to say.

If you are from a village, your villagers are your relatives. You act as a community in a village, you are tightly knit and it even happens here occasionally that if you have a *kambashu*, who goes to your *kambashu*, the famous *kambashus* that you people are going to? The idea is to go and buy, they are the clients who are going to support you. That is how the principle work, it is an elaborate principle, but we can discuss it later.

The other issue I see here is ODC. I have also been wondering what the role of ODC is. It has high-powered staff, highly paid, some at N\$12,000 per month plus a car and a house and I do not see the purpose of having ODC. It is the Offshore Development Corporation; they are building industrial parks. Some are white elephants. Do we need a high-powered Managing Director from abroad to be in charge? I want to know what we have achieved so far with this. It must be disbanded because we now have the Development Bank and all these things can be centralised. I am asking the Minister what he thinks. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Job creation.

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Job creation for whom? Maybe I am not well informed about the role of the ODC and I just really want to know. Otherwise, this is a very important Vote, the Committee I am going to chair will have a lot to do with this Vote, and I support the Vote.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote. On Page 3 the Honourable Minister mentioned that *“the promotion of foreign and local investment is central to the successful achievement of the objective of building a vibrant economy which will bring about prosperity, wealth creation and raise the standard of living of all Namibian citizens by the year 2030.”*

I think the Vote that we are discussing is very much based on achieving that objective, if I am not mistaken, and I am very much impressed that the former Director-General, the Honourable Minister now, said on Page 4: *“During my brief stay at the helm of the Ministry of Trade and Industry I have been confronted by some of the real difficulties of doing business in Namibia.”* Again, I start getting the impression that he may be in a position to take critical decisions without understanding the real issue that we are talking about.

The reason why I am saying that, Honourable Chairperson, is simply because of what he said on Page 5, the second Paragraph. He said that, *“despite the bleak but realistic scenario which I have just sketched the peace and stability that we are enjoying in Namibia, abundant natural resources and preferential market access to regional and international markets still renders Namibia an attractive destination for investment”*. Honourable Minister, having said that, I am seeing that you have budgeted N\$45 million for the Small and Medium Enterprises, N\$14 million for promotion of Private Sector development. Are these figures realistic?

That is the first question I want to ask, because as you go down, the Honourable Minister has indicated specific projects, among others, cement, pharmaceutical, steel production, cotton ginnery and from the knowledge that I have, these are very expensive projects. Can we really achieve this objective with the N\$14 million budgeted for these projects?

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On Page 9, they have also given a list of various projects, especially in the SME sector. We all agree that the engine of economic growth in this country is when you develop SMEs, not only in one Region but also across the country and I must commend them for having done that by having developed these SME parks almost in every Region. However, the SMEs cannot turn this economy around with N\$45 million.

On Page 21, the Minister also said, and I think this is very important: *“I am sad to say that in spite of these drastic changes and increase in the Ministry’s mandate over the years, its staff complement, implementation structures and most importantly, resource allocation have remained unchanged, if not reduced.”* Moreover, at the beginning, the mandate that has been given to the Ministry of Trade and Industry is to turn the country around.

I want to conclude by taking you back to Page 21 and this is very important where the Minister was saying: *“These functions of the Ministry directly promoted Government’s commitment to create a vibrant economy and thousands of jobs envisaged under the 2004 Election Manifesto of the SWAPO Party through the establishment of the requisite institutional and legal framework, conducive for enhancing domestic and foreign direct investment and trade facilitation regionally, internationally in line with the objective of NDP2 and Vision 2030.”*

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I have a problem with the Vote of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. I believe that the money that has been allocated to this Ministry is too little to make an impact. I would therefore recommend for this august House to really have another look at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, if not now, in future in order for us to be able to turn the economy around and secondly, to also implement the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Chair. In view of what Honourable Tjihiuiko has said, I would like to humbly request the Ministry of Trade and Industry to explain the functions and relationship between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Development Bank in

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terms of support to the various initiatives to stimulate the economy. Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I call on the Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I must thank all the Honourable Members who have contributed to the discussions on this Vote and I will try to answer the questions as short as possible.

I will start with the question raised by the Honourable *Mr Viljoen* concerning aquaculture. It depends from what angle you take aquaculture. Aquaculture, as a policy issue, would obviously be a matter for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, but aquaculture as a business also somehow becomes related to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In aquaculture our own Ministry and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources would have to cooperate, especially in terms of the manufacturing, marketing and the certification side of it.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is currently studying the cost of doing business in Namibia and the administrative process to create a conducive environment. As you would have possibly picked up in my statement, I stated that the cost of doing this is quite high and I have referred to our competitive ranking that has dropped and which is something that has to be looked into, because for us to be competitive in the region, we would have to compare ourselves to the regional stakeholders in the region. Our ranking has dropped and we are embarking on a study to see what has gone wrong, what needs to be done for us to come back on track. On the question of refurbishing of trailers, it is a question of quality and standards, however we can look into it.

Moving to the question raised by *Honourable Tsudao Gurirab*, I thank him for his support. The composition of the Industrial Development Board would be to facilitate faster decision-making and we foresee it to be made up of the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Namibia, our own Ministry, etcetera, so that we do not have a situation where a request, for instance, would come to the Ministry of Trade and Industry and then we have to wait

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for another meeting with the Ministry of Finance, but rather have a one-stop centre where such decisions can be taken.

On the issue whether we should construct buildings or whether we should purchase already existing buildings especially for stalls and small shops, we should also recognise that some places in our country, such as for instance Opuwo, there was no infrastructure available, to the extent that there were not even banks and people in Opuwo had to travel to either Oshakati or Outjo to get to the nearest institution. We have now established a centre where several facilities are made available, either in terms of shops and a bank is now available and we mostly target those areas in which these facilities are currently not available, which means the most remote villages and towns which we want to help so that they can provide these services to the locals.

The Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust now exists, but we are going to restructure it. The Development Bank of Namibia lends money from N\$250,000 upwards. Whereas some of the Small and Medium Enterprises would not require so much money, this envisaged institution which will work in close collaboration with the Development Bank, would start lending money from the amount of N\$2,000 in order to accommodate the smallest SME.

The SACU Treaties require that there should be a competition policy for all countries. Of course, we might move to one policy for the whole SACU region, but a competition policy for each economic community is needed.

The Export Promotion Agency is to be independent. It is for the Private Sector and manufacturers and will promote export and sell financing. This is the purpose of this Agency.

*Honourable Venaani*, I thank you for your support and your understanding that there is a need for our local people here to really move away from the old traditional way of embarking on business. You correctly pointed out that our closest neighbours are now being serviced by South African companies. The South Africans are in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our business people seem to be either hesitant or slow to move into that, but Namibia, as a country with 1,8 million people, is just too small for a market. We have good infrastructure, but what we need to do is to make use of this infrastructure, especially the good roads and our harbour, to take up links of trade with Angola.

We have realised that there are some problems between local and Angolan

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business people. For that purpose, we have put somebody in place in Angola as a kind of trade representative that would help address the problems that are there. In the same vein, we have also put on this side of the border at Oshikango trade representatives that would try to sort out the problems, but we believe some of these problems can be solved and addressed once and for all once we ratify the trade agreement between Namibia and Angola as well as the Reciprocal Protection of Investment between Angola and Namibia. Those two agreements will soon be brought here and I hope you will give your support for them.

I take note of the cleanliness of our Ministry and thank you for informing us about that. I will immediately take action to address that situation and wherever you see some other shortcomings within our operations, we are open to listen and to act accordingly.

*Honourable Booys* asked a question about the second-hand cars. This has been an issue raised on the talk shows and the People's Parliament. There was however a problem that the Government has addressed. Cabinet has already addressed that and a waiver has been obtained for the release of those cars that are still to be released. We will look into ways how the public could be informed of the decisions taken by Cabinet.

*Honourable Hage Geingob*, we take note and we also realised within our Ministry that Small and Medium Enterprises are really a very important vehicle for bringing about change in terms of job creation, especially for the small business person. Therefore, our aim in this Budget is to try and give maximum support to Small and Medium Enterprises, because we still experience problems in trying to identify Small and Medium Enterprises. We would find problems in terms of a real definition of who is really a Small and Medium Enterprise, because well-established sole entrepreneurs would call themselves an SME. The formerly disadvantaged entrepreneur who wants to enter the business area, call himself an SME and we are still looking into the definition, so that we can clearly know who is an SME and who not.

We believe we might be failing. We managed to get big businesses in our country, big investors. We can talk about the Ramatex and others, but we think that the cumulative effect of a number of SMEs in the long run are going to have the same effect as one single investment from overseas that would be coming in ten years' time and we will be creating employment for the locals, empowering our own people.

With regard to the Offshore Development Corporation, I am in the process

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of trying to study the existing systems in the Ministry and I am still to reach the ODC and once I have a proper study not only on the ODC, but all other structures that exist in our Ministry, we would be taking the relevant and necessary actions to rectify situations which need rectification.

*Honourable Tjihiuko*, I thank you for your support and I thought you would have a far better understanding of the Ministry of Trade and Industry than me in terms of what is available and what is not available. I am quite sure not all the Ministries received what we need. There is no single Ministry here, which can claim that it got every cent it needs to do what they are mandated to do, possibly with the exception of Safety and Security. Therefore, in all situations, the needs exceed the resources and that applies to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The N\$45 million we are talking about is not enough, but we have to work out ways to maximally utilise it to the best benefit.

I thank the Honourable Members for their support.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objections? Agreed to.

**Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”** is put for Discussion.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 14 – Labour and Social Welfare. It is obvious that I stand and take part in this very important Vote. We are working very closely with my Colleagues, both the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Labour. I have a few points to raise with respect to the speech of the Honourable Minister, particularly from Page 15 to Page 17, dealing with issues of labour relations and industrial peace in the country.

I would, therefore, like to find out from the Minister whether he would agree with me that the time has come that a labour conference be called immediately with respect to the untenable labour relations in the Fishing Industry; a labour conference where not only the Trade Unions, the big guns, are called together with the managers, but a true labour conference on the Fishing Industry where also the ordinary workers who are affected will be able to be called to attend.

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We have tried to call Trade Unions and managers, but the message seems not to have filtered to the people who are affected, who are in pain, who are losing their jobs while the Trade Unions and the managers are seriously at odds. I am therefore proposing that we have a well thought out labour conference with respect to particularly the Fishing Industry.

The communication breakdown, the crisis in terms of the breakdown is too much. There is so much misunderstanding in terms of the information from the Fishing Industry and trade unions and this is really decaying and killing that Industry. I am, therefore proposing that we have that retreat.

There have been so many illegal strikes as well as illegal lockouts and in most cases, it is because of these relations that the Minister referred to.

The Labour Act does not indicate very clearly, what is to be done if the Trade Unions engage in illegal strikes and the same thing with the lockouts. If that is very clear in the Act, then let us make sure that that is now implemented. The losses are too high because of many of these illegal strikes, many workers do not come back, and many people are using that loophole of illegal strike and people not coming back.

Another point is on the nature of our Trade Unions. You find a fishing company with more than two Trade Unions representing the workers and when the two Trade Unions are fighting each other, it is just hell and the workers are confused. My question is whether we can prevent workers being represented by more than one Trade Union without going against the Constitution. On the practical level, it is really a problem for the Fishing Industry.

Finally, on the issue of retrenchments. Lately we had the problem of external costs that the industry has been incurring, but then the workers or the Government are never really told. (Intervention)

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**HON ULENGA:** On a Point of Order. While I have high respect for the Minister and the issues that he is discussing, I really think that what the Minister is discussing now does not pertain to the detail of the Vote that we must discuss.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Member, stick to the Vote.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Yes, on Page 15 of the speech of the Minister it refers to the situation of relations between workers and employers. That is what I am referring to, the relationship between employers, employees and representatives of the workers.

I want to say that the Namibian workers are suffering and if the CoD does not have the interest of the Namibian workers at heart, then it is better that you allow me to speak as we have their interest at heart. (Interjections)

On the issue of retrenchments, these relations are being broken down because there are so many wrong things that managers are doing, but you find that the first target is the workers and I am proposing that before retrenchment is considered, all the different costs and audit be done of that Company, whether the managers are not also doing wrong things and not telling the truth. I am talking from experience and I know what I am talking about.

Finally, with respect to the issue of liquidation, I think this issue is causing a lot of communication breakdown, as you say here on Page 16, because the Insolvency Act is being abused and many companies go for liquidation because they do not have to pay any workers and any creditors, but in many cases they liquidate and it will be the same people who would be asking to get the company back. I am therefore asking that this issue of liquidation should also be looked at because it is being abused.

Thank you very much. I support this Vote.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Mungunda.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD**

**WELFARE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me first of all make use of this opportunity to congratulate



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my neighbour, Honourable !Naruseb, and my beloved number one husband, “*Kapena Ilonga*” who took over from myself and my sister. The strikes have decreased and I think it is because my neighbour has God’s blessings and my husband is a Trade Unionist. I would like to underline, recommend, advise and pose questions on the following issues because I have inside information:

I am just happy that I reconciled with my husband number one and secondly, with the Minister of Presidential Affairs after the hot Debate....

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Minister, what is this husband story? Everybody knows Mr Ilonga.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD**

**WELFARE:** It is a family affair, I have to recognise their support. They are my support number one. (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Chairperson, I am just wondering whether you should not apply Rule 102 in this case. I think this is an instance where Rule 102 should be invoked. It talks about irrelevancy. I so Move, Honourable Chairperson.

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

What does it have to do with this instance? Those people are friends. They know how they call one another. Maybe you are concerned about the “husband” word.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** I am not concerned about husband. I am just asking whether in terms of this Rule, if this is not a place where this Rule should be invoked?

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** This one is a joke, because Mr Ilonga is a polygamist. He jokes with everybody and says “*you are number one.*” Proceed, Honourable Member.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I am just happy that I reconciled.... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** On a Point of Information. Whatever we are saying here is recorded and it is going to be in HANSARD. Is it going to be recorded that he is a polygamist? It will be recorded and a hundred years from now it will be read that he was a polygamist.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I withdraw that word. Proceed, Honourable Member. He is not a polygamist.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I do not think I can withdraw it, because I am number one. Anyhow, I am just happy that I reconciled with my “*husband*” after the hot Debate on the milking of cows on Sundays.

I am now coming to the motivation speech and occupational safety at workplaces. Comrade Minister, I would like to know what measures are put in place for the poor, suffering charcoal workers. What mechanisms are in place to act against the land owners/employers who shy away from the responsibility to comply with the occupational safety laws?

On Page 9, on the Project Hope of the US Department of Labour regarding HIV/AIDS at workplaces. This far it is only the Agricultural Sector, which is covered. What about extending it to the Mining and Fishing Sector?

On Page 14, Labour Inspectors. There was a shortage during my term of transition. Can the labour inspector’s approach be changed from policing to advisors and negotiators? What about lockouts by employers to labour

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inspectors and even Ministers, such as happened with my Deputy Minister when she went for the charcoal workers and at one of the fishing companies? They just lock up. Please look into that.

On Page 12, labour market services, especially on poverty reduction: A survey was done and report issued on self-employed citizens in the informal sector, which consist of the majority of women whom we call the *kapana* women. Can these recommendations be enforced and informal sectors be empowered?

Lastly, Pages 10 and 11, Social Welfare. This is a new challenge for you, Comrade Minister. Thank you for the establishment of Payment Committees in rural areas and the inclusion of Traditional Leaders in this process, because the means of transport to the pay-points is very costly for the pensioners. Sometimes they have to pay the entire N\$300 pension they are getting, just to go to the point to collect the money and come back. This approach falls directly in line with taking power and services to the people. (Interjection). It happened, we are on the ground.

Some people are even robbing the pensioners. There is no culture of care to give a lift to the old person, he has to pay and they are even selling liquor to them.

You have a noble cause, Comrade Minister, to fulfil for the welfare of our needy citizens. The Opposition always says the N\$300 is too little, but what they are doing to augment these services rendered? In Africa it is only South Africa and Namibia and Botswana started in 2000 rendering these grants to the pensioners. Let me underline that it is not only the N\$300 per month which the pensioners are getting, it is a package and this package includes the welfare grant of N\$300, the funeral benefit for the elderly and people with disabilities. (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** On a Point of Information. The Minister has been very consistent about this package and it is so true, but does it really help me to give a coffin of N\$2,000 after my death? To try to justify that N\$300 is enough is very wrong. If we cannot afford N\$500, it is another question altogether, but to try to justify that N\$300 is enough and it is a package is very wrong.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I did not say it is enough, it was a goal that was reached by transitional increments. In the old days the Damara people got R55, the Nama people got R60, but the whites who could afford got more than N\$300.

Therefore, I would like to extend my vote of thanks to the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, who is the patron and the Founding Member of the Oshipana Trust who render the funeral services to the people. I have also been a trustee since its inception. Free health services are provided. Subsidies are paid to old-aged homes and rehabilitation centres. Deduction is given on public transport and many more. We just need to thank the Almighty for these blessings, because for most people it is the only income.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Time up. Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee thank you very much. I want to support the Vote and thank the Ministry of Labour for some of the work done. The Minister spoke on Page 12 of Labour Market Information, trying to register a minimum of 40,000 jobseekers. I think this is the thrust of the need to have a Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, to have employment and unemployment data of the country. I support your efforts, but I think it was supposed to be in place fifteen years after Independence.

Honourable Chairperson, Namibia has a small population, but if you look at other countries, it is important to register skilled labour, unskilled labour in all the sectors, so that you can have a website for any Namibian to enter. The sector should be able to inform the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare so that they work as a centre for all labour enquiries in this country, I support your efforts, and I think you can really accelerate that.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to concur with the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources on the situation in our country with the tripartite agreements between labour, the employers and the Government. However, I think we really have a problem and we are creating a culture, which I want to blame squarely on some Trade Unions in this country. We think that when we tell people to strike, we are

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promoting our industries while in fact we are killing ourselves. During the old days before apartheid, these were strategies to achieve our goal, but we are now fighting against our own industries and I really think the Honourable Minister should call for an Indaba to discuss these issues.

I do not know whether the Minister is aware of the delays in payment of pensions. Sometimes pensioners in the Tsumkwe area are not paid for three months and there is a rumour running around those particular companies, which are sitting with this money, are using this money for other purposes during these three months. For example, you delay the payments for three months, you go to a bank and get an overdraft on N\$10 million and do another thing and it has been running around for some years now and really, these delays in the payment of pensioners is not in the interest of our pensioners because of the meagre resources that they are receiving and I think as the Minister you should really put your foot down to ensure that pensioners receive their money timeously.

In conclusion, perhaps the Honourable Minister could just inform me whether there is continuous registration of pensioners, because I was in the mountains in the Kaoko area and you find that a person who is 80 years old has never received a pension. In addition, in the Caprivi Region, there are people who have never received pension and they are confronted by poverty. Maybe this information is not available at the Traditional Leaders' offices. Thank you.

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

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**HON AMWEELO:** Comrade Chairperson, I would like to thank my Colleagues, Comrade !Naruseb and Comrade Iilonga for the well-presented document. Comrade Minister, I would like to draw your attention to Page 6 of your speech where you mentioned that the Labour Advisory Council had a successful tripartite workshop on Convention 170 concerning the prevention of major industrial accidents and Convention 184 concerning safety and health in agriculture and I would like to address the agriculture issues.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, agriculture is one of the most hazardous sectors. There is no comprehensive national legislation

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HON DR AMWEELO**

on occupational health and safety in agriculture. Workers in the agricultural sector have not been covered by any appropriate occupational health and safety standards and maybe Members, such as Honourable Iilonga, Comrade Pandeni, Comrade Esau, Comrade Kasingo and Ben Ulenga will agree with me because they have Trade Union backgrounds.

Agriculture is a sector, which was traditionally neglected in our country because of the emphasis placed on industrial development and because of the difficulties involved in dealing with its multiple problems.

Comrade Chairperson, many hazards in the Agricultural Sector in Namibia are caused by the mechanical hazards, such as heavy tools or agricultural machines, which are very old, physical hazards, vibration and noise, chemical hazards like fertilisers and pesticides - I think the farmers will agree with me - and biological hazards, economic hazards, etcetera. Those hazards are exposing the workers in the Agricultural Sector and that is why I appeal to my Colleague to come up with comprehensive legislation on the Agricultural Sector.

The other point I want to touch on is with regard to the training of factory inspectors. Comrade Chairperson, you are aware that rapid changes in working life are now being caused by globalisation and internationalisation by the introduction of new technology, like ICT, by changes of the structures of the economies and enterprises by the changing job contents. These changes are now increasing the need for training and education of factory inspector. I draw your attention to Page 15 of the speech where you mention that the Directorate of Labour is going to conduct a number of tripartite and educational workshops, which I think is a very good thing, but the training I am talking about concerns special areas, such as boilers, elevators and escalators.

For example, I remember in 1995 there was a very big accident in the northern industry. You will remember that a man wanted to do some minor repairs to a brick-making machine while it was running and the arm of the machine pushed him inside the machine while the machine continued running. When the inspector and others went there, the man was already dead.

Another one happened at Meatco in 1997 where the pressure increased inside and the valve was not functioning and it burst and caused many injuries and damaged the building. (Intervention)

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 14**  
**HON T GURIRAB / HON ESAU**

**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Information. I am just concerned about what the Honourable Member said about Meatco, because that is where we buy our meat and in view of what the Member says, it could be that some of the meat we buy is actually human meat.

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**HON AMWEELO:** The machine I am talking about does not produce meat. It is cooking bones. It just burst because the pressure could not be released because the valve was not functioning at that moment. The valves should open automatically to release the pressure.

I thank you and I support Vote 14.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Chairperson, I simply rise lest I be accused of discrimination in favour of one homeboy, to say that I support the Vote, his first Vote as a Minister and that we support the programmes that he is presenting under this Vote. I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First, I want to register my wholehearted support to Vote 14 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. I have just a small question for clarity on Page 175 under State Revenue Fund.

If you look at that page, in 2002-2004 there is a total under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework of N\$549,724. If you compare these totals with the totals of your programmes, they match for the year 2003/2004 and the same with 2004/2005 revenue and programmes, but if you come to

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 14  
HON DIENDA / HON !NARUSEB**

2005/2006, there is a difference of N\$8 million. Why is there this difference? Maybe you could clarify that.

The second item, which I want to highlight is the programmes under industrial relations. I support the idea to have Indaba's on labour relations in the country, especially in various sectors, such as fisheries, and textiles manufacturing. I think you know about the retrenchment scenario, which is coming up, and we really need to address ourselves to this specific issue.

Coming to the issue of social assistance, I can see that more than 90% of the Budget is going for that. I also have a concern about the effectiveness of the payouts of these old-aged pensions and we need to look at this and see whether we can maybe decentralise this exercise to the Regions and give more people the opportunity to participate in the redistribution of this old-age pension. Otherwise, I support Vote 14 and I thank you and wish you well.

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

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Chairperson, I want to add to what the Honourable Minister has said on the paying out of pensions. The queues are very long and I want to propose to the Minister that we make use of banking facilities and the Post Office, which will also lead to the decrease in fraud. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson and my esteemed Colleagues of this august House. Because of the lateness of the hour, I shall directly go to my responses to the questions as they were raised by the Members who took



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**HON !NARUSEB**

the Floor. I will not mention the people by name, I will just lump the general queries together and respond accordingly.

To those who have expressed sentiments to the effect that they were congratulatory and supporting, I thank you sincerely for your sentiments.

Coming to the issue of the general climate of industrial relations in our country, we are all living in this country, we know, we see, and we observe what is going on. I need not to expound and explain more than what we observe on a daily basis within our labour sector. I also do not want to point fingers to certain individuals, that is not what we want. We want to have an improvement on the prevailing situation.

What can we do as a Nation and particularly as lawmakers? There are several options. Either we can decide to go back and accuse each other or we can make use of the enabling legislative framework that gives us the power to work properly and legally so. We have quite recently, even though it is not implemented yet enacted the Labour Act. The other Labour Act (Act 6 of 1992) is already in force. All we need to do from both angles of the social partnership spectrum is to enforce the regulatory measures in place already. The employers need to have that approach that they need to empower themselves in terms of getting the necessary cooperation from the employees in terms of treating the employees with respect and in terms of being open-minded, communicating what is going on in their companies towards the employees and then again, the converse is also equally true. It is not a divine right because we are employees that we do not have to respect the employers, even though those incidents are very rare.

Therefore, what we need is two-ways in terms of respecting each other, communication that needs to come from the top to the bottom and transparency in terms of informing the employees and not to wait for the times when they will come with queries when you are deciding to retrench them. Call them through their elected representatives, talk to them, engage in meaningful dialogue, not just for the sake of creating the impression that you are at least fulfilling the wishes of the Government and the other stakeholders, but let it be a perpetual team effort that you engage your workers and keep them abreast with what is happening in the company.

The enabling legislative framework is very clear on illegal strikes. I think I have dealt with that. The incumbent labour employees' representatives have to inform the workers of what are the issues at stake, what are the steps to be taken before you can legally go on industrial actions and once

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HON !NARUSEB**

all the steps have been exhausted, then nobody can come back to you and tell you that you have engaged yourself in illegal strikes.

On the issue of liquidation, it is true that this system can be abused. Maybe right now, in the absence of any substantive information, one is tempted to think that it is right now the case, because the very people who are claiming that the company is unable to continue with its operations, are the ones who form agreements with other people, only to come back and buy up stakes in the company. Maybe it is as good a time as any for us to look into that, but then that would be a decision that an appropriate platform perhaps would direct.

It is also true that the employees are the ones losing out, but at the end of the day what we can do in the interim period while we are busy with the process of sorting out possible abuse of the system, is that in terms of the legal framework, the employees are the group of people who would be falling under preferred creditors. If you owe someone something, then there is a listing of people and the ones that would get priority in whatever is owed to them to be paid. Now the employees would fall in that category.

The suggestion by my Colleague is a very good one. It is never a futile exercise to engage in a process of debate, as long as at the end of that process you would be able to come up with an amicable solution that would enable you to solve any challenging situation.

The idea of a Labour Conference is a good one, but maybe for not only the Fishing Sector, but also a holistic look at what are the things, which are right now inhibiting factors in our quest as a Nation to meet the noble objective of Vision 2030. If the economic situation continues the way it is, would we be able to meet that? Therefore, if we have a holistic look at that and apply our minds properly, then maybe your suggestion is as good as any and I thank you for that.

Continuation of the economic surveys, collecting of data with regard to the unemployed and that the Ministry aims to create 40,000 jobs. Those are the plans for the year. Whatever has been done in the past is history, but for this specific year that is what we intend to do.

An Informal Economic Survey was conducted, recommendations were made and it is now up to the affected sectors to look at ways of implementing them. As for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, we do not have any direct Budget line on the reduction of poverty, over and

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**HON !NARUSEB**

above perhaps the general approach of the Government and that each and every Minister, Deputy Minister and Member of Parliament is ultimately responsible for the good upkeep of the intentions of the Government. In that respect, the responsibility is there, but a direct input in terms of reduction of poverty is maybe not one of the direct functions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

With regard to the delays in payments, all of us are mindful of our background. We have people that depend on certain grants from the Government. We are in one way or another related to those who are getting grants from the Government and they are suffering because of delays. Normally they pay N\$30 for a trip to and N\$30 for the trip back, which already takes a big chunk, and you may end up not getting your money, but the person who took you to Usakos or Karibib will keep on charging you. That scenario is known to us and all of us are from that particular background, we understand the sentiments and that is why we are continuously working on ways of trying to minimise the suffering of our people.

Training of occupational, safety inspectors, and health inspectors: It is true that those people are involved in specialised areas that they have to inspect and render advice accordingly to the owners of such factories. It is just automatic that they need to be exposed to the modern ways of delivering the service expected from them. The whole time it has just been a matter of resources. Once the resources are readily available, courses and training companies, where people can be exposed to build up the necessary skills can be identified and people can be sent there. Therefore, I am so happy that the Honourable Members of this House has developed a very firm understanding for the needs of my Ministry and I thank you so much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

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

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
21 JUNE 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: Any petitions? Any reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other reports and papers? Minister of Mines and Energy.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF  
MINES AND ENERGY FROM 2002-2003**

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY**: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of Ministry of Mines and Energy from 2002-2005, I so Move Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Will the Honourable Minister please Table the report? Any other reports and papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable De Waal.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**HON DE WAAL**: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

What is the monthly lease cost of the Airbus A340 300 that was leased by Air Namibia to fly three weeks between London (Gatwick) and Windhoek? Will the envisaged flights with the Airbus to London in that week stop in Windhoek or will it fly on to Johannesburg or Cape Town?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
RT HON N ANGULA**

What is the estimated hours in fuel consumption of this aircraft and what is the estimated fuel price per litre over the first year of operation for this aircraft? What is the first year hourly maintenance cost on this aircraft for the first, second and third year of operation? What is the estimated average load factor, in other words, how many passengers for this aircraft, for the first, second and third year of operation between Windhoek and London (Gatwick)?

What is the expected average income per passenger on the London-Windhoek and the London-Johannesburg route? What proportion of the expected traffic is between London and South Africa as opposed to between London and Windhoek? What was the income for the lease agreement for the two Fokkers F28 3000 for the 2003/2004 Financial Year and is the payment on this account up-to-date?

What was the book value of the two Fokkers on the books of Air Namibia at the end of the 2003/2004 Financial Year? I thank you, Sir.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2005, I shall Move –

That this Assembly, in terms of Clause 7(2) of the Anti-Corruption Act, (Act 8 of 2003) confirms the continuous service for the Director and Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Right Honourable Prime Minister please Table the Motion? Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

21 June 2005

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:**

Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2005, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Insolvency Act of 1936, so as to amend, insert or delete certain definitions; to delete references to laws that are not applicable to Namibia; to abolish the requirement that certain notices be published in newspapers; to provide that certain forms, amounts, fees and tariffs may be prescribed by the Minister by the regulation; to adjust certain provisions to be compatible with the Namibian Constitution and other laws of Namibia; to increase certain amounts specified in the said Act; to delete certain provisions which are no longer applicable; to provide for certain notices to be given by registered post; to provide for the termination of an employee's contract of service in accordance with the Namibian Labour Act; to provide for the convening of special meetings of creditors for the purpose of interrogating an insolvent; to provide that if a trustee disputes a claim, the trustee is required to furnish the claimant with reasons; to provide that the High Court may on application authorise an appointment as a trustee of a person who is disqualified on certain grounds; to provide for the deletion of the qualification that the Master of the High Court needs not give the actual reason for declining to confirm the election of a trustee; to require an insolvent to give notice of the intention to apply for rehabilitation to all known creditors and to specify the assets of the insolvent estate; to abolish the requirement that an insolvent must keep proper records in Dutch or German; to extend the Minister's power to make regulations; to substitute certain expressions; to repeal the Schedules of the said Act and to provide for matters incidental, thereto. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Booy's.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON BOOYS:** Mr. Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 8, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 23 be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Mr. Speaker.

21 June 2005

**RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS  
HON T GURIRAB**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? None. Any Ministerial Statements? None. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE  
AGREEMENT ON THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROTECTION  
OF INVESTMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA  
AND THE OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND THE  
NORDIC INVESTMENT FUND**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on 16 June 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Honourable Gurirab adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, we went through the two investment protection agreements and support the intention to ratify the Agreements, but before I sit down, we have a few questions for clarification and I shall deal with the Agreements in the order they are presented.

In the first Agreement, which is the Endorsement Protection Agreement with the OPEC, my first observation or question relates to the definition of investments on Page 2 and that definition read together with what is said on Page 1 in Paragraph 3 on what the Fund is meant to achieve. It says: *“To assist in financing Private Sector activities involving entities located in the territories of other developing countries including the participating country.”*

The definition of investments is on Page 2 and the part I was reading is on Page 1 the third Paragraph, which in fact reads: *“To assist in financing Private Sector activities involving entities located in territories of other developing countries, including the participating country.”* Now, with the two seen together, Honourable Speaker, my question is whether this facility



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**RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS  
HON T GURIRAB**

is accessible also to private entrepreneurs, or is it solely for investments by these Funds? In other words, there are external investments in Namibia by this Fund, but not accessible or whether Namibian entrepreneurs can access the funds.

Chairperson, the second question is on Page 6, under Article 5. The first question is whether the cross-reference under 5.1 which refers to Section 4.2, whether that is a correct cross-reference or whether it should refer to 5.01, because the 4.02 deals with fair compensation in the event of misappropriation.

Honourable Speaker, on Article 6, since we are part of a multilateral arrangement, the Common Monetary Area, my question is whether the undertakings which we are committing ourselves to under 6(a), (b), (c) and (d) are consistent with our undertakings in terms of Common Monetary Area, the same also with respect to 6.04, on Page 8 Article 7 where the proposal is to exempt both OPEC Fund and OPEC officials from the obligations of taxation. My question is whether this is consistent with our tax regime.

I suppose on Page 10 under 11, that I am raising the same issue concerning our commitments under Common Monetary Area. Those are my questions on that Agreement.

Honourable Speaker, on Page 4 of the second Agreement, which deals with taxes, I have the same question, with regards to exemption from taxes, whether we can do this in terms of our legislation and whether there are laws, which make these exemptions legal.

Honourable Speaker, with regard to 5 on Page 4, is this consistent with similar regulations on Page 4 dealing with immunities, namely that the Nordic Investment Fund shall enjoy immunity from legal and administrative proceedings in respect of acts performed by them in their official capacities, and can we totally waive immunity in respect of administrative legal proceedings to this external entity.

In dealing with the resolution of disputes under 7, the question is whether this means that Courts will not be directly involved with the adjudication of any disputes, because what is provided for in 7.1 is indirect authority. Therefore, the question is should our Courts not be directly involved in the resolution of disputes.

Honourable Speaker, with those observations we support the Ratification

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**RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA**

of the two Agreements. We believe that access to these two Agreements will extend the range of facilities, which are available to our entrepreneurs and public institutions for investments in Namibia. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussions? None. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Yes, thank you Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Members who have participated in the discussion on these two Agreements. On the question of *Honourable De Waal* whether the OPEC Fund extends financing to private projects without a State Guarantee, yet the Bank could advance credit to private institutions, I think the most important issue in this regard would be the viability of the projects that are put forth for funding and I believe that the institutions would look at the possible securities that can be obtained from the promoters of the projects.

Whatever form there may be to limit the exposure of the institution and asked whether the funding that will be provided will be concessional, the information that will be available to us is that the rates on these loans will be related to the market rates, but it does not say that they will be equal to the market rates here. What we have observed so far is that the credit that they have advanced so far has been more favourable than what we have been able to source locally, so we expect that we will be able to source more concessional funding with these institutions.

The details of the interest rate that they would charge would become available when these institutions will be ready to come and initiate activities here, especially where Private Sectors are funding. I do not know what the other question of Honourable De Waal is, since I have lost some of the questions.

*Honourable Gurirab* wanted to know whether the OPEC Fund would also provide loan funding to private companies, if that is what I understood him to be asking. Yes indeed, they would be doing that, they would be providing loans, guarantees, acquire equity and all kinds of financing, and whether there is consistency with the Common Monetary Area Agreement with specific reference to some of the provisions that are provided here. There is indeed also a provision that says that these are concessions that are

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**RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA**

given here. It would not be expected to be implemented in cases where they would contravene any of the agreement that the host country has acceded to. In fact, all the agreements that we have signed, we said, is to promote and protect investment in Namibia.

Always take cognisance of the fact that we are Members of the Common Monetary Area for we do belong to the SADC organisation or to the SACU. They definitely do recognise that and as a result of that membership, there are certain obligations that we cannot get away from and we may not be able to advance some of the protection and benefits that they seek.

It was also asked whether the tax exemption is consistent with the law, I think it is possible for the Government to waive specific obligations that are provided for in law where appropriate procedures as established in law have been followed and in this situation we are ensuring that these Agreements are ratified by Parliament, so that would make it possible that where obligations are established in law, we can be able to give these waivers to these obligations that are provided for in the tax laws.

It is also important to indicate that in the Income Tax Act. There is a provision that says that it would now be possible to waive taxes on income where the person enjoying these benefits are here on account of an agreement concluded between the Government and a foreign Government or an international organisation. I think by virtue of that provision we can already waive the taxes, especially on personal income. However, with regard to other waivers, I think by ratification we would then be able to advance these benefits.

I think the questions were a little bit too many and he was fast, so I could not quite follow when he was raising this question. I think he raised something related to legal issues, but what I would like to say here is that in these Agreements it is explained how any difference can be settled and there is a method that is agreed upon, which outcome would then be recognised by, and be binding on both parties. That would then be recognised by the Namibian Judicial Institution.

I hope I have been able to address the concerns. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, I now put the question that the Motion be adopted, any objections? Agreed to, the Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

21 June 2005      **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 15**  
**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMATHILA / HON NGHIMTINA**

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:**  
**APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** It is moved that I leave the Chair, any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Speaker, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported last Friday 17 June 2005, Votes 14, 17 and 19 has been agreed to and Vote 8, 13 and 18 had been introduced. I now put **Vote 15, “MINES AND ENERGY”, N\$98,039,000** for Introduction by the Minister.

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**HON OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you Honourable Chairperson, I am honoured and privileged to present to this House Vote 15, Ministry of Mines and Energy, the custodians of Namibia’s minerals, geological and energy resources.

I would first like to express my gratitude for the trust and confidence His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba has in me, by appointing me to this Ministry. It is a mammoth task and the Ministry is committed to optimise Namibia’s resources in our endeavour to contribute to the economic development of our country, which is supported by our strong belief in accountability and transparency.

Objectives of the Minister of Mines and Energy in the current Medium Term Plan is to ensure that:

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

- The output of mineral and energy production is optimised for the benefits of Namibia in the long term;
- Mineral production benefits the entire Nation;
- The Nation is provided with an adequate supply of energy;
- Negative impact of mineral and energy resource exploitation on the environment is minimised;
- The understanding of the geo-environment is enhanced.

Together with the above objectives and secondly, as a strategy to promote these objectives, we have identified Value Addition, Black Economic Empowerment in the Mining and Energy Sectors and advancement of the small miners as strategic focus area for this year, as enshrined in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto 2004.

Honourable Chairperson, the amount of N\$98,039,000 that I request this House to appropriate to my Ministry is to ensure that the above five objectives and the accompanying three focus areas are realised during this Financial Year.

In an effort to optimise the output of mineral and energy production, we have requested an amount of N\$25,410,000 to carry out the following activities:

We shall continue with the geological mapping programme and high-resolution airborne geophysical surveys to ensure coverage of the country by 2008. Investigations into the potential of hydrothermal energy in Namibia are planned in addition.

The minerals database will be constantly updated as new data is acquired and a special database for dimension stones will be generated. The project on geological and technological stones will be initiated. The project on geological and technological studies on quartz raw materials for the manufacturing of glass in Namibia will continue.

Airborne and ground geophysical surveys are continuously carried out to provide comprehensive and detailed data sets for use in mineral exploration, as well as the search for water undertaken by the sister Directorate of Water Affairs in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Despite the dramatic worldwide Budget cuts in exploration, Namibia has been able to attract reasonable levels of exploration expenditure by the Private Sector. The high-quality geological and geophysical data we

provide plays a big role in this endeavour. Gold exploration within the Grootfontein – Kombat – Otavi – Otjiwarongo areas reached an advanced stage. We are likely to see a second opencast gold mine in Namibia within a year or two.

In addition, a feasibility study at the Langer Heinrich Uranium Deposit in the Erongo Region is also at an advanced stage. Furthermore, copper and gold explorations within Otavi and Outjo districts are progressing well and the results are encouraging. The sinking of the new exploration shaft at Asis Far West near the Kombat Copper – Lead Mine is officially to be handed over before the end of August 2005. The cost of this project amounts to approximately N\$170 million. The Matchless Copper Mine is expected to be re-opened next month.

These projects will increase the production of copper blister, silver and gold. Exploration in the Kavango and Tsumkwe areas continues. Although no viable deposits have been discovered yet, there are indications of the existence of good kimberlitic pipes in these areas, which might be diamondiferous. NAMDEB commissioned the Daberas Mine and aggressively invested N\$458 million on the Elizabeth Bay Resources Extension and Pocket Beaches projects. The two projects commenced full production at the end of 2004.

Honourable Chairperson, in the last Financial Year, we issued 509 non-exclusive prospecting licences as well as 82 exclusive prospecting licences, 376 mining claims exploration. Namibia is attracting a lot of interest from international oil companies for exploration opportunities. We are currently negotiating for and are expecting to issue six new petroleum exploration licences and one petroleum production licence before the end of this year. We shall closely guard that the award of the licences from this year onwards, fully support our efforts towards Black Economic Empowerment.

I shall soon submit to this House a new Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Bill. I trust that this piece of legislation will help in speeding up resolution of conflicts between landowners and mineral prospectors/mining company. We also intend to continue to disseminate the mineral policy we launched in 2003 to potential investors, through seminars and information meetings.

An amount of N\$11,111,000 has been budgeted to ensure that mineral and energy production benefits the Nation by pursuing the following activities:

We have a moral responsibility to ensure that mineral and energy

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

production benefits the Nation. Black Economic Empowerment is a noble tool in this endeavour. It aims at addressing the economic imbalances of the past, by seeking to fairly transfer and confer ownership, management and control to Namibians. We shall continue to make significant strides in working towards a common goal this year.

Negotiations with players and stakeholders in the petroleum sector are at an advanced stage. I hope we shall soon conclude an agreement that will guide Black Economic Empowerment in the petroleum industry. By the end of this Financial Year, we envisage to have Black Economic Empowerment agreements with the Electricity Sector and Mining Industry.

Honourable Chairperson, a large number of previously disadvantaged Namibians make their livelihood through mining on a small scale. We have a responsibility to ensure that they are assisted, both technically and financially. In a way, assistance to the small-scale miners will go a long way in advancing progress towards equal distribution of wealth. In the course of this Financial Year, we shall recruit a geologist to assist in carrying out geotechnical evaluations for small miners. We shall also increase resources allocation from the Mineral Development Fund to small miners.

Ensuring safety in mining activities continue to be a core function of this Ministry. In the past year, staff shortages severely hampered work in this area. With increasing mining activities and the need to inspect mining claims regularly, we intend to staff this crucial component of the Ministry to its full capacity.

On the diamond front, despite a strong Namibian Dollar that has resulted in reduced revenue to the State, diamonds continue to be a strategic commodity; contributing to export earnings and GDP. The security of our diamond industry is a priority for the Government. Association of diamonds with conflict organisations as well as the increasing viability of synthetic diamonds are serious threats to our trade. We shall amplify our intelligence gathering activities and capacity to ensure that our strategic resource is secure from the threats of smuggling and other illicit activities.

The effective and efficient control of the handling and transportation of diamonds is an important thrust in our work. We have been beefing up our infrastructure and human resources. We shall intensify inspection activities in this ever-expanding diamond area, offshore and onshore. A large portion of this year's allocation will go towards office and staff

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accommodation at Oranjemund who are entrusted with inspection activities.

The diamond security plan of NAMDEB and its subcontractors were reviewed and approved. During the course of 2005 security plans for all other companies will be assessed. In 2005, our Sales Agreement with De Beers will expire. The Ministry, in collaboration with other relevant Agencies and Ministers, will be very busy this year scrutinising the agreement, with a view to ensure that Namibia gets the best deal.

Honourable Chairperson, downstream processing of diamonds is an issue close to my heart. Today there are seven diamond cutting/polishing factories with another one to start operations during 2005, adding the number of licence holders to eight in total. My Ministry shall do all it can to ensure that *bona fide* investors in this area are given necessary support. Training of Namibians in diamond sorting, valuation and negotiation is being fast-tracked and is running smoothly. It is envisaged that in the near future the process of valuating Namibian diamonds would see less reliance on expatriates and would be carried out almost entirely by a professional team of Namibians.

An amount of N\$31,144,000 is required for the rural electrification purposes and the activities stated below:

We shall complete the restructuring of the Electricity Supply Industry during this Financial Year. Out of the five Regional Electricity Distributors, NORED is operational while two, ErongoRED and CENORED, are expected to be operational by July this year. The remaining two, SouthernRED, and CentralRED, should be established towards the end of this year. Inefficiencies in the industry will be minimised once the rationalisation process is complete.

With regard to the Rural Electrification Programme, a study to determine the number of people who have benefited from the programme continues. This Financial Year rural electrification will be carried out in two Regions of the country. The Khomas Region will be the only exception as there does not seem to be a locality, which has reached the standard of getting electricity in the award of both consultancy and contractors' work for the Rural Electrification Programme this year, we continue to place emphasis on Black Economic Empowerment credentials as selection criteria.

In addition, the contracts for the wiring of schools, clinics, police stations and other Government buildings in rural areas are exclusively awarded to



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Small and Medium Enterprises residing in those areas. These measures are meant to enhance our Black Economic Empowerment Programme.

Honourable Chairperson, it is a well-known fact that the region is facing a diminishing electricity generation surplus capacity and that if nothing is done, the region, including our country, will run out of generation surplus capacity by 2007. My Ministry is, therefore, working hand-in-hand with the Kudu Gas-to-Power developers to have a final investment decision by the end of the Financial Year and to commence with the construction of the project.

On the supply of the petroleum products, I wish to report that our national oil company, Namcor, has signed a three-year contract with SASOL in conjunction with a local BEE group to continue to import 50 percent of the national petroleum product demand. We are also preparing ourselves to phase out leaded petrol and introduce sulphur-free diesel in 2006 in line with the SACU Region's fuel specifications and international best practices.

Honourable Chairperson, we have set aside an amount of N\$6,847,000 for the following efforts:

We have a responsibility to monitor the environmental impact of mining and exploration. Investigation of the many abandoned mining sites in the country and the formulation of measures for their rehabilitation will continue this year. A database of the many abandoned mining sites in the country is currently being established.

An amount of N\$8,481,000 will cover efforts to enhance the understanding of the geo-environment. Environment geology investigations, geological studies for urban and rural development, land use planning as well as geochemical surveys, are conducted in order to provide data to ensure Namibia's sustainable development. The geological aspects of new infrastructure developments, existing and new waste disposal sites, coastal zone changes and natural hazards are monitored on a regular basis. Further projects will include the application for the extension of the Namibian continental shelf in accordance with the International Law of the Sea, the co-management of the Benguela large marine eco-system, the influence of geological process to climate changes, the utilisation of geological resources and biodiversity and the international cultural aspects of our natural heritage with respect to the World Heritage Convention.

Honourable Chairperson, the application of earth sciences in supporting

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wealth creation, quality of life, and laying the foundations for a sustainable future is of ever-increasing importance to civil society. Geological research data plays a crucial role in both geo-scientific research and its application, to achieve the goals, which are contained in NDP2 and Vision 2030.

An amount of N\$15,045,000 has been budgeted for policy level functions by the Political Office Bearers and the generic functions that cut across Directorates in order to enable technical Directorates to focus on their core activities. Administrative functions include support personnel costs, generic expenses, maintenance cost for building and related infrastructure.

The following is a summary of the Budget per Programme

Optimisation of the Output of Mineral and Energy Production	N\$24,410,000
Ensuring that Mineral Production Benefits the Nation	N\$11,111,000
Provision of Adequate Supply of Energy to the Nation	N\$31,144,000
Minimisation of the negative impact of Mineral/Energy Resources Exploitation on the Environment	N\$6,854,000
Enhancement of the Understanding of the Geo-Environment	N\$8,481,000
General Administration	N\$15,045,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>N\$98,039,000</b>

Honourable Chairperson, in conclusion, I would like also to thank the Minister of Finance and her Deputy and the staff for a well-consistent Budget. I would like to assure Members of this House that the funds I request for appropriation to the Ministry of Mines and Energy will be utilised prudently. I am further convinced that these funds will go a long way in improving the quality of life in Namibia. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I now put **Vote 16, "JUSTICE", N\$196,232,000**, for Introduction by the Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:**  
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable

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Members of the National Assembly. It is with great honour that I stand before you as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to motivate the Budget proposal of Vote 16, which is the Ministry of Justice, for the Financial Year 2005 to 2006.

Before I do that, Madam Chairperson, let me register my appreciation to His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President, for the confidence he has in me, in appointing me as one of his Cabinet Ministers. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance and her team for the elaborate Budget presented in this august House, Thanks go to the National Planning Commission as well for their input.

Madam Chairperson, my Ministry intends to utilise its appropriation, this august House willing, in the advancement of the development objectives of our country in line with the NDP2 and Vision 2030. In this regard, we are confident that the Justice Sector will contribute to these objectives and those of His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba's Government.

The Justice Sector, through you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, would also like to thank the Founding-President of the Republic of Namibia for the relationship it has shared with him. His input and his willingness to engage the Justice Sector has entrenched a relationship of goodwill with the Presidency, which I am glad Comrade Pohamba has embraced.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry of Justice, as you may be aware Honourable Members, is responsible for a variety of services such as the administration of justice, provision of Legal Aid, the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, law reform and development and legislative drafting; administration of deceased estates; guardian fund and trusts; international co-operation; legal advice to the President and Government; representing Government in all civil cases and prosecution of crime in Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the activities referred to above are functions carried out by my Ministry under fourteen programmes, including those being run by the Ombudsman, which I shall now elaborate on in detail with respect to purpose; achievements, constraints and the budgetary requirements for each of these programmes.

Honourable Chairperson, the purpose of the Courts is to administer justice

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in terms of Article 12 of the Namibian Constitution and relevant legislation. In so doing, the Lower Courts hear and adjudicate civil and criminal matters.

During the period under review, the Lower Courts were able to finalise the following number of cases:

• Criminal Cases	15,419
• Civil Cases	1,268
• Labour Cases	389
• Children's Court	693
• Marriages	1,349
• Admissions of guilt	8,033
• Liquor Licenses	271
• Inquests	466

Honourable Members, the figures may be impressive but the sad story is that we are sitting with a huge backlog of cases in all Magistrates Courts due to a combination of factors notably:

- Shortage of Magistrates;
- Delays occasioned by the delay in the appointment of Legal Aid Counsel due to lack of funds; and
- Further investigations by the Police.

I must inform this august House that the Ministry's attempt to fill twenty-two new posts of the Magistrates and 145 posts for supportive staff of the Judiciary was unsuccessful. This has grave consequences for the operations of the Courts.

These two Courts have experienced drastic increases of appeals in civil, criminal, and labour matters, which necessitated the appointment of Acting Judges from time to time. Due to the insufficient Budget allocation, the number of acting appointments will have to be limited and this will eventually result in backlogs in these two Honourable Courts.

In addition to the Lower and Higher Courts, the Ministry of Justice is also expected to fund the Community Courts in keeping with Section 5 of the Community Courts Act of 2003.

The Directorate of Legal Aid ensures access to justice for all by providing legal aid, that is, the representation and advice to indigent persons.

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The Government is enjoined by the Constitution to ensure fair trial by providing legal aid to any person who does not have adequate income. Within the limits of the resources and staff the Directorate managed to assist 2,384 indigent persons, including the legal representation being rendered at the Caprivi Treason trials.

Honourable Members, though this Directorate is currently staffed by fourteen personnel out of the 38 posts available on the establishment, 24 posts remain vacant due to the unavailability of funds. I must mention that with the two High Treason trails running concurrently, the Directorate is placed under serious financial constraints given the fact that only N\$7,091,000 is allocated.

The Legal Services and International Cooperation Directorate carries out functions aimed at the fulfilling of Namibia's obligations to international legal cooperation such as:

- The extradition of fugitives from Namibia or to Namibia, the enforcement of Namibia's obligations under bilateral and multilateral agreements and undertakings in respect of civil and criminal matters;

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, before the break for refreshments I was taking you through the Legal Services and International Cooperation Division and I just explained some of the functions and I will continue from there.

The Directorate is tasked with the drafting of agreements, the participation in negotiations and reviewing such international agreements and undertakings. It is also a mandate of this Directorate to ensure that Namibia contributes to the promotion and protection of human rights guaranteed by our Constitution and to ensure that Namibia complies with its obligations under certain international human rights instruments and the drafting of Bills emanating from the Ministry itself and not from client Ministries.

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The drafting of the *Succession Bill* is currently ongoing, which is aimed at developing a harmonised law of succession for the whole country. With regard to extradition, my Ministry has caused one fugitive offender to be extradited from South Africa to Namibia, and three other requests were directed to South Africa. In 2004, we received one extradition request from South Africa, which is being processed.

With regard to cooperation in legal matters, my Ministry has attended to requests for mutual legal assistance, service of civil process and enforcement of foreign maintenance orders from Angola, Germany and South Africa. We also initiated co-operation on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with the Peoples Republic of China and it may please the Honourable Members to know that negotiations are afoot to conclude extradition treaties with Angola and China.

My Ministry has responded to certain human rights concerns raised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international human rights bodies. The latest such response was to a communication by a certain number of the Caprivi Treason suspects who wrote to the Working Group on Arbitrary Arrest of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In this connection, too, my Ministry prepared and submitted a report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The report was duly submitted and successfully defended by the Government's Coordinator on Human Rights from the Ministry. The Report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) is nearing completion and will be submitted during the current Financial Year. This Directorate is also experiencing severe human and financial constraints.

The Directorate: Law Reform renders secretarial service to the Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC), a statutory body established in terms of the Law Reform and Development Commission Act of 1991. The functions and duties of the Commission are to undertake research into and examine all branches in the law of Namibia and make recommendations for the reform of the law or the development of a new area of the law. The Law Reform Directorate also renders secretarial services to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL).

During 2005/2006, the Directorate of Law Reform will be working on the

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following issues: Public Gatherings, Codifications of Criminal Law, Matrimonial Property Regimes, Consumer Issues and Publications. I wish to register my Minister's thanks and appreciations for the generous financial assistance that the Law Reform and Development Commission received from the GTZ, a German Technical Co-operation Agency, which unfortunately has come to an end last year. This means that we now have to rely on State Budget allocations to continue financing our activities.

The main function of the Directorate: Legislative Drafting is to draft, scrutinise, and gazette legislation. There is a constant demand for the speedy drafting, scrutinising and publication in the Gazette of legislation by Offices, Ministries and Agencies in the Public Service. The Ministry is hard-pressed to meet these demands with the limited personnel at its disposal.

As Honourable Members may be aware, the number of experienced legislative drafters, which the Ministry produced over the years, has left for greener pastures. In the end, the same drafters are working as consultants for various Ministries or employees of high paying institutions, such as Parastatals. This state of affairs, Madam Chairperson, is causing serious delays in the submission of Bills to this Honourable House.

I therefore wish to appeal to my Colleagues in various Ministries to stop pouching - in Abraham's words - and refrain from creating a favourable market for legal drafters to access generous consultancy fees for less demanding jobs. If you have funds, Colleagues, give it to us to be able to pay better and retain the staff.

The constraints notwithstanding, the Directorate managed to complete 29 Acts, 34 Proclamations, 265 Government Notices and 293 General Notices, which were gazetted for distribution and sale during the period under review.

Honourable Chairperson, the Master of the High Court ensures proper and effective administration of the Guardian Fund; proper supervision of the administration of deceased estates including insolvent estates; and the speedy registration and supervision of trusts.

The biggest part of the Master's functions is currently the administration of the Guardian's Fund, which is a fund created to administer funds which are paid to the Master of the High Court on behalf of various persons, such as minors, persons incapable of managing their own affairs, unborn heirs,

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missing or absent persons or persons having an interest of an usufructuary or fideicommissary nature in the money.

The Guardian Fund presently administers money of 19,193 minors with a total value of approximately N\$350 million. Due to historical reasons, the Master's Office deals with only the estates of approximately 10 percent of the population of Namibia. We anticipate a drastic increase in the work of the Master's Office following the High Court's decision in the *Berendt* case of 2003, which declared that the separation of the administration of black estates is unconstitutional and ordered that the situation should be remedied before the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2005. This will now mean that all deceased estates will henceforth fall under the jurisdiction of the Master, thus increasing the current workload by approximately 90 percent.

During 2004, 822 deceased estates and 423 trust funds were registered and 32 insolvencies and liquidations were dealt with. This is a clear indication of how busy this office really is. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is shocking that there is currently only one permanent staff member in the establishment of this Directorate, handling all transaction of approximately N\$350,000,000 in the Guardian Fund. This situation hampers the smooth operation that is needed to ensure that orphans get proper attention and in good time.

The Directorate: Prosecutions, headed by the Prosecutor-General, conducts all criminal prosecutions in the Magistrates', Regional and High Courts.

It institutes and defends all criminal appeals in the High and Supreme Courts and effectively carries out all other functions, which may be assigned to the Prosecutor-General in terms of the law.

Some of the major cases handled by the Directorate in the past Financial Year include the two Caprivi High Treason trials, Telecom Namibia fraud cases, Cash-in-transit robbery case, NDF/Sanlam fraud case as well as the *State versus Koch* extradition to Germany.

The Directorate Legal Advice is the core institution in the fulfilment of the Attorney-General's constitutional responsibility to provide legal advice to the President and Government. The Directorate provides legal advice to all Offices/Ministries/Agencies and to Regional and Local Authorities. It assists in negotiations to draft and scrutinise contracts, agreements and deeds to which the Government is a party. Staff from this Directorate has been seconded to presidential commissions of inquiry and investigation bodies.



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The Directorate Civil Litigation represents Government in all civil, labour and certain criminal matters brought against the State. The Directorate also collects all outstanding Government debts.

The Directorate has specific responsibility for the handling of all civil claims, labour complaints on behalf of or against the State.

The Directorate also handles criminal Defence on behalf of Civil Servants in respect of conduct constituting a criminal offence committed in the course of and within the scope of duty.

With regard to State property, it has the responsibility for matters involving the conveyance of such properties and advises Treasury in the recovery of damages.

In the past Financial Year the Directorate paid out a total of N\$1,145,194.27, in own Counsel fees.

N\$1,130,476.56 was paid out in legal costs during the same period, and N\$59,873,029 in Sheriff, Messenger of Court and tracing agent fees was also paid out in the past Financial Year.

In the future, the Directorate of Civil Litigation and Legal Advice plan to conduct seminars and workshops of the various Ministries, Offices and Agencies to educate and sensitise them on the various legislation applicable to their operations and the Constitution. This, we believe, will eliminate unnecessary litigations against Government.

The Ombudsman is a creation of Article 89 of the Namibian Constitution. The Office is responsible for the investigation of complaints received from the public relating to the areas of corruption, mal-administration, human rights violations, the environmental and natural resources of Namibia.

Accessibility to the Office by all citizens is a priority and in line with Government policy regarding decentralisation, pilot regional offices have been opened in the North and South of the country in March this year. In addition, regular intake clinics will be undertaken in those Regions where no regional offices have yet been set up to ensure that no citizens is, as far as possible, excluded from the right to complain to the Office.

Complaints, which call for more in-depth, and sometimes-complex investigations are also continuously received at the head office in

Windhoek. Such investigations often take investigators to all four corners of the country. In-depth investigations often also call for the appointment of experts, conducting of hearings by the Ombudsman, calling of witnesses to provide information as well as the recording and transcription of the proceedings.

This General Administration component is made up of the Office of the Minister and Attorney-General, Permanent Secretary and the Directorate Central Administration. The main functions are to formulate policies relating to subject matters that fall within the line function of the Ministry of Justice as well as policy issues relating to the functions of the Attorney-General; to ensure proper administrative support services; and to oversee the implementation of policy within the Ministry of Justice.

The main activities are to formulate sound policies; to monitor and evaluate existing policies with a view to reviewing such policies; proper supervision of projects required to implement policies by the various Directorates/Offices; budgeting and effective financial management; human resources management and development activities; provision of general and auxiliary services; and provision of efficient information technology services and facilities.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the following estimates are required for each of the programmes that are administered by my Ministry under Vote 16:

1. Administration of Justice	N\$98,976,000
2. Legal Aid	N\$10,697,000
3. Protection of fundamental Human Rights and freedoms	N\$ 351,000
4. Law Development and Legislative Drafting	N\$10,157,000
5. International Co-operation	N\$ 965,000
6. Deceased Estates, Guardian Fund and Trusts	N\$ 1,100,000
7. Protection of Crime	N\$27,370,000
8. Legal Advice	N\$14,638,000
9. Office of the Ombudsman	N\$ 4,576,000
10. General Administration and Management Services	N\$27,402,000

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In total, therefore, the Ministry of Justice seeks an appropriation amount of N\$192,232,000 for the Financial Year 2005 to 2006 of which N\$157,232,000 are for the Current Budget and N\$39,000,000 for the Development Budget.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I may add that my Ministry requested a total amount of N\$228,330,000 when this Ministry's Budget proposal was submitted. The amount allocated did not include the additional amount of N\$34,998,000 that was requested to cater for the following activities: -

- Partial implementation of the new structure of the Ministry;
- Additional funding for the Caprivi High Treason case;
- Funding for 22 additional posts of Magistrates;
- Funds for activities of Magistrates Commission;
- Additional funds for utility costs such as water and electricity charges;
- Additional funds for the appointment of acting Judges; and
- Funding for the introduction of Small Claims Courts.

In conclusion, therefore Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I appeal to Honourable Members to approve the proposed Budget of the Ministry of Justice to enable it to play its role in the public administration of this country, particularly in the areas and programmes I have elucidated. I hope my appeal has landed on soft ears. I, therefore, thank you Honourable Members.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put **Vote 23, DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, N\$291,219,000** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Honourable Chairperson of Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I thank you for granting me this opportunity to introduce the Budget of Vote 23, Department of Works in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication. Allow me first to congratulate Honourable Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her staff for a job well done on this realistic national Budget.

At the outset I will give an overview of the Department of Works to

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motivate the Budget allocation of N\$291,219,000. The Department of Works renders essential services to the Government through the provision of functional and institutional facilities, office accommodation and housing. It is also responsible for doing feasibility studies, technical investigations, planning supervision, monitoring and execution of public projects, which are authorised within the Development Budget.

The Department also does the general upkeep and conservation of capital assets, such as Government buildings and equipment in order to retain their value. The Department also administers legal instruments governing professional bodies of architects, engineers and quantity surveyors. It controls building standards in our country.

During the past Financial Year, the Department of Works was involved in monitoring the construction and successful completion of many capital projects, which include:

- Eight health projects;
- Forty school projects;
- Three women and youth projects;
- Two office complexes;
- Two defence projects, all of which total N\$135 million.

During the same period, the ongoing Government projects include:

- Seven health projects;
- Ten community facilities projects; and
- Four offices for the Ministry of Finance.

We have encountered some constraints in the process of affirming small contractors. The sharp decline in the number of Government capital projects has caused a high unemployment rate amongst Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and their workforce. In addition, the preferences in the Government procurement system do not adequately protect these upcoming SMEs against big companies and foreign-owned enterprises.

The lack of tendering and construction management skills amongst SMEs prevents them from winning tenders as well as completing tenders on time. There is not much cooperation from most private consultants in imparting knowledge and skills to our SMEs in the Construction Industry. This concern has been brought to the attention of the relevant professional bodies.

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Honourable Chairperson, during the 2004/2005 period, my Ministry through the Department of Works continued to affirm small constructors countrywide by the following means: Unbundling of large tenderers (e.g. a large project of many classrooms made for many small contractors); limiting access to some projects by marking simple tenders as “for SMEs only” during invitation of tenders. In addition, we are busy with developing the setting aside policy on specific tenders (e.g. where tender of certain categories will be reserved for SMEs and BEE only).

We also appreciate the reviewing of the Tender Board Act and its Regulations by the Ministry of Finance as it is expected to benefit our Small Scale Entrepreneurs. The initial stage of the Government Housing Alienation Scheme mainly in Windhoek, which to date yielded more than N\$100 Million was successful. The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and Rehabilitation has now completed the valuation process in other parts of the country.

Consultation with all stakeholders is currently underway in order to accelerate the remaining process of Government Housing Alienation Scheme countrywide. This will help the respective Local Authorities to collect the revenue to strengthen the local economy. Regarding the progress on the New State House Construction Project, I would like to report as follows:

- The construction of the Administration Block and support facilities is on schedule. The Constructor is busy with finishing items, which are due to be completed in a year’s time.
- The High Level Technical Committee on the New State House Project is currently reviewing the security zone around the New State House site in Auasblich. This review may result in the reduction of the number of private properties, which would be expropriated. This will reduce the total compensation cost. Consultation is underway with all stakeholders to accelerate these legal procedures in order to finish this national project on time.
- The new Presidential Residence is still on the drawing board and the construction will start early next year. The cost for the Presidential Residence will be covered by a generous grant from the People’s Republic of China.

We have noted, the acute shortage of head offices for the Line Ministries, Offices and Agencies with concern. The lack of office space directly

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hampers the effectiveness of service delivery of the Government. The Government is spending a lot of money in leasing office space from private firms. The lack of funds is at the centre of this problem. We are currently doing a study to look at alternative ways and arrangements, such as Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) where we engage Private Public Partnership (PPP) in solving this problem.

The study will be shared with the Ministry of Finance and Office of the Prime Minister. The Department of Works, through its standardisation of certain buildings such as schools, hostels and clinics, saved a significant amount of money in full professional fees. Local private building inspectors were used at a lower rate, resulting in more jobs for SMEs through local participation.

In order to improve efficiency, my Ministry has undertaken the internal restructuring of maintenance offices countywide. This is done in conjunction with the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development. The process will lead to decentralising maintenance. My Ministry will embark on a sector education and training programme for technical and professional staff, which will also include staffing needs in the Ministry.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, let me now come to the individual six programmes under this Vote. I will present programmes and no longer Main Divisions in line with the recent Budget restructuring.

As a technical Ministry responsible for the implementation of all Capital Projects for the construction, renovation and maintaining of all functional and institutional buildings, the purpose of this programme is to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over completed buildings and installations. An average of 380 projects are running concurrently during any given Financial Year.

The programme is the core function of the Directorate Capital Project Management. It is involved in regulating, coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards. The main staff component employed, supervise the design of Government buildings, including approval of drawings and specifications.

Tender procedures are conducted; consulting firms on construction work are monitored; fee accounts and contractors claims during construction and upon completion are processed for payment. The Department conducts feasibility studies and reports for urgently needed headquarters for Line

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Ministries, Offices and Agencies. Because of these activities, I therefore request an amount of N\$8,551,000.00 under this programme.

The purpose of the Ministerial Infrastructure programme is to improve working conditions for the ministerial staff and enable the Ministry to operate more efficiently in all thirteen Regions in accordance with Government policy of Decentralisation. The systematic upgrading and maintenance of works and its function is the means by which the purpose of this programme is achieved.

These include the finalisation of the Ministerial Headquarters, the ongoing upgrading of workshops, regional offices, and the completion of the computerisation of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication. This will help to improve management and quality service delivery. It will also help to centralise the dispersed offices, thus enabling this Ministry to operate more effectively at all levels. Other major activities under this programme are attending to airports and aerodromes nationwide, the reticulation of services, the provision of adequate facilities for civilian use and the accommodation of Customs and Excise.

A workshop to repair sensitive meteorological equipment from all over the country is being constructed at the Meteorological Head Office in Windhoek. This programme also covers ongoing project investigations in order to maintain the infrastructure and respond to the demands. Because of these activities, I therefore request an amount of N\$2,060,000 under this programme.

The purpose of the Government Buildings Infrastructure programme is to ensure sustainable and reliable maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government fixed assets and installations according to the availability of funds. It also identifies office accommodation requirements of all Ministries. The core function of the Directorate Maintenance is to execute the administration and management of this programme. The major activities of maintenance are performed by a total number of 1,300 staff countrywide.

The maintenance activities include procuring materials and equipment, operating plant and equipment, for example electric generating sets and the purchasing of fuel for heating and cooking. Ongoing renovation to Government properties and specialised installations like boiler plants, lift plants, cooling plants and sewerage will be attended to. Furthermore, maintenance of oxidation ponds and related emergency cases to prevent pollution of surface and groundwater in accordance with the Water Act

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HON KAAPANDA**

(Act 54 of 1956) will be needed, for example, the Rundu Military Base.

In addition, the layouts of all gardens at Government office buildings and service centres are planned, gardens are watered, and trees are planted, pruned, and maintained. The Line Ministries or end-users have to budget for major renovations under their own Votes. The management of fixed assets is another major activity, which is mainly responsible for rentals of Government offices.

The Ministry noted the inadequate information regarding the Government Fixed Assets Management countrywide. A property assessment study will therefore be commissioned to update the Government Asset Register. We will develop a database for proper management of these assets. Because of these activities, I request an amount of N\$221,321,000 under this programme.

The purpose of the next programme is to construct the Independence Memorial Museum in order to comply with Cabinet Decision No 25<sup>th</sup>/14/09.00/009. This will allow Namibian people and visiting tourists to appreciate and be inspired by the schematic arrangements of historic displays demonstrating both the history and the rising of a new Namibian Nation. Notwithstanding that the design of the Independence Memorial Museum is done, the construction could not start because the total allocation for the three-year rolling Development Budget is not sufficient.

The N\$1,500,000 will be used to pay for the artwork. The construction needs to start because, the longer we wait, the more cost escalation will be added and the project will become more expensive.

This programme is to facilitate the provision of standard stock supplies and printing services to the Government. The main activities of Store and Printing are to do economic procurement of Standard Stock supplies such as office furniture, equipment and materials for the Government and to provide printing services to all Government institutions.

An increase is expected due to an Expo that took place during the second week of June 2005 to promote ten thousand standard stock items on the catalogue and determine new items, which need to be added. The Central Government Store is operating on a Trade Account, however operational cost to cover for personnel expenditure, goods and other services as well as the acquisition of Capital Assets for the Central Government Stores are financed through Vote 23.



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**HON P MUSHELENGA**

Because of these activities, I therefore request an amount of N\$13,785,000 under this programme.

The Administration programme advises and assists the Minister in the development of relevant policies in accordance with legislative requirements and national objectives to carry out the mandate of the Ministry. The main activity is to offer administration support services with respect to the personnel affairs, logistics and organisational procedures, in support of the Office of the Minister.

The Information Technology component also resorts under this programme. The Ministry is planning to expand the computer network within the Head Office and all regional offices in order to monitor and control its programmes and projects effectively. Honourable Chairperson, in view of these programmes I have just outlined, the Operational Budget will require N\$281,149,000. A summary of the items' expenditure by cost is reflected in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework Book.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, in view of this statement on Vote 23, I would like to request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$291,219,000 only for the Department of Works and I thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much Comrade Minister. I put **Vote 13, "HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES"** for Discussion.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First, I would want to express my support for N\$1.3 billion for Vote 13, Health and Social Services.

First, I want to commend the Ministry for introducing alternative medication that is replacing the Chloroquine medication. That shows a very good commitment on the part of the Ministry.

I, however want to raise a few issues and one of the issues that I want to talk about is the Hepatitis B immunisation that is currently only provided by the private institutions. I understand it is a very costly immunisation,

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but I think time has come that the Government starts providing the Hepatitis B immunisation; otherwise, we are cutting out those who cannot afford private institutions' medication.

I was also a bit worried when I was looking at the amount allocated to the Ministry in the three-year Rolling Budget, as I see that in two years or so there will be a decline in the appropriation for the tertiary health care and I thought it was supposed to be the other way round. For example, if you look in the south, one needs a referral hospital there, ideally Keetmanshoop.

This hospital is serving almost the entire community of the South, the only nearest referral hospital to the people of Lüderitz and Oranjemund is Windhoek and I think maybe the Honourable Minister of Finance will carefully look at that. The Ministry also has to consider ambulance transport for the Keetmanshoop Hospital, because that hospital definitely needs a vehicle that is suitable for gravel roads, as they need to fetch patients from areas such as Berseba and Koës.

I want to move to Katutura State Hospital where patients are using cold water to bath themselves. This situation needs to be improved. It is not healthy for patients. They definitely need to look at the issue of the cold water at the hospital. Even worse, the laundry machine at that hospital is out of order. I do not know whether there is usually not money allocated for maintenance or someone that is entrusted with such responsibility is not doing the job. You cannot expect patients to be using the same sheets for so many days.

I want to turn to Onandjokwe Lutheran Hospital. I know this is a private hospital, but I know it is subsidised by the Government. The wards were built with clay bricks, not sand bricks, and with most of these buildings, cracking it poses a serious danger to the patients and the staff working there as they can collapse any day. I do, therefore, not know, whether this is something to be given to the Government, but definitely the authority that is responsible for those staff members should then look at the condition of the buildings and I think those that are responsible for inspecting health facilities will agree with me that these buildings literally need to be demolished.

When I looked at the human resources Budget, I realised that for this year, only 86 positions have been budgeted for and we know that the nursing profession has experienced some problems with nurses immigrating to the UK and other places. I just thought one needed to have budgeted for more

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**HON ULENGA / HON IILONGA**

staff members, because right now, what is happening in most of the hospitals is that nurses are doing some of the jobs that are supposed to be done by the porters, as there are also not enough porters in the hospitals. These porters also apparently do not work during the weekend because of overtime, and you can imagine a situation of expecting nurses to push and pull trolleys. This situation will discourage the nurses. With these few words, I would want to support the Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you Deputy Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Vote. I take into consideration the programmes and the challenges that the Ministry is facing with the health situation in the country. However, my Colleagues will speak further on this Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you Comrade Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 13. I wish to address the issue of the shortage of key human resources, be it doctors, nurses or pharmacists. I recall that during the time of “*kapena ilonga*”, there were some programmes under colonialism that budgeted for the student nurses to be paid just like any other workers. We have abolished this programme and we have made a mistake, because it costed us severely. The argument was that the same is not applicable to the teachers when they attend university or whatever, but I feel the two cannot be compared.

The second mistake is that we decided we wanted professional health care to have only two layers, namely the enrolled nurses and the sisters and we have done away with what we called auxiliary nurses. These people are the backbone of the health of this country. You will find these people immediately with the patient.

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**HON DR N IYAMBO**

The reality is that most of us here prefer to go to private hospitals. Who is the first person you are going to encounter there? It is not your sister, not the enrolled nurse. We say private hospitals are better and they still employ those nurses who are not really in a position to progress and upgrade their standard, their level from the auxiliary nurse to that of enrolled nurse. We need to reconsider and bring back those skilful auxiliary nurses in order to deal with the shortage of nurses we are experiencing.

With that, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 13.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Nicky Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY :** Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson, I rise to register my support for Vote 13 and I have a few comments and some questions.

On Page 2, disease control is mentioned. I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether the Ministry continues to budget for patients who have to go abroad for treatment. It has recently become a custom for people to appeal for assistance on television, and to ask people to make donations. I am just wondering what happened to the Budget to send people abroad for medical treatment. That is one question that I have and I am linking that to the Ministry's desire to open a cardiac unit for a country of 1,8 million people.

Honourable Minister, that unit is going to be very expensive. It may be easy to put it up, but to run it over the years, I seriously have my doubts whether we will be able to cope as we go, considering that is a highly specialised unit where we will need specialists and equipment which are very expensive.

The President the other day said that if we have a policy and we realise the policy is not working, it is better to reconsider that policy and now I am wondering whether there is room for the Ministry even to be able to budget N\$20 million every year for patients that need to be sent abroad for treatment as opposed to having a cardiac unit.

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**HON DR N IYAMBO**

The other thing that I would like the Honourable Minister also to look at is just a public health concern, where you just have too many diseases in young females and I just wonder whether an effort has been made to try and find out....(Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Minister can you please explain what disease that is, because we are all young women here?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY:**

It is the operation of removing the womb of the woman. This is increasingly happening in this country and it may be important to find out what is the cause. There must be a cause for it. It has never been like that. I wonder whether it has something to do with contraceptives or maybe other things as well.

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** May I ask a question?

Honourable Iyambo, you were talking about budgeting N\$20,000,000 for patients to be sent outside with cardiac problems. Do you not think the N\$20,000,000 would be enough to maintain the unit here, so that people can benefit from it, rather than just a few of them to be sent elsewhere? If we have the same amount of money and maintain the unit here, do you not think it will be a good idea?

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Proceed Honourable Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Thank you very much. To me N\$20,000,000 is cheaper than having to run a Cardiac Unit fulltime. That is really, what it is. Honourable Colleague, the other question that I have, I think it was already mentioned by Honourable Mushelenga, is about the use of cold water in hospital for

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**HON SHIHEPO**

bathing. I am sure it is because of some technical problem, but it is definitely uncomfortable for patients to bath with cold water.

Of course, under the Capital Projects I can see that you are renovating many hospitals and clinics and what is important here is the renovation of the health centre at Onayena. Keep it up, thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you Honourable Minister. Honourable Shihepo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker, and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me first of all congratulate my neighbour here for..... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Minister is it by convention or by arrangement that Honourable Members who are either nurses or doctors should participate in the Debate?

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Proceed, Honourable Deputy Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Chairperson let me congratulate the Honourable Minister and his staff for trying their level best to keep the Namibian Nation healthy. We know it is not easy to do that, but at least they are trying, no doubt about that.

My first question is almost the same as that of Comrade “Kapena Ilonga”, because I have it that when enrolled nurses graduate, it is all over, I do not know whether it is a rumour. I want clarity from the Honourable Minister that the Ministry does not want this category of nurses to complete their studies. (Intervention)

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**HON SHIHEPO**

**HON T GURIRAB**: Honourable Chairperson of the House, I seek your guidance in terms of our Rules whether it is permissible to spread rumours in the House?

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**: Which Rule is that Honourable Member?

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**HON GURIRAB**: Honourable Chairperson, I speak in terms of Rule 102.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**: Honourable Member, this is not in line with what you said, because I never had any argument with a Member who is on the Floor. Proceed Honourable Member.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY**: I want the Minister to clarify this, so that from here we know precisely what the position is, that when enrolled nursed graduate, the Ministry does not want these categories of nurses to complete their studies, to graduate as registered nurses. Is this a true story or a rumour?

The other question, through you Comrade Chairperson, in Namibia we have a shortage of medical doctors. What is the number of doctors we have in Namibia and what is the number needed?

Honourable Chairperson, I support Vote 13 and I thank you.

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

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**HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Chairperson, I would like to congratulate the Minister for a well-planned Budget, although it is not enough to cater for all the problems. Allow me to mention a few problems. When is the Ministry going to buy some machine, which drains the kidneys? In Namibia there are many people suffering from kidney problems.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, a Point of Information I wanted to provide to Honourable Moongo, there is nothing like a drainage machine, but we know in scientific terms that it is a kidney dialyses machine. Thank you.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, the majority are fat people like the Honourable Member who will suffer first. In addition, I would like to say something on the control of malaria. The Ministry used to exercise malaria control almost throughout the year. Later it became six months and now it is only three months. Many areas were not sprayed and I am happy that the Honourable Minister will introduce another drug, which is more effective than Chloroquine. It is a very good idea.

On Page 11 they talk about the mortuaries. When is the Minister going to construct a mortuary down south in the Onanke area? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is it allowed for the Honourable Member to mention mortuaries for the past ten years, every time mortuary, maybe more than twenty times? Is it really allowed?

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**HON MOONGO:** I know before that time that..... (Intervention)

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** On a Point of Order, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member is the Vice President of the DTA, so he is responsible for the DTA as a national leader and he is a Village Headman, but every day he speaks, he is just mentioning Onanke.



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**HON MOONGO**

Now he asks whether a mortuary will be build in Onanke. What interest does the Honourable Member have in Onanke? He is even neglecting his own village and promoting Onanke.

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**HON MOONGO:** I know the Honourable Member knows my village, the name and where I stay and where I used to control, but Onanke is far in the south and the people there are suffering. There are people dying because of AIDS. That is why I said ten years ago that AIDS would kill so many people that we will need mortuaries. Maybe the Honourable Jerry Ekandjo does not know it, but one day he will end up in a mortuary.

The other point I would like to raise is on Page 5. The Minister is trying to find excuses, that during this Budget, he cannot fund the training of more pharmacists but people have to queue and some patients leave without getting their drugs. I therefore, want to propose an alternative. Ten, twenty years ago, we trained registered nurses only for a few months and then they distributed drugs in the pharmacy, which was effective. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on a Point of Information or Clarity. The Honourable Member is saying that apparently, no people are to be trained, but the concern, which the Minister is raising, is that there is a programme, but that there is a shortage of these people in the country. I just want clarity from the Honourable Member, because when he mentioned this, it seemed the Ministry is not interested to train or there are no people interested in being trained. I do not know what he wants to say, that is why I want clarity on it.

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Chairperson, I think he is supposed to read on Page 5 where the Minister indicated that the demand for this special category of people would never be met at the current supply levels. That means it is not possible to find a solution to this problem, the queues at every pharmacy will remain long and the people will return home without the drugs.

Therefore, I propose that they train only the registered nurses for one month or two months. Then they can distribute drugs and solve the

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**HON KAURA**

problem. That is a possible solution, rather than saying, we cannot do anything. Thank you.

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

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Chairperson, I just want to find out from the Honourable Minister, for how long are our pensioners going to suffer the discomfort of travelling to pay points? (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Chairperson, on a Point of Information, the water is already under the bridge, it is now under Minister of Labour and Social Welfare and the Vote has already been passed.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, it seems to me I am left behind in South West Africa like SWAPO. Now let me come to the other point. Honourable Minister, there is a Cardiac Unit in the Central Hospital, as I understand, which has been completed, but up to now it is not functioning, nothing is happening. An expensive Cardiac Unit at Central Hospital has been constructed, has been completed, but it is closed down, nothing is happening, what is going on? Why was it constructed in the first place, but it is not functioning? Was this not a waste of money by constructing this Cardiac Unit?

The next one is on the spraying of mosquitoes. In the past, there was a spraying campaign against mosquitoes, but it is dissipated, it has totally disappeared and malaria has become the order of the day. What happened to the spraying campaign, why was it stopped?

For example, in the Outjo area where I lived, it was very rare for anybody to contract malaria, because there were spraying campaigns. If you go to the Outjo Hospital now, you will find so many people having contracted malaria in that area, because the spray campaign has stopped. Why did it

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**HON KAURA**

stop and what can we do about the escalation of malaria incidence?

The next question I will tie in with the Honourable Minister Nicky Iyambo. We are seeing a campaign to raise funds for young children who have contracted diseases and need expensive surgery in South Africa. Is there no money in the Ministry to cater for these incidences? Honestly, if sufficient funds cannot be raised for this child to undergo surgery, does this mean that this child has to die or suffer deformities because it is from a poor family? Is there no money in the Ministry to take these children to South Africa to undergo surgeries? That is one question.

There is a complaint about a shortage of doctors in Namibia, but there is a rule in your Ministry that doctors who are working in Government hospitals must only practise privately three hours a week. So many of them cannot afford practising only three hours a week, therefore they have left the hospitals and they have gone into private practice, so ultimately the shortage of doctors. What can you do to rectify the situation so that our own local Namibian doctors can go back to hospitals and treat our patients in languages they understand, instead of having foreign doctors who are not conversant in any of our languages, including the official language, English.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Sorry to interrupt my elder on a Point of Order, but I am seeking information from Honourable Kaura.

Honourable Kaura, we complain, on the one hand, that our nurses are being poached by Health Services, like those who are from the UK, but at the same time as a country, we receive medical doctors from other systems. Do you not think that this is a kind of globalization going around and redistribution of expertise and resources?

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**HON KAURA:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, in the days when many of our people could not speak Afrikaans, every doctor had an interpreter who could translate what was wrong with the patient. Currently when you go to a hospital these doctors of ours, especially the Comrades from Cuba, would ask you “where sick?” Then you have to point to the organ, that is sick. This type of globalization just does not go very far, Honourable Prime Minister.

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**HON MUNGUNDA**

Honourable Minister, I would only like to find out, for example, at Independence, there was a beautiful lawn in front of Central Hospital, now there is only dust. Is it very expensive to keep a lawn in front of the Central Hospital? That is the last question. Thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Minister Mungunda.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me, first of all, congratulate my brother, the Minister and the Deputy Minister and the entire staff component of the Ministry of Health for the excellent performance. However, as we can see, or as I was going through this Budget motivation of the Vote of the Minister, I could see that throughout his motivation speech, HIV/AIDS is a burning issue.

Honourable Chairperson, when we also look on Page 2, the very introduction of the Minister's speech refers to HIV/AIDS and on Page 4, when we look to the institutional care, the Minister referred there that the hospitals cannot cater for these opportunistic diseases, especially the HIV/AIDS related ones. Patients can be taken care of through home-based care at homes or at hospitals which are more specialised, but some of these patients are bed-ridden and they need frail care, how can the Ministry at least reach out to strengthen..... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Order, may I ask my Comrade a question? Comrade Mungunda, when Honourable Kaura says that the Cuban doctors ask you "where sick"? Tell me if a Nama doctor treats a Nama patient, what will the question be? An Oshiwambo doctor will ask me "*Oto ehama peni?*" It is the same as the "where sick". It is the same.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** We have a few Nama doctors, like the late Damaseb, the Uirabs and Goagoseb. When you go there they say, "*tae e a !aroma,*

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**HON MUNGUNDA**

*mabasta tsu?"* (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, can I ask the Honourable Minister a question? I just want to find out the Nama doctors that the Honourable Minister is referring to, are these, the Namas invaders or other Namas.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** *"Moenie krap waar dit nie jeuk nie. Daardie storie van die Namas, ons sal nog daarby uitkom"*. I am prepared for that one, that invader thing. The real invaders will be exposed.

Anyhow, I have a little problem, Chairperson, because I wrote like a Nama doctor, I cannot even read my handwriting. My question was on the frail care and how it can be strengthened by at least subsidies on home-based care.

The Minister also referred to HIV/AIDS as one of biggest challenges and he referred in his motivation speech that 53 percent of the HIV related admissions are women. That worries me a lot, but I would also like to congratulate the Minister for really starting with the mother-to-child transmission treatment and also the Anti-Retroviral drugs to prolong the life of the patients. I would like to congratulate you on that one, that you also expanded that to all the major hospitals.

On Page 10 still on HIV/AIDS, we have a National AIDS Coordination Programme, which is overseen by your Ministry. I am also very involved in Community Based Organisations dealing with HIV/AIDS counselling, home-based care and related assistance programmes, assisting women in the community, however, is very difficult, Comrade Minister. I will be frank. It is very difficult for these people, especially the women who are the caregivers, to really get efficient assistance from NACOP. They are given training, but real assistance will make a difference and they will have a better impact.

I would like to find out how serious is the impact of the service delivery, how efficient is it on the one of NACOP, and how serious and how strong are they on the outreach programmes especially in the Regions and the

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**HON VILJOEN**

Constituencies. How can these NGOs, CBOs, and Faith-Based Organisations access the support and the information sharing, which is really needed? It does not reach them and the same goes with all the Ministries, when you look at the Medium Term Plan, in which all the Ministries were taken to task by His Excellency President Sam Nujoma, our Founding President, when this was launched.

You cannot see the mainstreaming, the sectoral approach within all the Ministries. It is just a few who emphasized and highlighted how they can contribute to the HIV/AIDS, for the workforces.

The very last one is again on the old nurses and the programme study further. Comrade, we know education is power, we know that technologies and approaches, ways of doing things are changing and we know that you really need proper knowledge to take care of your patients, but I can tell you Comrade Minister, that these old nurses were good. When I was studying at the Catholic School and there was a Catholic Hospital in Mariental, because I wanted to become a nurse, I was working in the hospital every holiday for pocket money. Mariental is a small place, when there is a big accident there may be just one doctor on call, these nurses would give the anaesthetics and even bring babies into this world. These people are just good.

My main emphasis, that I am trying to bring out here it is that these old nurses bought houses in different places. They have children who are going to school, they have husbands to look over, they have old-aged people to take care of, orphans to take care of and now they have to go to Keetmanshoop or they have to come to Windhoek for training. Please give them honorary degrees instead of sending them to school. I support the Vote.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Viljoen.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am convinced that a few Members in this House will say anything in favour of Monitor Action Group, but while the Budget Statement for Health is on the Table, I wish to inform this House that apart from Government operated clinics, there is a private clinic at Post 3 which was bought by donor money. Monitor invited

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**HON MBUMBA**

this donor from the Netherlands and took them to Post 3 and the deal was finalised.

Private doctors, dentists, eye specialists and others go there once a month on their own cost to render services free of charge. The Honourable Minister is the patron of that clinic and Monitor hopes that the Honourable Members, especially those involved in those Constituencies, should take note that voters in that Constituency may consider jumping on the Monitor wagon. Honourable Minister, my question.... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Can I ask the Honourable Member a small question? I just wanted clarity; the Honourable Member said voters would jump on Monitor wagon. Can the Honourable Member please explain I did not understand?

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Chairperson, what I mean is they will assist Monitor in the next election. I want to ask a question to the Honourable Minister. Most people do not want to hear about HIV/AIDS, it is not a popular topic, but we must realise that this is a co-determinant for the outcome of Vision 2030.

Honourable Minister, the tide is still coming in, figures are escalating on a daily basis and my question is, do we as a Government realise the consequences and is what we are doing to prevent the disease, enough and effective? Are there any new initiatives to turn this incoming tide around? Please bear in mind that the distribution of condoms is a very dangerous experiment and that the intake of Anti-Retroviral medicine does not cure, it prolongs the live of the person and makes him feel better and is more dangerous. Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much; we should not discourage people to go and use condoms and the medicine, which is being prescribed. Honourable Mbumba.

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**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise

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**HON DIENDA**

to support Vote 13, Ministry of Health Social Services. This Vote is a twin Vote of Vote 10 - Education. Health students make good learners who will eventually be better leaders than all of us.

My question is on Page 169 in this book, it speaks about reducing social dysfunctional behaviours and it refers to the level of domestic violence. I suspect that our domestic and community violence is one of the highest in the world. We shoot our brothers, our cousins, our girlfriends, we shoot at them and then we run to clinics, hospitals and we want efficient, effective, immediate treatment, and yet we are the ones who shoot ourselves.

Please, the community must be sensitised that you cannot maintain a healthy situation where human beings are injuring themselves, are injuring their families purposely. Even the excuse of intoxication cannot be acceptable.

Honourable Kaura, who comes from the same part of the world as me, namely the Kunene Region, mentioned Outjo. The other day I got a call from somebody who took a person from a lodge to a hospital. In the hall where the patients are being received, there were no lights. They were saying; "no we just wrote a letter to the Headquarters." A community like Outjo, with business people, with Members of Parliament, Regional, Local and national are unable to put a bulb in their own hospital. What a shame! I think the medical practitioners should call upon us as community members to contribute to minor things that would enable doctors and nurses to help us to remain healthy. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to thank the Minister for the Provisional Budget of N\$7,000,000 for the HIV/AIDS program. Minister, my concern is, however, that the requirements before a patient can be put on the Anti-Retroviral drugs, are slowing down the process. My observations are as follows that the patient must first have a mentor, somebody who ensures that he or she is taking the tablets on a daily basis. Secondly, the patient must stay near a clinic or a hospital. Thirdly, the patient must have three meals a day. I do have a



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problem with it, because 80 percent of the people who are HIV positive are poor.

My question is, what is the possibility for these patients to be admitted to the hospital first until their conditions are stable and then be put on home-based care treatment. Secondly, the provision of N\$2,482,000 for vehicles, I just want to know whether this provision includes ambulances throughout the whole country.

Thirdly, Honourable Chairperson, when I compared the contributions of the payments between the private and the State patients, I observed that State patients are paying more than private patients on medical expenses, private patients are contributing on a monthly basis and this includes medicine, hospitalisation, dentist, opticians, etcetera, while State patients have to pay for every visit to the hospital or clinic. I think Honourable Deputy Chairperson, and I will really ask the House whether we can maybe debate on this matter at a later stage, because I feel that we must come up with alternatives, which would benefit the private, the State patients and the Ministry. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Honourable the Honourable Minister of Health, I do not know whether I should congratulate the outgoing Minister or the current Minister for a job well done.

In the first place, I do not want to take much of your time and touch on all the projects that you have mentioned, but I just want to touch on two or three of them. I wanted to congratulate him on the programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, and most importantly is that out of the 35 hospitals nationwide, they have introduced this programme in 32 of the hospitals. That is commendable.

It has been stated in the media that our nurses are leaving the profession for a better-paid job outside the country. I do not think that this should be a discouraging thing. This is a very good indication to us that even the developed countries have confidence in our health system. That is very

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encouraging and I congratulate you for that.

I would also wish to mention that, we should not be discouraged as I said, but we should also look at the possibility of looking at..... (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Would the Honourable Member accept a question? Thank you Honourable Chairperson, I am a bit concerned about this thing of nurses leaving because I now hear that in Zimbabwe the nurses' salaries are like two million or three million Zimbabwean Dollars. Are our nurses leaving for Zimbabwe or are they going somewhere else?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I hope the Honourable Minister will be able to answer that one. It is mentioned on Page 53 in the Minister's motivation where it started, 'the demand for these cadres will never be met at the current supply level..... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, in connection with our nurses leaving the country, do you not think it is also true that where our nurses go, the local people that side, find nursing a lower job, that it is only people from Third World countries who are now occupying such lowly paid positions in hospitals? Do you not think that, that might be also the other side of the coin?

I have spent maybe over 12 years in the UK. The bulk of the British are being treated in public hospitals and I do not think that they will risk a person from a developing country, especially from Africa, to treat them. Therefore, I believe that the quality of our nurses must be high to the extent that they have confidence in them.

Coming back to the question, I was saying that the demand for these cadres would never be met at the current supply level to meet the needs and the requirements of the health sector. This is currently because of limited funding. I would therefore wish to encourage the Ministry to seriously look at that and look at more funding for our nurses, especially for the training of nurses. Honourable Speaker, with those few words, I just wanted to support the Vote.

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HON NGHIDINWA / HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Minister Nghidinwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 13 and congratulate the Honourable Minister and the whole staff of the Ministry. In addition, to the issue of hysterectomy raised by the Honourable Nicky Iyambo, there is also a tendency by some private doctors not to let women who are able to do so, give birth by themselves. Sometimes it is not really a complicated maternity case, but the doctors go for the first option of operating on some of these women in order to claim more money from the medical aid. I think in this regard the Honourable Minister should really intervene, because it is very bad for a person who is supposed to give birth by herself to end up in an operation.

Comrade Minister, through the Chairperson, another question is who is responsible for intervening in the high prices of the private pharmaceutical supply? Does the Ministry have any Board which can take that up, as sometimes it charge us more than five times the normal prices in the medical catalogues?

Another one is that there are some allegations coming from this corner of this country, that the Ministry of Health is threatened by the consultancies. The so-called consultancies, some of them are coming in the country to advise the Ministry for one day only and then they demand huge money, while in Namibia we have many retired experienced nurses who can do the same job. How will the Ministry address this problem to reduce the costs? Otherwise, I support Vote 13 and I thank you.

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

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I will fail in my duty if I do not add my voice in support of the Budget of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I have an emotional attachment with the Ministry, because I worked with the Ministry for fifteen years until two months ago, during

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which period I gained valuable knowledge and experience. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have few comments and recommendations to make based on my experience working with several health centres and clinics in the Ministry.

The system for recording patients' details remains manual and is very slow. The patients are many and they sit in queues for a long time and become impatient. The front line staff members have poor public relations skills. To illustrate my point, I refer the Comrade Minister to the Namibian newspaper..... (Intervention)

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Members, I think we are not new Members to this Chamber. I remember the story of the former Honourable Shixwameni, there was a crisis here when Shixwameni was referring to a newspaper and if we continue with that type of thing now, everybody will come up with newspapers. Now you are putting the Chairperson in a difficult situation, please I refused Honourable Tsudao Gurirab the other time. Proceed, Honourable Member, but if you have got something, you cannot mention a newspaper, you can say that you have read it in the newspaper.

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**HON ULENGA:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I really plead for your guidance and the guidance of the House on this matter, because if we leave it, it may definitely lead to serious complications. My understanding of this kind of Ruling in the past was that it was a question of people not being allowed to bring in extraneous issues like from newspapers in the House, including reading from newspapers.

Is the Speaker ruling that one cannot strengthen a point by citing from a newspaper: I am raising this matter as a Point of Order and if the Honourable Chairperson will decide perhaps to even consult with Whips and other Party leaders outside this discussion, I will be happy with that.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much Honourable Member, I think the Rules were given to you to go and amend it. CoD was in the Parliament by that time, it was last year

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when we were told, we still have a chance to go and amend the Rules, and we should be clear on this. I am also faced with a problem, I think Amendments should be done to the Rules or we take it to the Standing Rules and Orders and the Honourable Member is the Member of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee. We can bring it and clear it, everybody can bring any material, which can intensify his contribution, its fine I do not have a problem with that. Proceed Honourable Member.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** I thank you very much for the guidance Honourable Chairperson, the point that I was trying to make is that public relations are poor and that the Minister has to take note of that, on the part of the front line of the staff. There is no proper guidance in handling the Government revenue in clinics. Sometimes the staff members are accused of misappropriation of the Government revenue, but this is not always true and this situation leads to frustration and poor morale on the part of the staff.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I wish to recommend that the Ministry consider the computerisation and general improvement of the system and for staff to be trained in computer skills and to have training in human and public relations. Then finally, I would like to comment on the Orthopaedic Workshop, which is providing the assistance devices. It is always running out of the materials. I really urge the Minister to consider these units seriously in terms of the Budget allocation. In conclusion, I am supporting the Vote of the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Tsheehama.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Chairperson, I also rise to support Vote 13 - Health Social Services and Rehabilitation. The point that I wanted to raise was already covered by my equal. I thought I should really support this one, because it is a concern of the public and a concern of everybody in this House. It is a concern everywhere.

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**HON VENAANI**

The issue of sick children who have to be transferred or referred to South Africa for operations ever since Independence and when you reflect back, just reflect back a bit and see what we have been seeing on television under which circumstances these children have been going on and it has been going on and on like that without the Government giving a hand to these poor children.

It is so disgusting to see the television showing a particular child. We cannot do anything about it and the public cannot contribute money for the treatment of this poor child. Why can the Government not, through the Minister of Health, make a Budget for these circumstances, which do not need to be very high, a Budget of, say N \$2 million that will be specifically for those cases? I think it is high time that this should really be given a serious consideration and I would like to support the Bill. I thank you.

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

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I think my point was also taken by the two Honourable Members, I just want to propose an Amendment that, for example, we had a situation, I think the worst one was of the child who had a deformed face and she had to cough up something like N\$500,000 and really our State, especially the Government, looked very toothless.....  
(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to ask Honourable Venaani a question through you. I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the Ministry usually has certain Budget lines and we all know that the sharing of the Budget cake is never enough for the Ministry, but that the community can stand up and contribute towards these services delivered by the various Ministries. We have a Children Survival Fund, which the former First Lady is the patron of, which also assisted children to undergo operations abroad and even here in Namibia if they cannot afford and we have a Michelle McLean Children Trust, which is also assisting in that. Can we not follow this example and

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**HON VENAANI**

really come up with a fund instead of referring this back to the Ministry? I thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** The proposal is not bad, but what is important is that the first line of defence of our citizens is the Government of this Republic. My mother, I do not need to lecture you about the past that we are coming from. The reason why you do not see white children having these diseases on the national television and the broadcaster, is because they come from a society that are able to come up and support, but to the contrary, the background which we come from, we have people that really cannot afford.

Now my proposal is as follows, for the Ministry to have a special fund for these circumstances and perhaps the community can cover up a certain amount. For example, we have this son of Kamushemo. The Government should be able to guarantee medical expenses in Cape Town for this boy to undergo the needed surgery and yet the community can continue to try to raise funds for this purpose and we can repay the Ministry. I think there is a need for the Government to take social responsibility to be able to be the first line of defence.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support the endeavours of the Ministry of Health in trying to prevent the mother-to-child transmission, however Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am reliably informed that an international pharmaceuticals company has reduced the prices of Anti-Retroviral drugs and others needed in order to accommodate poorer Nations. For example, I was reading in one document where, it is not a newspaper, one tablet for example would cost thirty US cents. That is the lowest they have gone. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** I would like to find out from the Honourable Member, if there is no longer freedom of the press in this country and are newspapers prohibited to transmit information and you cannot draw information from the newspaper? Is this now the practice in this country?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable President, we do not want to argue with the Chair, I think Standing Rules and Orders can really address this issue. From this Report, we hear that these companies have lower prices. The

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US\$0.30 would translate to a N\$1.90. Perhaps we do not have a common understanding of what the Ministry is doing to the ordinary men and women affected by the HIV/AIDS in this country.

I was reading a report where, for example, in Lesotho, a whole village is suffering from drought, not because the rain did not fall in Lesotho, but because of the people who are not able to cultivate the land, they do not have the necessary medical attention and the people are suffering from permanent hunger. Honourable Minister, perhaps you should inform this House and the public what the Government is doing and how are we lobbying these pharmaceutical companies to avail drugs to our citizens? It is fine and well to have the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, but it is another question for the ordinary people that are providing food on the table of families in this country. In conclusion Honourable Chairperson finally, we have been hearing since last year, that the American Government is going to donate N\$400,000,000 ..... (Intervention)

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Chairperson of the Whole House Committee through you, can I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, if I understood you correctly, could you please help us, whether there could be drought when rain has fallen, because there is this tendency of people where sometimes rain has fallen, but we still have some people claiming to be given or provided with drought relief, just because they did not work. I do not know whether that was really drought or something else. Can you help us to understand the correct term?

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**HON VENAANI:** The correct term is permanent hunger, rather than drought, because famine was caused by the fact that the community were not able to plough because of their medical condition and not because the people did not want to plough to provide food on the table.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we are hearing of these funds that the American Government has availed to our country, the N\$400,000,000 but we do not see this money in practical terms. Perhaps the Minister can shed more light on these funds and what is happening with this programme. I support Vote 13.



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**HON TJIRIANGE**

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

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** Thank you very much. I only have one question. Of course, I do not have to say that I support the Vote, that is obvious, but what I am going to ask is whether the Minister is going to have a policy in place sooner or later to do certain things that I am about to say here:

There is a tendency developing fast in this country where unqualified people treat people with all kinds of concoctions and the people are open to risk by these unqualified people. For example, there are some, particularly the so-called churches that are coming up now, where the priest and at the same time, unqualified doctors, are giving people unhealthy remedies. I can give you an example. When I came back from abroad, I found my mother suffering from a heart disease and then she was being treated by a so-called priest who had given her vinegar to stimulate the heart. These things do not go together, and these people are allowed to treat our people daily in such a bad situation. I do not know whether the Ministry will have a policy to outlaw and ban this kind of practice, because we are going to have many people dying because of this. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? I just want to find out from the Honourable Minister whether that was not under his portfolio as former Minister of Justice? Maybe he could have taken that action when he was Minister of Justice?

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** Maybe you have confused yourself by the way that I am a doctor. I am not a medical doctor, so therefore these things are left to the medical doctors. I do not want to be presumptuous that I know the consequences, so I want the policy to come from the right Ministry to protect people from these bogus doctors and the policy must be put in place in order to ban this kind of practice because it is putting the health of our people at risk. I am very serious on that matter, therefore I think appropriate authority in this case, people who are responsible for treating the people of this country must have a policy on

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this issue and I do not know whether the Minister is really trying to do that or not. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:**

May I ask the Secretary-General a question? Comrade Secretary-General, are you also referring to some churches, which are preventing people from going to hospitals saying that through prayer those people can be cured, because those churches are here? Are you aware they are there?

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** I am referring to all those things, and we must have one mechanism of protecting our people from these various unscrupulous people. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Minister a question? Honourable Minister, I hope that sometimes you do read the Bible. Have you read that Jesus cured serious diseases with prayer, are you aware of that?

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** Sometimes we have a tendency of playing with serious issues. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Order Comrade, I think I will really fail in my duty if I do not clear the air, because when we just talk about churches, we claim that about 90 percent of Namibians are Christians. As was referred to by Honourable Moongo, I can prove that through prayer, if you believe, you can be healed, but these things that the Honourable Secretary-General is referring to, are the false prophets. These false prophets are playing with witchcraft. However, real prayer with the Holy Spirit can heal. We cannot confuse the things and make the churches look bad, that I cannot allow.

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** I do not need to be allowed, what I am saying is the truth that there are bogus doctors here who are treating people in a very unhygienic situation, give them all the concoctions that ought not to be given to the people and these are the issues that I want the Minister to address. I am not talking about a priest who goes to the church and prays for the person to be healed, I have no problem with that, but if you start turning yourselves into untrained doctors and give concoctions to people which will kill them, that is already a serious situation and this is what I want to address and not the church. People can go to the church and to any priest anytime, but he must not turn himself into a doctor, which he is not, and this is the policy that I would like the Minister to address, thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you Honourable Chairperson, I feel slightly provoked, that is why I stand up, because I feel some of these issues really need to be properly emphasised. In the first place, Honourable Chairperson, we are living in a world that has become one, and in that regard, I want to talk about the whole issue of the brain drain. I want to inform those Members who do not know, that nurses and doctors from Third World countries are some of the most valued personnel in countries of Europe and of the so-called First World in general.

It looks like we do not have any way of stopping this brain drain, unless or except if we create the right conditions, right here at home to make sure that our people are not poached the way they get poached. They tell the truth, the nurses will go to England for example, but not doing the least paid jobs, they normally work in the private sector and they are getting the job, because the British just cannot do the job, they are not properly trained. Most of them are actually half-literate even at that level, so it is high time.... (Intervention)

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Thank you Comrade Chairperson, may I ask the Honourable just a tiny question? Honourable Ulenga is talking about brain drain, what is his view on brain circulation?

**HON ULENGA:** I will have to be very careful with that one. It is a relatively new term. I must say whatever it is. Perhaps the Right Honourable Founding Prime Minister could make a formal suggestion with regard to that one to the Government. I am just about to make one also to the Minister and to the Government and the country as a whole. We have this whole issue of Cuban doctors and I know that people generally tend to be a bit critical about people who come in and instead of asking, "*Where are you sick*", they ask, "*Where sick*".

As a country, we have a long history of receiving doctors trained in foreign countries. It only takes six months for a person to master any language. Those of you who have studied in foreign countries can testify to that. You have gone to Romania not to study Romanian but to study medicine. You have enrolled for courses and you have learned the language within five months and you ended up being able to learn a course that you want to learn through that language. Why can we, when we are so fortunate to have scores and scores of Cubans coming here, not make it a requirement that these people are taught local languages?

Many indigenous Namibian doctors in this country cannot communicate properly with Namibians, because they just speak the language. Afrikaans-speaking people cannot treat Oshiwambo speaking people, they cannot speak Oshiwambo and the patients cannot speak Afrikaans, the same vice-versa.

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, I want to give some information to the Honourable Member that it is true that this country has foreign doctors. It is however not true that those doctors are not versed in the communal languages. I can testify that I have been giving courses to many doctors, not only to the Cuban doctors, but to other doctors from other countries as well and as such, they can speak Oshiwambo, Oshindonga or Oshikwanyama or any other language. Yes this is a testimony that those doctors coming in here are prepared to learn local languages and they converse in that, they speak to the people, so I do not see any point of saying they do not.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker, I am not contradicting that, but I am actually saying that I am encouraging that to happen more. I have seen myself that many of those people are very eager to learn. What I am asking is that the Government and the Ministry should institute a formal requirement that when these people come in they go

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**HON ULENGA**

through training, not only in languages, also in other issues and not just in one particular language, in several languages.

They are also eager to learn. Therefore the question of teaching them local language will be important. I think that we are fortunate that we find trained and skilled people that are ready to come and stay in our country. Offer these people the opportunity to live here permanently, give them favourable conditions and let them go through courses where they can master local sicknesses and local conditions and local medicine, that is all that I am asking.

The same should happen to nurses, let us not allow our nurses to be poached, give them better conditions and build them special housing, give them loans through banks so that these people can stay here. Honourable Chairperson, just go through the speech and the documents, you will realise that, you will see the page.

Another issue that I want to mention, and I see that the Secretary of SWAPO the Minister Without Portfolio, is mentioning an issue that is really close to my heart. Yesterday I was listening to an advertisement on the NBC, and there was another of such doctors being advertised on the NBC, a person who can cure heart diseases, who can cure misfortune and love troubles and as you will remember, two years ago I stood up here and put the question to the then Minister of Health, Doctor Amathila, because I was driving through Katutura one day and somebody stopped me and asked me whether I could take her to the hospital, and I said indeed, and the person started to direct me in the opposite direction, Okahandja Park. I came to a place which was enveloped in darkness, this was the hospital that I had to take the patient to.

There were a few people sitting in the dark drinking beer, these were some of the patients, there were rooms. I took a patient, the person asked me, I thought maybe she was going to go to the Katutura or Central Hospital but I ended up leaving her at that place because that is where she was going to. I asked the Minister and she never came up with a proper answer and I am still asking, why should we allow such things to happen in Namibia.

It is neither here nor there. I hear priests are also now trying their luck and I know what the Bible is saying about this, the only requirement that we should put, these people should go through a test, there should be some kind of qualification that comes from the Government that says that this priest can cure and be given the papers so that everyone can see that the

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**HON NUJOMA**

person can really cure diseases. If anybody can cure misfortune, let them be qualified properly through a certain system of testing by the Ministry of Health.

Honourable Chairperson, I think it is high time that we move from the theoretical into real action on this kind of issue and I agree that hope and faith help people to get cured and God is the ultimate source of hope and faith, but still doctors in our country and health practitioners should have a health certificate from the local Ministry of Health, not from anywhere else, not from the church nor from anywhere else, and please, the NBC should not allow itself to be misused in this way. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Ulenga. Honourable Nujoma.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you Deputy Speaker and Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to register my support to Vote 13 and I congratulate the Honourable Minister. In his motivation speech the Honourable Minister talked extensively on the issue of HIV/AIDS and I totally agree with what he said, but there is one issue related to what Honourable Tjiriange has mentioned, namely the issue of concoctions and cocktails and I would like to refer them to cocktails.

The other day I was watching television and there was a lot of debate about what is the cause of HIV/AIDS whether it is poverty or globalisation and many people were saying that the main cause of HIV/AIDS - and I do not want to lecture the doctors here - is poverty. In South Africa there is a Doctor Manto Tshabalala, the Minister of Health, who has been criticised heavily for always advocating this issue that the problem of HIV is poverty and if we can provide sufficient nutrition, we can alleviate the problem of HIV/AIDS.

There was also mention of the cocktails of garlic and so many other things, which has been extensively developed in South Africa. My question to the Honourable Minister is, to what extent are we collaborating with our brothers and sister in SADC and elsewhere to find some alternatives, because I believe that the problem with the anti-retroviral drug is that they

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**HON DR KAMWI**

cause a lot of toxins in the body, they are toxic and the effects therefore are very serious and also the side effects.

My question to the Honourable Minister is, are we developing some alternative particularly with regard to nutrition, because that is the main issue which will help alleviate the problem of HIV/AIDS and I support Vote 13, I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, I revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, first of all I would like to thank you for your support and for the interest shown in Vote 13. Indeed, I am grateful for some of the lectures, some of which were quite useful, although not all. I will now attempt to answer some specific questions and concerns, but I have to say that up to nineteen Honourable Members raised questions, comments, some sympathies.

*Honourable Peya Mushelenga*, the information on the prevalence of Hepatitis B is very scanty in this country. A limited survey which was conducted a few years ago did not produce convincing information to warrant a national programme of immunisation against Hepatitis B, thus further survey may be conducted if the conditions warrant it. As of now, I am afraid not.

Onandjokwe Hospital, I wish to advise that as a Ministry in this Government, we are giving all mission hospitals a 100 percent subsidy, thus the administration of the affairs of these mission hospitals are entirely in the hands of the administrators there. In reference to Onandjokwe Hospital, for instance, that may be addressed by Professor Amaambo and his staff, however, we may consider taking it up with the colleagues up there, relating to staffing of 86 positions.

*Honourable Ulenga*, I wish to thank you most sincerely for your support on the Vote. *Honourable Doctor Nicky Iyambo*, I must say that I had some problems with responding to what my senior Colleague raised in reference

to the cardiac unit. We are about to complete that exercise and we are going ahead. Regarding hysterectomies, they are done according to medical indicators.

**Comrade Peter Ilonga**, student nurses are just like other students. Even medical students are not paid during their studies. The elimination of payment for nursing students did in any way affect the recruitment, there are more applicants than places. When the nursing students were paid, they joined not because of the calling, but because of the salaries and that is why you are now complaining about these nurses.

**Comrade Shihepo**, on the enrolled nurses, I wish to say here that in this country we have about 70 percent enrolled nurses and only about 30 percent are registered nurses. Way back in 1995, the Ministry decided to phase out the category of assistant nurses and we started upgrading the assistant nurses to enrolled nurses and that category of enrolled nurses are paid while they are studying and as a result of that, the ones who are studying in our five institutions, that of Oshakati, Rundu, Otjiwarongo, here in Windhoek and Keetmanshoop, are in fact contributing to the shortage of nurses that is being cited in some of our institutions. I should say here in addition that it takes two years to train an enrolled nurse and it takes four years to train registered nurses.

If we were to allow a situation where after the two years we send them for further studies while they are receiving salary, I can tell you we will face a situation that we may not be in a position to address. It will be chaotic and we will not have staff in our health facilities, thus as of now, we felt we cannot accommodate that. If they want to go and study further to register as registered nurses, then the only option that remains for them is to resign. Study leave is available for enrolled nurses.

**Honourable Moongo** on Renal Unit, the Ministry is contemplating to establish a renal unit for dialysis after we complete our cardiac unit and when the Budget will so allow.

**Honourable Kaura**, Sir, doctors go into private practice because they earn more. You will recall when I give my maiden speech here; I took issue with that and the Honourable Member behind me, the Deputy Minister for Finance elaborated on that, that the Government was not paying them enough when they worked for Government.

It is not because they are allowed limited time to do private work, it is also



not true that those who have permission to do private work are only allowed to do it for three hours. That Sir, is not true, you need to verify your facts. I am simply telling you, you are not telling the truth in that regard.

**Honourable Mungunda**, you are referring to HIV/AIDS. Honourable Chairperson, I wish to inform this House and indeed to whoever it may concern outside there, I do not know where my senior Colleague here got this issue of HIV and AIDS, we say HIV/AIDS throughout the WHO has it that way, but you would often hear some people saying HIV and AIDS. It is misleading and even on the NBC of late I am hearing this and I guess they are copying it from elsewhere. I think this must be stopped.

For your information, at regional level there is indeed that Regional AIDS Coordination Programme, the activities are taking place at the operational level. NACOP gives technical support, but it is up to the people, you and me, everybody outside there. The Ministry's policy approach is that of the multi-sectoral approach. Indeed, for the line Ministries you know our National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and there are sectoral programmes.

Training and upgrading of nurses is done to improve the quality of health care and nothing else. For Honourable Dienda, you know that compliance to the ARV treatment is of utmost important, there are no two ways about that. The doctors the scientist who came up with these ARVs demand that these are the criteria for the treatment, otherwise then there is no need for one to go for ARV, they will simply not work.

State patients pay only once for consultation fees, which include everything. It is a combination, it is actually a package, that is medicines, the x-rays, the laboratory, etcetera, whereas it is the other way around with the private sector. The State subsidises patients at 85 percent and that is the difference. It is not true that State patients are paying more than private patients, I think the Honourable Member needs to do her homework on that.

**Honourable Tjiuiko**, again he spoke a similar story about the nurses, 75 percent of the nurses in UK are from developing countries. This is the information that we have. The British nurses, on the other hand, are not too happy with their salaries, they look at their salaries as too little. Thus they leave for the USA and Canada.

For **Honourable Venaani** and Comrade Chair, on the issue of special fund, we have a fund from where patients to Kenya Nairobi and South Africa are

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**HON DR KAMWI**

being paid. I must admit here that the funds are limited, it is for all, we cater for all Namibians, thus there is need that more funds or more money should be made available.

Some of the children that are being cited here, I have to say Honourable Chairperson that we only see them on the screen, as a result, they are treated outside the public health sector. We can only help them if they come to us, like the one that we saw quite recently. I have to be honest with you, we have the funds and I had been approached in my capacity as Minister of Health and Social Services, I do not want to reveal the source, someone had funds, but I had to call on our officials to come up with the information, yes and I have to say that it is not for this Ministry to get into all the corners to look for these patients, it is not an easy exercise.

Regarding the funds donated by the US, this money is given to the countries for five years and is administered by the Americans themselves. For this reason, Honourable Venaani, we do not have the information on the Floor of the funds. *Honourable Viljoen* mentioned the private clinic at Post 3 and I think that was just for information.

*Comrade Mbumba*, thank you very much for your support, we will keep on sensitising the community. *Honourable Rosalia Nghidinwa*, thank you very much indeed for the support. You mentioned consultancy for retired nurses, I wish I could have some information on this one, but you may refer them to my office if you know a handful of them.

*Comrade Ncube*, thank you very much indeed for your support, I share your sentiments and your emotional attachment to the Ministry. Some of these issues are indeed being addressed.

*Comrade Tjiriange*, we detest these unqualified doctors, but I have to admit that whatever they are doing, they are doing it in the dark corners and it is very difficult for the Minister of Health and Social Services to know what these people are doing except for what we read about them once in a while in the newspapers. It is unfortunate to hear that some of the churches are preventing their beloved ones to get medical attention. I can only say this is very unfortunate to hear such news from the church.

The issue again *Honourable Ulenga*, on the brain drain, this is being debated at high level meetings. We debate these issues, trying to find some solutions to it, that is all that I can say in that area, otherwise thank you very much indeed.

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**HON ULENGA / HON KAURA**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much, I now recognise Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, I am very worried that the Minister seems to have left some very relevant issues put to him, I thought the Minister would touch on some of those issues, anyhow I will not repeat myself, I want to ask the Minister a question on some specific worry and I wonder why the Minister has left it out in his speech, the question of the Cancer Association of Namibia.

Who exactly is running the Cancer Association of Namibia and what kind of cooperation or relationship is there between the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Cancer Association of Namibia? The second question, is it true that people who are running the Cancer Association of Namibia try to keep others out of care systems which are there with regard to people with cancer? This is always a little clouded area and perhaps the Minister can tell us from the horse's mouth what the situation is like. I thank you.

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

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**HON KAURA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am surprised when the Minister is saying these patients like baby Emvula do not go to the State facilities, so they cannot just check them all over the place or look for them. baby Emvula went many times to the Oshakati Hospital and the Oshakati Hospital indicated that there was nothing they could do about it. That is a State institution, why did the Ministry not immediately step in and take care of this child, and then the people had to go around looking for funds until N\$500,000 were raised for that child to undergo surgery in Germany. Is the Minister oblivious to this fact and saying that these people do not come to State facilities?

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA / HON TWEYA**

**HON DIENDA**: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Minister did not answer my question. My question was, private patients are contributing on a monthly basis and this includes dentist, optical, hospitalisation, everything, while State patients pay for every visit to the hospital, follow-ups. When I came there, I had to pay the **N\$15.00**, the follow-up **N\$10.00** and the admission of **N\$30.00** as a State patient, so if I compare those two, I found that State patients are paying more. I thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**: Honourable Tweya.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE**: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, can I request the Honourable Members to please be specific with what they want to know? I do not think that it would help them and the people that they expect to answer, especially the Minister. These are two issues. When the private patient contributes it is a monthly contribution. (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB**: Thank you Honourable Chairperson, I just wanted to enquire whether the Deputy Minister has in the meantime been issued with the SWAPO membership card.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**: I did not get you Honourable Member?

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**HON T GURIRAB**: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just wanted to know whether the Deputy Minister has in the meantime been issued with the SWAPO membership card?

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**HON DR KAMWI**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** You are Out of Order, proceed Honourable Tweya.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much for the question, the Honourable Member, while wavered, is still in possession of the SWAPO documents that he for one or other reason decided, when he wavered, to hold back. He wants to show that I was one, so I would want to answer the Member, that please, we want all the properties of SWAPO back and this side nobody wavered, we are still where we were and we will continue the struggle.

I will continue Honourable Chairperson, I was saying, it would be helpful if the Members are serious to know what they want to know. Contribution on a monthly basis is a separate issue. When a State patient goes to hospital and pay **N\$2.50** or **N\$10.00**, that is something else, now if the Honourable Members who are putting the questions are not clear themselves about what they want, they will certainly not understand what the answer would be because they are confused themselves and please, I want to appeal to them, we want to do business here, we have a mandate that we want to execute. If they do not have anything to offer, they have to keep quite so that we can do what we are here for. Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, I revert the floor to the Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, I just want to correct one thing here, you know ignorance is a real factor. It is definitely not for the Minister of Health and Social Services to know who is running the Cancer Association, there is a Cancer Association in this country, you may go and find out who is running it, but not me.

Regarding *Honourable Kaura*, the baby from Oshakati was sent to Germany as a State patient and not as a private patient. She stayed at Windhoek Central Hospital and was followed-up by the doctors who operated on her, but the last patient we have no information about. All I

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

stated here is that you must listen carefully Honourable Member, all the patients who come through our public health facilities are attended to and I also want to inform this Honourable House that some of the information is not disclosed by us as Health professionals, we respect confidentiality.

Some of the cases you are talking about, the doctors may not consider referring them to South Africa, we just attend to them here. You do not need to ask that, we know what we are doing. As for the Honourable Member from CoD, I know what I am doing, I gave you a good response. If you need some more lectures, please come to the Ministry, we will give you what is the difference between what is a State patient and a private patient. I do not have time for that.

Thank you; there is only one that I forgot Honourable Chair and that was from *Comrade Nujoma* on the approach in our fight against HIV/AIDS. We are collaborating, we are sharing information, indeed we recommend food of nutritional value. We do believe that there is no treatment, no amount of treatment that can cure a person. Even if it is not HIV you need food of nutritional value and that we recommend. We do not recommend concoctions, unfortunately. Thank you very much indeed.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objections? Agreed to. **Vote 08 “DEFENCE”**, put for Discussion. Honourable Nghimtina.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** I wish to express my support for the Minister of Defence, the Namibia Defence Force.

Honourable Minister, you have my support, be assured of this.

NDF made us proud all the way in all the missions, be it in SADC contingent in DRC, suppressing Muyongo secessionists or bringing peace to Angola. The 27-years of war in Angola is totally over, thanks to the assistance by the Namibian Defence Force and the Namibian Government. My point is that you should train the soldiers well, feed them well, equip them well and boost their morale through good accommodation and they will serve you well.

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**HON ULENGA**

Self-reliance in construction and manufacturing will take you higher since the strong Nations were built by either emperors or the army. You can go all over the world and you will find that the Defence can save money from the State revenue. It will strengthen the revenue base and make our Nation rich. I support your Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, I rise to indicate our support for Vote 08 and perhaps there is a slight misunderstanding that needs to be corrected. While we may differ politically with some others in our country, that does not make us the enemy of our Defence institutions. We support this Vote in the sense that we appreciate the importance of the Defence institutions and the need to make funds available for the successful defence of our country's sovereignty, our territorial integrity and the safeguarding of lives and property.

Having said that Honourable Chairperson, I have a few concerns that I have also raised in general during the Second Reading Debate. The biggest question regarding security today, as far as small and poor Nations such as ours are concerned, is the question of sustainability of Defence Forces. In other words, with our limited activities and modern security needs getting more and more complicated, how long will we continue to afford security costs as a Nation? That is the question and that is one of my concerns.

Honourable Chairperson, on Page 15 of the Minister's speech the total request adds up to more or less 1,2 billion Namibian Dollars. My expert advisors tell me that to keep and to maintain a well-trained and effective, efficient and effectively armed and needs oriented Defence Force of sixteen thousand people, you would need, at the very least, N\$100,000 per person per year. This means we already have a shortfall of at least N\$400,000,000..... (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am sorry to disrupt the Honourable

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**VOTE 08**

**HON ULENGA**

Leader of the Official Opposition, but I have a teeny-weeny question. Honourable Ulenka, are you still paying your insurance? How long are you going to sustain it? Thank you?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, this means we are already faced with a shortfall of at least N\$400,000,000. This is the calculation that I have just given above, it is a very conservative estimate. Recently I made a few calls around, and some of the people that I spoke to are telling me that N\$116,000,000 cannot even buy two brand new aircrafts or even a few tanks or helicopters.

What I want to say is that security demands which are occasioned by current and global events, such as terrorism and other new and non-conventional threats, tend to force the cost related therewith on a steep gradient or a steep escalation. Hence the general caution that I have also issued or voiced earlier on in the Debate, namely that we need to constantly explore affordable and sustainable Defence alternatives. This message and this caution should be understood against such a background. There may be many ways of skinning the cat, but there is no way that we can avoid skinning this cat.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to move away from this one and I want to talk briefly about terrorism. The Minister in his speech has mentioned terrorism in a very short paragraph. As a matter of fact, he is talking only about possible spill-over effects that may come to Namibia as a result of international terrorist activities.

Terrorism is supposed to be a non-conventional threat and it may occur for whatever reason or no reason anywhere in any part of the world. The question therefore is, or the wish that I would like to express is that I hope that we shall be ready when this unfortunate eventuality happens. In other words, I deplore the meagre N\$2,7 million set aside for so-called confidential development spending, as described on Page 94 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document, which is for the purpose of buying confidential equipment to help ward off conventional and unconventional attacks. (Intervention)



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**HON ULENGA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

On a Point of Order, may I ask Honourable Ulenga a question? Honourable Ulenga, I hope you are a trained person, whether you wavered is not an issue. What makes you to be even attracted by foreigners, is because of that element of training and you always have something which is not to be revealed. You want to tell us that when you become a Parliamentarian you are just zip in your trouser, is that what you want to tell us?

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**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Information Honourable Chairperson, for the benefit of our Parliament I just want to say that it is the practice in democracies, people leave Parties, join new ones, form new ones and there are examples of very prominent people in our region who have done so, like Comrade Robert Mugabe, Comrade Sam Nujoma and others. It is a practice that happens in a democracy. I thank you.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you Chairperson, yes, “*tumbuluka tuku tale*” there is no need for us to ask about the expenditures of this confidential portion and I am not doing that. When I think it is required, I shall put a question, so do not put words in my mouth. What I am saying is, I am worried, you must have listened to people saying in this Honourable House that there have been a worrying steep escalation on the Defence Budget, but we are not saying that the money is enough, no we are saying there is a problem with the.. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY:**

May I please ask Honourable just a question? Just for clarity, Comrade Ulenga, “*Ngoye omukwaita, hano oshike ino hala obudgeta yaakwaita yiye komesho? Efa ashike man, ngoye omukwaita man*”. Thank you very much.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Member, we did not understand, it is a foreign language. Can you explain in English so that the Chairperson will follow what you are

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**HON ULENGA**

saying? Honourable Ulenga did not get your question, please explain.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** On a Point of Order. Considering the track record of Ulenga and the experience in terms of being a soldier, could he not be kind enough to support this Budget for the soldiers?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, that is indeed what I am doing. This Budget carries all our concerns, positive and sympathetic concern. We, however, have to call a spade a spade and talk about the problems that we see with defence and security trends generally speaking and also with regard to our own defence and security trends.

To tell you, I was looking at this CoD side, out of five MPs we have three ex-PLAN combatants, tested in battle. So, I want to see who is standing up from that side, tested in battle. Forty percent of us were in Cuito Cuanavala, some of you only read about it in the founding President's speeches. Some of us have been there on the ground. (Interjections). You cannot have been where we were.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Members, please let us follow the procedure. I was on the eastern front, I also fought, I am one of them. Honourable Kazenambo has risen, he is one of them. Let us try to control ourselves, everybody is just talking. I recognise Honourable Peya Mushelenga.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** On a Point of Order so that the public out there is not being misled by the percentage of 40 percent. The Honourable Member said 40 percent of CoD MPs were PLAN fighters and he was challenging SWAPO. Forty percent of five people is nothing, three people only. That is misleading. What the Honourable Member is not telling people is that that 40 percent wavered from the principles. I thank you.

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**HON ULENGA**

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, that was just...

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**HON TSHEEHAMA:** On a Point of Order. If you want to kill an elephant, do not use a bow and arrow, you must use a .303. We are not disputing that the Honourable Member was in Cuito Cuanavala. If the Honourable Member was there, he should have been there on the other side that we were arguing against and he should have been one of those who left their shoes behind, running to Namibia for safety. I thank you.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. This was just a slight detour.

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask Honourable Ulenka a question? Honourable Ulenka, are you firstly aware of what the word “*waver*” means and secondly, are you aware that the connotation is wavering during liberation struggle? A further question, Honourable Minister Mungunda has stated here that 90 percent of the Namibian population are Christian and I think all of them know that there are Ten Commandments in the Bible. Are we introducing the Eleventh Commandment, “*you shall not leave SWAPO, but you can leave Koevoet and the Broederbond and become SWAPO and be a Comrade?*”

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**HON ULENGA:** Chairperson, I understand the term “*waver*”, I think. Of course, there is an additional connotation that comes from reading the historic book written by the Founding President of the country. However, I wanted to continue with other additional concerns that I have.

First of all, Honourable Minister, through the Chair, on the question or morale.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** You can proceed later because your time is up. I now

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**HON MOONGO**

recognise Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First of all, allow me to congratulate the Minister, the freedom fighter who took over the Ministry of Defence. When we were at the front, the Minister himself...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Chairperson, may I ask a tiny question? Honourable Moongo, are you aware that many people participated in the struggle, but in the course of forty years some wavered and became reactionaries, coming back home, including yourself, Honourable Ulena and others. They came back from Robben Island, the country got Independence and two years after that they became reactionaries and others were in SWANU, NNF or whatever and they ended up in CoD. Do you acknowledge that the struggle was long and bitter and others persevered until the end whereas others wavered? Do you acknowledge that?

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**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Order. I seek your guidance, Honourable Chairperson. Is reference to other Honourable Members as "*reactionaries*" acceptable language in this House?

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** It is not parliamentary language, it is not permitted. Proceed, Honourable Moongo.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** I would ask that you ask the Minister to withdraw.

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**HON MOONGO**

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister, withdraw the word “reactionaries”.

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**HON MINISTER LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Chairperson, I will never withdraw and those who are not satisfied must walk out and we will continue.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Proceed Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MINISTER LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** I withdraw.

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**HON MOONGO:** When we were at the front during that time we had in mind...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** Comrade Chairperson, I need your guidance. We are in Committee Stage and I saw nothing in this Budget about us having been there and doing that. I think we must be specific and I want to be guided. We are now having a general Debate.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I told the Members and I asked on which page is he addressing Shatotwa here.

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**HON MOONGO:** Page 2: During the liberation struggle we had in mind to be represented by a Minister of Defence who was trained and he is now

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**HON MOONGO**

the right person to represent Defence, because he has the experience and I congratulate him.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** On a Point of Information. Comrade Chairperson, we know that some people have gone through the hands that have made them to be what they are today and the attempt being made here is to divide and rule, categorising some Ministers on this side who served as Minister of Defence as not having been trained. That is the policy of divide and rule and we do not allow it in SWAPO, the Honourable Member is wasting his breath.

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**HON MOONGO:** I have a question.

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**HON MINISTER LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** As the Minister of Justice has said, the Honourable Member is trying to divide the House on this side. The first Minister of Defence of the Republic of Namibia was the SWAPO Secretary of Defence. The second Minister was also a soldier at the front, the third Minister was also a soldier as well as the current one. He should not mislead the House, all of them are soldiers.

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**HON MOONGO:** I would like to ask the Honourable Minister a question. During the fight against Unita in Angola, some of our NDF members were disabled and have up to now not been compensated. I would like the Minister to look into that matter.

On Page 3 there is mention of the members of the NDF who went on foreign missions. The salary of N\$630 for ordinary NDF members is too low if compared to those who have ranks at international standards. Would the Minister consider to increase the salaries of those going on foreign missions to meet the international standards? When will the NDF bring the salary structures on par with those of the Police, which are far better?

Lastly, Honourable Chairperson, on Page 8 the Minister said that after ten

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**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

years of Independence they have failed to train NDF members as builders and electricians for the construction of military camps and this is an unfortunate situation. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Those associated with the medicines were talking and now those associated with defence also have a chance to talk. I stand to support Vote 08. Firstly, let me also congratulate the Minister of Defence for the manner he introduced this Vote. He was very clear and made us to understand the important role the men and women in uniform are playing in the country and that they need our support.

I have two questions to the Honourable Minister, but before I do that, let me thank and congratulate the Ministry of Defence or the Namibian Defence Force for recognising the role of women in defence by promoting one of us to the rank of Brigadier and through you, Comrade Minister, I want to congratulate Brigadier General Rauna Ndahafa Hamata. This is clear testimony that women are also getting there and we want to see more women in senior positions in Defence.

My first question is based on Page 94 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, namely the construction of new military bases. I am asking this question on behalf of many of my Colleagues, both men and women, who find themselves in the same category, that as you are constructing these new bases, are you also considering officers' quarters? Presently the bases are only catering for single persons, as if they are the only ones to be recruited in the Namibian Defence Force.

My second question is on Page 6 of the Minister's motivation, Point 13: The Minister referred to health matters and he mentioned the medical facilities in Grootfontein and Windhoek. I want to find out whether there is a possibility that Members of Parliament and their families could make use of the military medical facilities. I am sure we will be able to save a lot of money on medical aid claims if the Parliamentarians could be treated as

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**HON NAMBAHU**

VIPs in these facilities. It happens in other countries and I want to find out whether there is such a possibility. Otherwise, this is the Vote I support all the time and I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My support for this Vote is very much known and I will not bother the Honourable Members with reiterating the same. My contribution, however, will be premised on Page 17 of the Minister's motivation speech with regard to military hospitals.

Comrade Chairperson, I often visit Suiderhof Base and the medical facility, which is called the Peter Mweshihange Military Clinic and whenever I go there, I enquire from the Comrades there about the facilities. My conclusion is that this health facility needs upgrading to the next category. There are Honourable Members here who are better qualified to categorise health centres and I will not go into that, but honestly speaking, I think much should be done to upgrade this facility.

It is a myth that military facilities cannot cater for civilians and we should just give the necessary support so that these facilities are elevated to the categories they should be and we are looking forward to that. I am not saying it must be done during one Budget Year, but there should definitely be a systematic investment into upgrading of these facilities into what they should be, as is the practice worldwide. With that I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Dr Kawana.

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21 June 2005

**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**  
**VOTE 08**  
**HON DR KAWANA / HON P MUSHELENGA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 08 and I only want to emphasise the terms and conditions of service of our men and women in uniform.

You may recall, Honourable Chairperson, that I am one of the Parliamentarians who has raised this issue time and again when the Vote of the Ministry of Defence was being debated. I feel that certainly the time has come to raise the salaries of our soldiers. It is very unfortunate that their salaries are even lower than those of our Police and to some extent, even prison officials. I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether something is being done about this, because this issue is long outstanding. Otherwise, I support Vote 08. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will be very brief because most of the points I wanted to touch on have been covered by Honourable Ndaitwah, Comrade Kawana and another one partly by Honourable Moongo.

So far we had a number of peacekeeping missions and I know of soldiers who now and again go on these missions and I only want to know whether we are giving a fair opportunity to most of the people in the NDF to be exposed to these peacekeeping operations or whether we are always sending the same group. That is the clarity I seek from the Honourable Minister, but otherwise, the other points have already been covered. I support the Vote in very unequivocal terms. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Kamwi.

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21 June 2005

**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON DR KAMWI / HON TSHEEHAMA**

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise in support of Vote 08 and to make a few positive remarks on the statement made by the Honourable Minister of Defence, with specific reference to the three significant photos on his statement and on health matters cited on Page 6.

It is good to give credit where credit is due. Some of us who were privileged enough to witness the commissioning of the Navy and Lieutenant-General Dino Amaambo warship and that of the Air Wing, know that these sophisticated war machineries are navigated by the uniformed Namibian men and women. To me this is the pride of the Nation and, indeed, a massive achievement for a young Nation such as ours. Thus, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister, retired Major-General, and your Deputy Minister, retired Lieutenant-General, together with our uniformed men and women.

Secondly, I wish to commend the NDF Sectoral Programme on HIV/AIDS, which is in line with the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS. Thus I wish to urge other Line Ministries to emulate this good example and that of the Ministry of Education. I support Vote 08. Thank you.

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Minister Tsheehama.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I would like to give my unconditional support to Vote 08 – Defence – in justifying the N\$1,2 billion allocated to the said Ministry. The Ministry of Defence is basically at the bottom of my heart.

On Page 9 of the Minister's speech we are told that 90 percent of the equipment within the Namibian Defence Force are those donated by SWAPO during 1990 immediately after Independence. These were the weapons with which the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) gave devastating blows to the *status quo* that rules this country. These are the weapons that were used during the liberation struggle, weapons we used during the destabilisation process in the Democratic Republic of Congo when forces of aggression invaded that gigantic country. These were the weapons we used in Cambodia, the weapons we are using today in

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON TSHEEHAMA**

Liberia and many countries internationally. Weather and climate have contributed to the old-age of these weapons and they are no longer suitable for use.

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that the blood of innocent people was shed with those arms?

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Movement from one place to another is another contributing factor that these weapons are old today. Just imagine, from 1990 up to now is fifteen years plus twenty-four years since 1966 that we had these weapons. Altogether it gives us thirty-nine years that we have been using those very same weapons. These weapons are old and it was also demonstrated by the Committee that went to visit the military bases and looked at these weapons. They recommended that most of these weapons were old and they must be destroyed and they have to be destroyed. Hence, the justification for N\$1,2 billion.

It is, therefore, justifiable that the Ministry of Defence be given the amount that I am talking about to face new challenges of this millennium, because technology also applies to weapons.

On Page 5 of the Minister's speech there is mention of low salaries of members of the Force, saying that it has seriously affected the morale of the troops. You and I would not like to hear of any mutiny within the Force because of low salaries, hence the N\$1,2 billion.

On Page 2 there is another justification for N\$1,2 billion, which of course is not enough, to the Ministry of Defence. It is the completion of the formation of the Namibian Defence Force. The three pictures you are seeing here has a meaning many of you might not know. The first one basically represents the Army, the battleship represents the Navy and this one represents the Air Force. Therefore, the commissioning of the Army immediately after Independence, the commissioning of the Navy in October 2004 and the commissioning of the Air Force in March 2005 justify the N\$1,2 billion to be spent for this particular purposes.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**  
**VOTE 08**  
**HON PROF KERINA**

We have close to one thousand peacekeepers...

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**HON ULENGA:** May I ask Honourable Tshirumbu a question? Honourable Chairperson and through you to the Honourable Minister there, would you agree with me that right now you are actually preaching to the converted and if one could speak a little bit of deeper English, that you are barking up the wrong tree?

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I am saying we have close to one thousand peacekeepers the world over to pacify situations in those specific countries. Our soldiers, therefore, are the best in terms of operations, in terms of discipline and they are hailed the world over. Honourable Members, let us put our hands together for that purpose.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Kerina.

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**HON PROF KERINA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Defence for a very well-balanced Budget Statement that he presented to this Honourable House.

On Page 4 the Honourable Minister stated that: *“Last year on the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2004, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security undertook a familiarisation visit to some of the bases around Windhoek.”* I would like the Minister to make that Report available to this House.

Secondly, I also noticed in the statement of the Honourable Minister that he has touched on the question of the salaries of our Defence members, that an improvement is expected in that respect. He went on to cover the quality of life of our people in the Defence Force. Honourable Chairperson, looking back to March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1990, a date I am associated with when our country became independent as a member of the formulators of the

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON KAZENAMBO / HO N DR AMWEELO**

Namibian Constitution under the chairmanship of our former Prime Minister, in the company of our Honourable Minister of Justice, I must say that looking back over those fifteen years at our young men and women who came from the bush, who came to march in front of the lowering of the South African Flag and the raising of the Namibian Flag and looking at them today, that in a matter of fifteen years the Defence Force of Namibia rose from rags to professionalism, that they have become a professional Army, is something that every Namibian should be proud of. I would like to thank the Minister for availing to us the statement that he presented to this House.

May I just say, each Nation creates what it is capable of and what it is destined to achieve. Regrettable is the Nation that fails to know what it is capable of and goes around begging for help during difficult times, following the destruction of its own security institutions. Thank you.

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

Thank you very much, Honourable Kerina. I now recognise Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to give support to the men and women in uniform, the men and women who did not question any order to march long distances on foot, men and women who are prepared to go to danger zones where people are evacuated from, men and women who have signed their deaths where others complained and cried. I support the Vote.

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Amweelo.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** I would like to support Vote 08 and refer the Minister to Page 17, Main Divisions 06 and 08, which deal with the Air Force and the Namibian Navy.

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**VOTE 08**

**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Comrade Minister, I went through your speech and I have seen the funds allocated to these Main Divisions. Since these are highly specialised areas whose equipment operate twenty-four hours, such as the ships patrolling our coastal waters, I would think that you would need more to replace them and even the weapons. It is very costly to replace the weapons and I know there may not be enough funds, but maybe in future this could be considered because these two Main Divisions are very important. When we take into consideration the training of the personnel, the maintenance and repair of the equipment, I think you may need more funds in future. Otherwise, I will support Vote 08. Thank you.

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Ithana.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, the lady standing in front of you here is a former PLAN commander and godmother of the Maritime Wing of the Namibian Defence Force.

Comrade Chairperson, I rise to congratulate General Namoloh for the well-articulated, well-prepared motivation speech of the Ministry of Defence. Comrade Minister, there is nobody who does not support the Vote of the Ministry of Defence. This is the Vote for peace, stability, security and safety. We sleep comfortably in our homes because we know we are in good care.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to see our soldiers well-dressed, well-attired, healthy looking and tough. That is how we were when we were soldiers.

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Is the Minister aware that our soldiers are even more underpaid than the Police?

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**VOTE 08**

**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Yes, that is exactly why their allocation should always escalate. Honourable Ulenga was complaining here that he is worried about the escalation of this allocation. We were told that the armaments used by this Ministry are those used in the liberation struggle.

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**HON ULENGA:** May I ask the Honourable Ithana a question? Honourable Chairperson, that is exactly the question that I am posing and I really hope that the Honourable Ithana would be able to answer this. Where is the money to buy those weapons and to replace those 90 percent? The money just does not seem to be there. It is less than 10 percent that is put aside for developmental purposes. That is the point that I am making and now that you are on your feet, answer this question: Where is the money that will take our fighting forces ahead? The money is not there. I am talking about sustainability, so let us provide the money and I am saying on a cautionary note, let us find the source to find the money on and on and on to defend this country. Do not think because you sit on that side, you know how to defend this country better than us this side. It is not so.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Yes, if that is the concern of the Honourable Member and I know the Honourable Minister is quite capable to answer that question, but I will just say that Rome was not built in a day. Our Rome was started with PLAN combatants' weapons and now this allocation is meant to augment what is already there. Next time it should be increased the way Honourable Ulenga wants it to be increased.

Honourable Minister, I only have one request to make and it is not just that I am addressing only you, I have been pestering former Ministers of Defence. I still consider myself to be a redeployed commander of PLAN, I was not retired, I was not dismissed, I never wavered and I would like that recognition to be given one day and not only to me as I know we were many. All of us must one day get that recognition so that it goes down in the history of this country as to who we were.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON DIENDA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, Commander of the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia, are you aware the Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee has been sitting in that seat since 15:00?

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** I know and that is why she is called Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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**HON KASINGO:** May I ask the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General a question? Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, you mentioned your wish to be recognised one day as one of the PLAN Commanders. Are you aware that the people who felt the pain of the war were inside the country? I have to tell you that many mothers, including my own mother who is more than eighty years old, were the PLAN inside the country. They were operating in the vicinity of Okongo, Okankoro and Mangetti and they were cooking for the PLAN combatants, they were hiding their weapons.

After they have hidden it, they cooked for them. I would also like to ask, when are these people going to be recognised one day?

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** That is exactly what I am talking about. You just supplemented what I was saying, because it is not recognition for only one side. Some people want to be given a medallion, but even if I am just given my uniform that I used to wear, then I will feel honoured. I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I now recognise Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** On Page 6 of the Minister's statement: *"It is the responsibility of the Minister of Defence to look after the health of its*



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**VOTE 08**

**HON DR ANKAMA / HON MUDGE**

*soldiers.*” I support this statement because I am also concerned about the health of the soldiers, but I want to say that prevention is better than cure. Those soldiers who are from Windhoek but now staying in Grootfontein have needs that we have to cater for. Can they not be transferred back to their families so that we can stop the spread of HIV/AIDS? Thank you.

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Ankama.

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the good reputation of the NDF internationally is unquestionably well-known in the world. The achievement of peace and tranquillity that we are enjoying today is because of the NDF and that is a fact. However, there is one thing that we have overlooked and I have a question on Page 9.

It is high time that we think of integrating the skills of the NDF. Of course, training in terms of tactics is being done, but who is dealing with their electrical appliances? For example, what is being done to engage some of the NDF members who are not directly engaged in combat to practise some skills? Maybe they can be integrated with some vocational training institutions so that they can learn doing bricklaying, painting, the construction of bases or agricultural activities, thereby stimulating the economy of this country? If you go around the world, you find some of the military personnel engaged in other activities. I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Mudge.

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, a lot has been said about this and I am not going to add anything to that, except to say that I support the Vote.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON B AMATHILA /HON DR GEINGOB / HON NUJOMA**

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Ben Amathila.

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**HON B AMATHILA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 08, especially to thank this House for having passed the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security unanimously, supporting and recognising all the shortcomings of the Namibian Defence. I want to thank the Cabinet for adhering to that request by increasing the Vote of Defence. Therefore, I think there is no point really in discussing this matter, all of us agreed that this is a very important Vote and this has been demonstrated by the amount of money that the Minister of Finance has made available to this Vote. I thank you very much for the good work.

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

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Nujoma.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in light of what the Honourable former Prime Minister and the Honourable Chief Whip of SWAPO has said, I unconditionally support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Ulenga.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON ULENGA**

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, even though I support the Vote does not mean that a few serious things should not be mentioned. Way back at the beginning of the Debate I was talking about the morale of the NDF personnel when I was interrupted by the time. What I have to say is the following:

Who does the commissioning and the promotion of officers in the NDF? I know that the Honourable Minister, while a professional soldiers, for now at this moment is also an aspiring politician and actually already a politician in this House, but what I want to say in general is that I just hope that politicians will not interfere too much in the running of the matters of the NDF.

Honourable Chairperson, occasionally the odd rumour would make its rounds...(Intervention)

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**HON HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Ulenga a tiny question? Honourable Ulenga, earlier on in your intervention you were telling us that you were at Cuito Cuanavale. I understand that your neighbour was also there. Did you see one another when you were there?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, seriously speaking, the Honourable Member must not make himself laughable. How can I claim to have been at Cuito Cuanavale?

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**HON MEMBER:** You could not because you were on Robben Island.

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**HON ULENGA:** No, I was here in the country, I was not on Robben Island. I said on this side, among the CoD, two out of five, actually one out of five was at Cuito Cuanavale, but it was not me. It is easy now, fifteen years after Independence, to make jokes about fighting, but as you know, it is not a laughing matter.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON ULENGA**

Honourable Chairperson, let me go back to the occasional rumour that sometimes makes the rounds and that is that soldiers are unhappy with perceived incidents of nepotism, regionalism, cronyism and even ethnic preference in the ranks of the NDF.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order. If the battle of Cuito Cuanavale was not towards the end of 1988, it should be at the beginning of 1989. Towards the end of 1988, who were at Cuito Cuanavale, unless you were on the side of the Koevoet? Can he explain to the Nation?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, you can try to modify history a little bit, your successes with that attempt will be limited. However, I hope the Honourable Minister is just the person to nip these perceptions that I have just referred to in the butt. It is unhealthy for such perceptions of preferential treatment to be allowed to prevail in the Force.

The second issue that I want to raise is the question of the age of the serving members of the NDF. The average age of the NDF officer corps and even that of the rank and file is getting too old. Please, those who are in charge, work on lowering the average age of the NDF. Perhaps it would be possible to create a reserve of older soldiers who may retire into non-soldiering but still NDF jobs until they retire fully. For example, they can be involved in farms or other related functions which are also income generating.

Honourable Chairperson, I want to say to the Honourable Minister of Finance that the usual information that we got in this regard was completely lacking this time, I think because you changed your style, but please, you are dealing with ordinary politicians and not with statistics students at UNAM. Normally I would see the number of commissioned officers on the Vote, but this time I had a bit of difficulty identifying this information.

The other issue that I would like to raise briefly, I am just wondering, we have now commissioned the Navy as well as the Air Force. The 21<sup>st</sup> Guard has more than the Navy or the Air Force, because I could not look at the relevant figures, I cannot work out quite why this is so.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**

**VOTE 08**

**HON NAMOLOH**

Perhaps it will take a long time to get into the three-year rolling Development Budget, but I still have a few questions to ask about the development projects. I see, for example, that the termination dates of some of them have already expired. The Keetmanshoop Military Base construction, Page 40 of the three-year Development Budget of the Financial Years 2005/2006 to 2007/2008, Project 080406, whose starting date, started is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1993 and the concluding date is 31 March 2004. The next project also concluded on 31 March 2004. I have seen this before, but still the Minister can still try to explain why it is like this.

I also see that the project that refers to the construction activities to happen at Karibib is talking about building an Air Wing section for the Air Force. In my knowledge, the airport at Karibib is quite a well-developed one and as far as I am concerned, it is rarely used by civilian aircraft. Why is that kind of facility not just given entirely to the NDF?

I cannot understand why a construction project could take from 1993 to this year. Why does it take so long to complete the construction taking place at Keetmanshoop and the others? I thank you for now.

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

Thank you very much. I revert the floor to the Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first and foremost I would like to thank my senior Colleagues from the SWAPO Party for supporting this Vote and also to thank all the Honourable Members who supported the Vote of Defence.

I think we are all aware that people who are free and who intend to remain free need a well-organised and well-armed Defence Force as their first line of security. You have mentioned it, you have explained it and you have also assured us that you need security.

I will try to summarise the answers to the questions and start with the question of recognition posed by *Honourable Ithana*. This question was not meant for the Minister of Defence, but rather for the SWAPO Party.

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**VOTE 08**

**HON NAMOLOH**

*Honourable Netumbo Ndaitwah*, with regard to the barracks, we have mentioned in our Budget the construction and renovation of barracks and that we want to replace the inherited prefabricated structures with permanent structures. In a normal military set-up there are houses for officers, houses for privates, and they live there with their families, but ours is tantamount to the contract labour system whereby our fathers came to work here, leaving our mothers back home. We do not have barracks where we can accommodate officers with their families and that is why we are asking the Honourable House to provide funds for the construction of sufficient housing and military accommodation.

In normal circumstances the world over, leaders are sometimes treated in certain countries. For instance, you will be taken to France or wherever. You do not go to civilian hospitals, you go to military hospitals. The most advanced hospitals in the world are the military ones, because these are the ones conducting research. Even NASA came about as a result of military research. We are still trying to find funds in order to upgrade the existing facilities where all our Members of Parliament could be treated.

*Honourable Ulenga*, security is a very expensive exercise, it is not easy to maintain security without spending money and I think everybody understands this. You said terrorism is unconventional activities, but look at what is happening in Afghanistan today. The Americans have masses of troops in Afghanistan, but instead of finding a conventional force there, they found terrorism, which even extends into Iraq. It does not mean that you cannot deploy conventional troops to fight against terrorism. This cannot be done by the *police* only, you need a professional Force to effectively fight them.

As far as promotion in the Defence Force is concerned, we have several boards, one of which is chaired by the President as the Commander-in-Chief, another chaired by the Minister of Defence and one chaired by the Chief of Defence Force. They deal with the promotion of certain levels of ranks and, of course, promotions are also done on merit. The promotions are presented by Commanders to the board where it will be scrutinised. You said there are rumours and any complaint in the Defence Force is investigated by the boards. Of course, rumours can be spread by somebody who is undisciplined and not being promoted.

Honourable Ulenga, I do not think you are suggesting that if we do not have money we should retrench some of the Defence Force members. I do

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**VOTE 08**

**HON NAMOLOH**

not think that will be a very good idea to create unemployment. Maybe I did not understand what you said.

The retirement age may differ from 55 to 60 years. If you reach the age of 60 and your service is still needed, the Chief of the Defence Force may extend your service once or twice and then you are retired.

Honourable Ulenga also spoke about work at certain places not being concluded. This is so because there were no funds to complete the jobs. We have been asking money since 1993 until 2004, which has not been forthcoming and the jobs could not be concluded. It may happen that projects started in 1993 will not be completed by 2030 because of lack of funds.

*Honourable Moongo*, I have touched on the issue of salaries in my speech. We have embarked upon the increase of salaries in the Defence Force since last year, this year and next year. It will be an ongoing exercise to improve the salaries.

*Honourable Ankama* mentioned schemes with the Defence Force. We have an Engineering Regiment, which is stationed at Outapi, and these are the people we are training in all these skills.

*Honourable Dienda*, we do not want to create Bantustan armies, that if your family is in Oshakati you can only be deployed there. I do not think it will be wise to do that and we are trying to create facilities wherever units are deployed.

Somebody asked whether peacekeepers are rotated. Every six months a different unit will be sent on a mission and it is not that those who are favoured are sent. The units are rotated and they are all exposed. If you go to the NDF and ask them where they have served, I think they will tell you they were in Cambodia or wherever.

I have touched on most of the concerns and questions and in conclusion, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members and Comrades who have supported this Vote. We assure you that we will do our best to safeguard the security of this country. I thank you.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION**  
**VOTE 18**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Any objection? Agreed to. Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM” put for Discussion.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to wholeheartedly support Vote 18 because it is close to my heart and as a researcher in this field and as a former practitioner in this area, I regard this as the third most critical sector for the economy of this country and contributions to the Gross Domestic Product.

On the issue of protected area management mentioned on Page 3, I would like to talk on the issue of tourist facilities and services in the parks. The Minister is saying that tourist facilities and services in the parks are outdated and not in line with the international eco-tourism demand. Of course, eco-tourism, as a concept in sustainable tourism development, can be defined in many forms. It covers agro-tourism, it also covers cultural tourism, but I would like to agree with this statement notwithstanding the definitions and concepts. I want to agree with the Minister that yes, tourism facilities in the national parks and game reserves are a concern, but if one is talking about tourism facilities in the parks, it is really surprising that one is not talking about facilities owned by Namibia Wildlife Resorts, which is a Government Parastatal, owned hundred percent by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and I will come to this later when I will talk about tourism development in this country.

I want to refer to tourism development mentioned on Page 7, especially on the issue of marketing Namibia, which is done by the Namibian Tourism Board, for which millions of dollars are allocated. Honourable Chairperson, I agree hundred percent with the concept of marketing Namibia abroad, but anybody can do his or her research and will find that Namibia is not sold abroad because of appointing agencies, such as the Namibian Tourism Board is doing. I will challenge that concept. It is way out of the target, because the things that are bringing tourists here have been here before the establishment of the Namibian Tourism Board. Etosha National Park is one of the important destinations in the world and Etosha will market itself whether you spend money abroad or not. You do not have to allocate millions for that, I will challenge anybody.



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Namib Naukluft or the Fish River Canyon, which is the world's second largest canyon, will market itself whether we put millions or do not put millions. I will challenge anybody on that. Therefore, it is not justifiable to spend millions on agencies in Italy, Britain and German which are so-called marketing Namibia and Namibian Tourism Board spending money on foreign consultants who are flying all over the world. This is tantamount to economic sabotage, it is not justifiable.

If we are serious with this tourism development, we can cut down on our expenditure by participating in trade fairs. Tour operators and other companies, both in Namibia and abroad, are already marketing Namibia because they bring tourists here and we should invest in a company like Namibia Wildlife Resorts and concentrate our efforts there, because this is where many of the tourists are staying and it is surprising that Government is not spending a lot to upgrade the facilities of the Namibian Wildlife Resorts, yet they pump money into the Namibian Tourism Board to pay agencies abroad, paying people who are already rich. This is not justifiable and it does not make any economic sense.

In Africa we are not doing extremely well on conferencing, but we are concentrating on eco-tourism and eco-tourism includes cultural tourism. We sell our wildlife, we sell our culture, we sell our weather and this is our competitive edge within the Tourism Industry. It is also surprising that we are talking about tourism development and we do not touch on cultural tourism.

There is a huge market segment out there of people who are travelling abroad to experience the cultures of other people, their languages, their way of living and when we talk about development of tourism in future, we must also bring in that component of cultural tourism because many of the remote areas are rich in culture. Even the culture of the Ovahimba is a catch-22 and is cultural tourism. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me, as is tradition, thank the Minister, Deputy Minister, the

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staff, the local SWAPO branch, the SWAPO Elders Council, the SWAPO Youth League and the SWAPO Women's Council.

Honourable Chairperson, in view of what the Honourable Minister said in motivating this Vote, tourism certainly occupies an important place in our national efforts for growth and job creation. It is an important sector and deserves our support. I have only one observation-cum-question to make and I am saying it against the background of what the Honourable Minister said by way of motivation.

On Page 2 the Honourable Minister says: *"It is one of the fastest growing economic sectors and a sector in which Government has the role of regulator and facilitator."* However, later in the motivation the Minister continues and says that the allocation to this important sector has been considerably reduced in this year's Budget.

I hope this is not an illegal document, it is a statement issued on Friday by the Namibian Tourism Board and I do not know whether the second part of my question is really an issue for the Minister or whether this is an issue for the Minister of Finance, because it deals with how we from one year to the other appropriate funds for different Votes and in this statement issued by the Namibian Tourism Board they are bemoaning the fact that the allocation to this important Board has been reduced. They are saying that they have budgeted for N\$32 million for this Financial Year, but the reason why it has been reduced is because in the first two years of their operations, they have not used up all the money which was allocated to them and the reason why they have not done that is because they were starting off.

What we are doing in our budgeting is that if you are allocated N\$15 million and only used N\$10 million in the previous year, then in the subsequent Budget Year you are allocated N\$10 million. In an instance like this where we have an agency that is growing, they would not use all the money during a Fiscal Year and we need to do something about the way in which we allocate funds to these agencies. That is why I say I do not know whether this is a question for the Minister or the Minister of Finance. However, the substance of my question is that if this is a sector in which we in future expect substantial growth in contribution to the economy and where we expect real, sustainable jobs to come, whether we should not allocate corresponding funds to this important sector. I thank you.

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**HON KAIYAMO / HON DR A IYAMBO**

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

Thank you very much. Honourable Kaiyamo.

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**HON KAIYAMO:** I would like to support the Vote and then I would like to know the following: We have names for our Regions, but these days we see advertisements talking about Damaraland, Hereroland and all these kinds of words. Are these official names? We want to promote unity in Namibia and maybe we should desist from using this vocabulary and promote our Regions. I thank you.

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Dr Abraham Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I support this Vote and I just want to seek clarification on Pages 3 and 4 with respect to Programme 1 in the motivation of the Minister.

The Minister is looking for N\$46 million for this programme. He also indicated in his statement that there have been so many visitors to the different lodges under Namibia Wildlife Resorts. Honourable Minister, through the Chair, I am so concerned about the cost for people to enter these parks. I think the costs are going to discourage tourists from visiting these parks. At the gate you pay N\$20 for the car and for each day that you stay there, you pay N\$10. If you happen to be there for ten days with a family of seven people, that means you are paying N\$700 and this is not pro-poor. Namibians will not be able to enjoy these parks. Why does one have to pay N\$10 every day, plus accommodation, plus food, plus everything? What is the value of that N\$10? It is milking people and I do not understand why. If you have a bus, it is N\$500 and different rate for foreigners, but my question is, is this really encouraging Namibians to enjoy the nature of this country?

Finally, on the administration of these parks. When you pay, you have to pay with two cheques, one for the accommodation that goes to Namibia Wildlife Resorts and another one that goes to the Ministry. Why not one

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**HON KAURA**

cheque and then the Ministry and Namibia Wildlife Resorts sort out their difficulties?

Honourable Minister, I urge that the Permanent Secretary and the staff reconsider the whole administration and the costs that are chasing away Namibians. The costs are too abrupt, too sudden, too high and anti-Namibian who cannot afford. I am just asking if you could look into this issue, Comrade Minister. Thank you.

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I have a question on Page 5 of the speech of the Honourable Minister and I quote. The Honourable Minister states: *“I also wish to recognise that problems of conflict between people and wildlife are continuing, as many of the Members will know. We are greatly concerned about reports of stock losses due to lions or crop damage due to elephants.”*

Reports are coming from Kavango and Caprivi of crop losses due to elephants and even hippos, especially in the Kavango area. Then we are reading reports of lions destroying livestock in some parts of the Omusati Region. We are getting reports from an area known as Omuramba in the Okaoko area at a place called Okakuijo where an elephant came to the homestead of somebody for six days, destroyed all the crops and then even came home and ate all the maize that were put out to dry and when it was reported to the Ministry for help, they did not have any vehicles to go there and assist in getting rid of this problematic elephant. These people have lost their crops and obviously they are going to go hungry. Can any mechanisms be put in place to provide these people with sustenance, with food, as quickly as possible, because otherwise they will starve.

Wild animals bring in money to the whole country, well and good, but they cannot be sustained by a few people whose crops are being lost. You cannot shoot at the elephant because it brings in money, but then it destroys your crops and the Government is doing nothing, but the money which comes into the country due to tourism, is used in the interest of all of us,

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including us sitting here, but those people are bearing the brunt of these problematic animals and we are not doing anything to sustain them and give them food when their crops are destroyed. Does the Minister have anything in place to address this serious issue?

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

Thank you. I now recognise Honourable Mudge.

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**HON MUDGE:** Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will be brief, I just want to reflect on a few things that the Minister said. Let me begin by saying that I think the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is in very good hands with the Minister and the Deputy Minister. I think they have the ability to really make a success of this.

The Minister said: *“Tourism development, nevertheless, requires export marketing because Namibia is in a situation of having to compete with other destinations. Peace, stability, our unique environment and good infrastructure are essential ingredients for tourism development, but marketing is necessary to make people aware of what we can offer.”* I must completely disagree with what Honourable Kazenambo said just now, completely. I cannot distance myself far enough from that. You cannot over-market a good thing.

The Private Sector is doing a great job by attending these international trade fairs whereby they market their individual products and thereby also marketing Namibia as a whole, but that is not enough, the main input must come from Government and the Honourable Minister quite correctly stated on Page 8: *“Through the allocation to the NTB, Namibia can grow its tourism sector substantially.”* He goes on to say that: *“This is the area where I believe we should greatly increase or national investment.”* He also says on Page 8: *“There is a great need for the Government investment in this sector to significantly enhance the foreign arrivals that are so critical to growth.”* Strategically the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is, as far as I am concerned, one of the most important Ministries and the Budget should have reflected that.

Madam Chair, then he said: *“The NTB must be commended with the excellent job they are doing with a very limited Budget to give Namibia its*

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*own unique brand and to market our country overseas, but there is no doubt in my mind that they need much more money to do even a greater job."* We need this urgently. It is a known fact that you have to invest money to make money and our country needs additional revenue urgently. Then why not invest heavily in a sector that can generate that additional income? The beauty is that it will be money well-spent simply because it will have a positive influence not only on the Tourism Sector, but on many other sectors. There are always potential investors amongst tourists and income spinners from this industry must never be underestimated.

I, therefore, plead for a significant increase in the allocation to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, especially to enable the Namibian Tourism Board to market our country aggressively.

Another area of great concern is the condition of our facilities in the national parks. According to the Honourable Minister, and I quote again on Page 4, *"our national parks are the main draw cards for tourism to Namibia and are visited by more than half of all the tourists that come to Namibia."* On the same page: *"Tourist facilities and services in the parks are outdated and not in line with international eco-tourist demands."* Madam Chair, the situation in our parks is fast becoming an embarrassment that can no longer be tolerated. It is not only the facilities and the services, but the management most of all. If you read the letters by tourists in local newspapers and listen to locals visiting Etosha National Park and other parks, then it is evident that the Government should step in very quickly and force Namibia Wildlife Resorts to pull up their socks. Etosha and Sossusvlei are two of the main attractions that we can offer.

Another area of concern is also the central booking office in Windhoek which is, according to people, a total disaster. They are incompetent and unprofessional.

Then I want to conclude by saying something about gambling. My only comment is that it should never have been allowed in Namibia. This is the one industry that we could do without purely because it does nothing else but impoverish people. We are deliberately and knowingly compromising the well-being of our families, especially the women and children, and I challenge, as Mr Kazenambo, anybody in this House to show me one good reason why we should allow gambling in Namibia. Thank you very much.

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**HON IILONGA**

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

Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 18. Three months ago it was my Vote.

Under Programme 1 on Page 3, Protected Area Management, I just want to amplify what Comrade Abraham Iyambo said in this House. I really agree with the statement and the wishes of the Ministry that they want to improve, but in reality it will backfire in the sense that I have never heard of entrance fees in any country where you charge per person per day. Even countries which have airport fees charge the person an entrance fee only once. You cannot charge a person an entrance fee calculated on the days spent in the camp. When I was in that Ministry, that was not the case.

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**HON VENAANI:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, is it not that the funds that we are talking about might not be entrance fee *per se*, but the cost of your stay in that camp would be calculated per day. If you want to stay in a camp for seven days, you pay N\$70 and if you want to stay there for ten days, you pay N\$100, N\$10 per day and that is the cost, not so much an entrance fee.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

I will answer it this way. Currently a Namibian pays N\$20 when the car enters, you are not paying N\$20 per day when you are in the camp with the car. If you are between 70 to 90 years old, you pay N\$10 for every day you are in the camp. For accommodation you are currently paying N\$300 for every night.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Information. I presume what the Deputy Minister is suggesting is that these things are wrong, but did he during his tenure propose any changes?

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**HON IILONGA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

My concern is that this is anti-Namibian. Namibian Wildlife Resorts are the ones who are guilty. You will be shocked because you are not a tourist in your own country, but we visit our resorts to support our national parks.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? I just want to find out, if we are talking about sales sustainability of the parks, if we are talking about these parks becoming independent from Government subsidies, how do we see it sustaining itself if you are talking about N\$10 per day per vehicle? How do we see that it is going to be sustainable on its own without Government subsidy if you are complaining about N\$10 per vehicle?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

If the Honourable House would listen they will understand the concern. We do not have a problem with whatever price, the concern here is that they charge entrance fee per day per person, calculated on every day you are in the camp. That is the concern. Namibia Wildlife Resorts introduced what they call a service fee. From there the people started to complain that they cannot afford to visit the parks and it was called off and you only pay once to enter. For your information, as from July this year, a foreigner is going to pay N\$80 for every day. Currently they are paying N\$240 for a big bus and they are going to pay N\$500. Are you telling me that we are building this country? This is economic sabotage. A Namibian is now going to pay N\$30 for every day plus accommodation. Do we want to kill our resorts? This is the issue.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Order. I seek your guidance, Honourable Chairperson. Would it be permissible in this House to accuse Government of economic sabotage?

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

Proceed, Honourable Members.



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**HON MUTORWA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

If they want our national parks to fail in order to privatise them, then they must tell us. You cannot suffocate Namibia Wildlife Resorts. We stopped the service fee, why do people now have to pay for every day? I went to make my own research, I have a receipt and I gave it to the Minister. We were two persons, for two days we were supposed to pay N\$40, but we paid N\$60 plus the money that goes to Namibia Wildlife Resorts. That is the concern.

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

Time up.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

If you increase the fee for Namibians from N\$10 to N\$30, no problem, but it should not be calculated per day per person. It is no problem to increase the price, but it cannot be calculated on a daily basis. That is killing the people.

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

I use Rule 8 for the second Deputy Chairperson to relieve the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Hans Booys.

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

Honourable Mutorwa.

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

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am rising simply to support the Vote and to ask one question, but while doing so, I am also mindful of the fact that the Honourable Minister has only been in this position for three months, but in this case he has been in the legislature and we are mindful of the fact that he is still learning.

Comrade Minister, I am premising my question on Page 3 of your speech

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**HON TJIRIANGE**

where you are saying that the total area for protected game parks is 14 percent, which is quite impressive.

Furthermore, on Page 252 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework you are saying that the main activities with regard to that particular programme is to provide and maintain essential infrastructure, such as roads, fences, firebreaks and so on. When one looks at the game parks that we have and I want to confine myself to the game park which I know best, which is the Khaudum Game Park, the issue of accessibility to the game park is a problem in terms of the roads infrastructure. If you want to access the game park from the main Trans-Caprivi Highway it is less than fifty kilometres, but you will spend more than four hours to reach there because the road is very sandy. I have been raising this issue and the explanation given was that it is for 4x4 vehicles, but in relation to the statement you are making, I think that these game parks are major attraction for tourists and the time has come for us to really look at the road infrastructures to access the game parks. Even if you take the road from Tsumkwe via the Sekereti Game Park to reach Khaudum it is still the same. I know that you are not entirely responsible for road infrastructure, but I think it is high time for us to look at the road infrastructures in order to access those game parks and to promote more tourists to visit our parks and thereby get more revenue. The question is, what are the plans to provide this road infrastructure? Otherwise, I support the Vote.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Tjiriange, the Floor is yours.

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**HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** I support the Vote and I have only one question.

Comrade Minister, as Comrade Mutorwa has said, you are not long in office and maybe you cannot answer this question. We are reliably informed that when tourists come to Namibia and elsewhere in the SADC countries, they have paid for everything in their own countries, even including soft drinks, and they come with coupons. What do we gain from this? How do we access that money which was left behind? How does it work? What is the mechanism for us to really benefit from the money

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**HON KAPIA**

which was left behind? This worries me very much, maybe there is a formula how we benefit from this money which was left behind.

With due respect to my younger brother Kazenambo, I am of a different opinion when it comes to marketing. Marketing is absolutely important. The other time I was in the United States and we were with other people. When I said I am from Namibia, this group of people were asking, “*where is Namibia, is it in Vietnam?*” We have a beautiful country but our marketing strategy is zero. That is not only confined to America, people know very little about Namibia. Therefore, aggressive marketing is a must at this point in time.

With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Secretary-General. Honourable Kapia.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 18. One of my concerns was mentioned by the Secretary-General. I have a serious concern and some of these things should be mentioned so that we can be clear whether we created the Namibian Tourism Board to hire consultants based in London, paid by the Namibian Government. What is the outcome of these particular people? Now the office of the Namibian Tourism Board is no longer operating from our High Commissioner, it is now in a private company. What are we doing as a country? The fees being paid to these companies have escalated from twenty thousand British pounds per month to eighty thousand and this is painful. Can we have our country being marketed by foreign companies? What are we doing as a country? We are the people who know this country and its beauty. What is the strategy to train our people to market our country and even the tour guides in this country, do we have a problem to train our Namibian tour guides? These are the things which are supposed to be in the Budget, to train our young people as tour guides in order to reduce unemployment.

What are the programmes in place to build new places as tourism

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**HON TJIHUIKO**

attractions in areas which were not previously recognised as tourist attractions? This is very painful, consultants is a serious area which we have to look at as a country and as a people. How can the Government pump money into consultants? This is a painful situation and we must just face the reality and say it so that we normalise the situation.

Lastly, who is responsible to regulate the jukeboxes at cuca shops and bottle stores? It is similar to a gambling machine. People insert money into these machines and it plays music. The Ministry is responsible for gambling houses, is this not part of gambling? I support the Vote, but with the concern that the new Minister and Deputy Minister should look at the issue of consultants used by the Namibia Tourism Board throughout the world. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Kapia. Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support the Vote and before I do that, I just want to mention one or two things.

The first thing that I want to mention is that one cannot over-emphasise the importance of the Ministry of Tourism, because the fact is that the Ministry of Tourism does not only promote itself, it promotes the whole country and it brings forward the beauty of the country and by doing that, it will also create a good image of the country in the minds of not only the tourists but also investors. Therefore, it is very important that we support this Vote, but there are a few things that we need to touch on.

The first thing I want to touch on is the issue of marketing of the Tourist Industry. As I said, when you market the Tourist Industry, you are not only marketing the Tourist Industry but the whole country and most importantly for us at this particular moment is the fact that in five years time there is going to be a World Cup in South Africa and we need to prepare ourselves in such a way that we are going to benefit from the influx of people coming to South Africa. Looking at our Budget, unfortunately I have not yet seen a specific strategic programme or project that has been designed to attract people to come to Namibia, whether it is soccer teams to come and stay in this country or tourists and then travelling every now and then to

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**HON TWEYA**

South Africa. We are now in a better position to benefit from the World Cup without really spending a lot of money. As I said, I have not seen a strategic project that has been designed specifically for this World Cup and I think we need to do that. It is an opportunity that has been put on our plate and we must make use of it. We cannot over-emphasise marketing, it is the backbone of a small country like Namibia, as the Secretary-General of SWAPO has just said.

The first time that I came to know Ouagadougou was through the Africa Cup of Nations that took place in that country. The image that has been created through a proper marketing strategy put that country on the international map and honestly, I believe that is one area we need to look at. The N\$21 million budgeted for marketing is not sufficient, especially with the opportunities which are right now in front of us.

I also want to touch on the issue of entrance fees. We should take responsibility and look at what is really going on around us. I do not know whether we have looked at how much we pay to enter Sun City, I do not know whether we have looked at the strategic costing of entrance fees in southern Africa, including our own. I believe that we need to ensure that our parks become self-sustaining in a very short period of time. It is good for us, it is good for the country. We should not just say N\$10 per day is too expensive. The Ministry should perhaps now look at it, give us more information as to the strategic costing of entrance, the accommodation and everything, so that we can look at it from an informed point of view.

With those few words, I would like to support the Vote.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Tjihiuko. Honourable Tweya.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, initially I did not want to say something, but allow me just to express my support for the Vote and to put two questions for clarity.

The first one is on Page 7, the amount for Namibia Tourism Board to market the country. Is there anything that the Ministry expects monetary

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**HON MOONGO**

wise from this marketing and what is the relationship of Namibia Tourism Board with our own Parastatal which is in the industry, Namibia Wildlife Resorts? I am aware of incidents where Namibia Tourism Board was used to suffocate Namibia Wildlife Resorts by advising it to introduce various fees to make it inaccessible and unattractive to Namibians, so that the Private Sector within the industry can flourish. I am aware of this and Namibia Tourism Board, unfortunately, was used to promote more private companies than Namibia Wildlife Resorts. What is the relationship, because both are Parastatals, the State is paying more than N\$20 million to Namibia Tourism Board to promote, but I do not see how they are at least promoting the other Parastatal, Namibia Wildlife Resorts. I would like to have clarity on that.

I remember very well when the Chief Executive Officer of Namibia Tourism Board was asked and his answer was that they cannot charge this private company because they are not trading, they are only marketing, but my concern is that the marketing is to promote the other private companies at the expense of the Parastatal. Maybe I am not aware of that relationship, but I would be happy to have information on that.

The second issue is on Page 8 and I am now back on money matters. I am also aware of illegal gambling where the State is losing revenue. My question to the Honourable Minister is whether these gambling machines in these small places are registered or do I just buy a machine and start gambling? What mechanisms are in place to ensure that the State gets its dues from these gambling machines? I thank you.

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**HON. MOONGO:** Mine is a very tiny question. I would like to ask whether the Minister could initiate measures to properly control kudus which are causing accidents in which people are losing their lives. For how long are we going to wait and how many people still have to die before the Ministry either subsidises the farmers who own the kudus or consult with the Roads Authority to put up fences? Since my childhood people have been dying on the roads and I have been blaming the whites that time because of colonialism and a capitalist economy in which people generate income from wildlife but do not have regard for the lives of people. At this moment we have a Minister who knows how many accidents have been caused by these animals and wolves and others are now roaming around these area and even the worst of the matter are birds, people do not harvest anymore because of a lot of birds.

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**HON ULENGA**

**HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are making a point but I thought you would help the Minister by proposing a solution. What solution can you offer?

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**HON. MOONGO:** That is why I asked the Government to help those farmers who own kudos in order to erect fences for the game to be properly controlled and again to request the Roads Authority to erect fences along the roads. How many lives should be lost while we remain silent here? We are tired of being responsible and allowing people to die like this.

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**HON. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you Honourable Moongo. Honourable Ulenka.

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**HON. ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, seeing that many of the points that I wanted to touch on have been taken by previous speakers, I shall not dwell too long on them, but there is the issue of marketing, which seems to be coming out perhaps to signify the start of the war of Deputy Ministers.

I feel that after fifteen years, Minister of Finance, we as a country should have enough capacity to know the nature of a Tourism Sector. If we have not learnt that, we have not come of age and I think that we can only blame ourselves really. I take it that the marketing you are talking about is taking place in those countries which we are trying to attract and I think we know or understand how best to attract those tourists. However, I do not think we should really have the question of exactly who should do the marketing because by now we should already know how best we should get the best results. Therefore, this is not a resource that we can enjoy, it is a resource to look after and to price competitively, because it is a resource that we want to derive revenue from.

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**HON ULENGA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Ulenka, you are talking about the marketing and when marketing, the question is how to attract people to visit your resorts instead of those of the Private Sector? However, you make it terribly expensive. How are you going to attract tourist if there are already complaints about the prices?

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**HON. ULENGA:** To tell the truth, my Comrade, I have for a long time not had enough money to visit the parks, I have not been able to compare, but the only thing that I am saying is that you should price them competitively as a resource that should be there that should be treated in a sustainable way. Let it be able to provide milk as a cow does, not only for us today but also for the generations to come after us.

What I want to say about this particular Vote is that it should receive priority attention and support from us as Members of Parliament. I was looking at a document here which quotes from the Labour Force Survey of 1997 and 2000 and according to the information derived from these, hotels and restaurants alone have been able to increase the labour force by 157 percent. This is against other sectors of the economy which have been showing negative rates of employment, which means that this is simply a sector that we need to look after because this is the future sector as far as the economy of this country is concerned. I do not want to cite further on this one.

It should also be noted that in this sector many of the programmes are actually providing or supplementing their own revenue, which means that instead of all this money coming from the Treasury, the Ministry itself is providing in a supplementary way the revenue that goes to maintain them and that is a very good thing.

A few questions: The Minister is talking about additional parks to be proclaimed. I will be very much interested to hear which parks are those. It has been said by my neighbour here that the parks have degenerated, the quality of the parks has gone down and this has not only been mentioned here, it has even appeared in newspapers of neighbouring countries. Minister, it is good that at least the top is new and since new brooms are supposed to be sweeping clean, please look into this matter before it goes any further.



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**HON EKANDJO**

Of course, I need to congratulate you with the upkeep of the conservancies and taking them out especially to the communal areas. I think this is one particular programme that has introduced relevance and sense, especially to the ordinary Namibians. Now they see why there is such a sector as tourism and environment protection, they see that it is a sector where people can get direct income, so keep it up. This is an area as a whole that needs a lot of subsidisation instead of our money being pumped into white elephants. I do not want to mention Ramatex but anyhow there you are.

The last question that I have, Minister, is perhaps a difficult question but I have heard about the opening up of additional uranium mines. I know that you are not the mining Ministry and listening to the other Minister motivating his Vote today, I am sure tomorrow we will talk about it further. I am not sure what your position will be because I see that there is some kind of concern and perhaps that matter will one day land virtually right onto your lap. Perhaps you will have something to say about control or what you have or do not have or what opinions you have or do not have as to the profitability as compared to the risks of continued uranium mining. I thank you, I rest my case.

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**HON. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you Honourable Ulenga. Honourable Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS, RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION:** Since it is 10:25, I Move that this august House supports the Vote and we come to the conclusion and allow the Minister to respond.

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**HON. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Right Honourable Prime Minister, you have the Floor.

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**RT HON ANGULA / HON NANDI-NDAITWA**

**RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to assure the new Minister in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism that he has our support to do the right things for this renewable resource. I would like to make it clear to everybody that competition is the name of the game and we should help the Namibia Wildlife Resorts to be in a position to compete with everybody, to compete with the Private Sector. Of course, as a Ministry it is possible for everybody, including the Private Sector. The problem we have is the fact that the Namibia Wildlife Resorts operates mostly within parks and parks of course have their own value. It is the same as going into a cinema when you go there to see a film. When you go to see a film today you have to pay, when you go tomorrow you have to pay again. Therefore, the parks have their own value. The private lodge owners also have wildlife on their farms, thus they include everything in the price, including accommodation. You do not see it, but there is a price included for the wildlife you are going to see in the private lodge. Therefore, I think the Colleagues who are complaining about the entrance fees and again the accommodation and paying some other things should really understand that the effort here is to make these parks self-sufficient. Yes I know that Comrade Iyambo wants to bark at another Minister, but when we look at your own sector there are also things to say.

I am only saying, let us help this Minister to run this Ministry and let us understand his position. He has only been there for four months and I am quite sure that he means well and we wish him well. Thank you.

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**HON. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you Right Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Ndaitwah.

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**HON. MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** Thank you Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would also like to thank the Minister, the Deputy and the staff of the Ministry. On the question of the resorts I can say I am one of those Namibians who is a regular visitor to our resorts. The last time I was at Waterberg was during the Easter Holiday and I have really seen an improvement when comparing with what I have seen when I was there last year. Similarly, I have also noted that our resorts are being used because of this computerised bookings. When you are in one resort you are able to

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**HON DR A IYAMBO**

establish from the computer in which resort there is a space and I can tell you I was impressed.

That particular weekend when I was at Waterberg most of the resorts in the country were almost full and that is why I believe that people are making use of the resorts. Of course, there is always room for improvement and I am convinced that once the acid base of the Namibia Wildlife Resorts is put in place, that will definitely give the capacity to the Namibia Wildlife Resorts to improve more since they will be able to manage these resorts and even to have confidence of the financial institutions in order for them to have access to capital in order to do whatever is necessary. Therefore, as the Prime Minister has said, what we need is to support the Minister to do what he can do and also to support the Namibia Wildlife Resort by making use of these facilities. I am sure our participation will also be appreciated. I support the Vote under discussion.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you Comrade Minister. Comrades, let us stick to the detail of the Bill, let us help the Minister by asking him questions in order for him to reply to that. Honourable Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I think I was singled out and I was possibly misunderstood. I also do not understand where the whole issue of the Fishing Industry fits. First I am saying that I support the Minister, I never even said that the Minister has done something wrong. As Parliamentarians we are supposed to speak out and to ask questions. It seems I have been singled out or misunderstood, but I am asking questions. With due respect, I think the Right Honourable Prime Minister has misunderstood me and I am sorry if I am misunderstood, I cannot quarrel with the Prime Minister who is my senior, but I am seriously misunderstood for reasons I do not understand.

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**HON. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Minister, for your Point of Order. I now reverse the Floor back to the Minister to respond.

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**HON REV KONJORE**

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairman of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank everybody, first of all, for the kind support as well as also putting relevant questions and having raised concerns. Knowing and agreeing that these are our concerns, these are our questions, I do believe that we will join hands in answering these questions, maybe not necessarily today but of course in the time to come.

I would like to start from bottom up and that is, of course, *Honourable Ndaitwah*. Thank you for the kind words. Even if there are some shortcomings it is always encouraging to hear at least something positive. Comrade, thank you very much for your kind support. The same goes for the *Right Honourable Prime Minister*, thank you also for your kind support and it is true, I agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, if we want to make these parks and resorts self-supporting, we need to put in more or give more resources.

I thank the *Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement* for trying to rescue me by proposing we end the Debate and adopt the Vote. Thank you for that. Let me also thank *Honourable Ulenga* in his absence for his support and motivations and good words. I do believe somebody else also mentioned it and I, therefore, would like to venture to respond to the issue or question of mining in the parks.

It is true that if mining would be practised in the parks it certainly will have an impact on the parks itself, but we cannot deny the fact that mining is a sector and if there are minerals within the parks, we also need to tap that resource. All that I can say is that I do believe that before any mining activities can be allowed or accepted in the parks, there should be thorough consultations between the Ministries and equally also with companies and those who will be affected by any activity within those parks.

*Honourable Moongo*, I do not see where the Honourable Member is supporting the Vote but in any case, I would like to say that I would have loved to control kudu but here again I can say jokingly that I overheard one farmer saying, “*the moment you see a kudu on your farm, eat it otherwise you will not get it again.*” Therefore, I would just like to say that it is indeed a serious concern. I agree with you that many people have lost their lives through kudu, but again this is a national concern and we need to join hands. If the Honourable Moongo would succeed in mobilising the farmers, particularly the commercial farmers, who possess kudu, to

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provide the means to fence off, I would try doing the same from the side of Government.

I would like to thank *Honourable Tweya* for his support. Many times there is information that one does not have, therefore I would prefer to refrain from making any remarks on information that I do not have. As to the relationship between the Namibian Tourism Board and the NWR one would wish to have a sound and healthy relationship for the benefit of the country. Therefore, if the Honourable Member would bear with me, then maybe after six months in the office I will be able to convey what the relationship really is.

As far as legal gambling is concerned, it is true gambling is also under the jurisdiction of this Ministry but like all other Ministries and Government Institutions and the Nation at large are suffering from illegal practices. It is true that there might be illegal gambling as well and we need to mobilise all our law enforcement institution. We know we do have an Act on gambling and the Act should be implemented. We know that it was not so long ago that this very House agreed a moratorium on gambling machines and this has still to be reviewed so that we can come up with the final decision. As far as gambling and even lotteries are concerned, if I would have it my way they would have all been banned. You will understand from what background I am saying that one, but being a democrat and being a people's servant, I have to live with those. Therefore, we will have to put our heads together.

I appreciate the support from *Honourable Tjihiuko* and in fact, I cannot agree enough with him on the importance of this Ministry, the importance of this sector and of course, the importance of marketing. As far as the World Cup is concerned, I should just share with the Honourable Member as well as the House here that, as we all know, the hosting of the World Cup in the year 2010 is with South Africa but it is also equally true that there is the good gesture from South Africa who invited all the SADC countries to jointly prepare for that occasion. Only a week ago I attended a meeting in Johannesburg for the Ministers of Environment and Tourism and in brief I would just like to say this is a joint preparation and in due course countries and Governments, as development progress, will be informed as to what has to be done. Namibians should be rest assured that Namibia is trying to have its rightful share as far as these games are concerned.

*Honourable Kapia* mentioned consultants in London I still have to follow

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**HON REV KONJOORE**

up on that one. Of course, as new as I am I have to investigate, but the point is that if we as a country want to keep track with the world economy, we also have to look at what we can benefit from France, for example. What I am trying to say here is not to argue against the views expressed, but what I am trying to say is that tourism, like any other sector, is also a sector that needs to be economised. For example, if you and I travel to England, where do we pay our tickets? We pay in Namibia and we travel. All that I am trying to say is that there should be mechanisms that if tourists pay in their home countries, Namibia should get what is due to it. The other angle of the story should be, of course, to make sure that tourists spend money in our country and that I would still like to investigate.

*Honourable Tjiriange*, thank you for the support. The same goes for the payment in home countries. I think I have to investigate to have proper facts before I can feel comfortable to answer your question, but we all know that we have our historical past, we cannot forget that.

*Honourable Mutorwa*, once again thank you for your support. The problem is that to construct roads is not a cheap process, but I agree that there are problems. I myself have not been there and it is one of my intentions to shortly visit all these parks and to familiarise myself with the situations on the spot. If I would say something now it will not be based on facts, therefore please bear with me, but I agree parks and our resorts and our tourist attractions should be made accessible for tourists and for all of us, I fully agree with that.

*Honourable Deputy Minister Ilonga*, thank you for the support. It is true what you said, that being a Namibian this is still your Vote and the fact that you are now serving in another portfolio does not change that and we will have to support each other. The one thing that I still have to investigate is the issue of entrance fees and entrance fees per day. I do have a problem there because it is not so very clear to me how many times per day or how many days does one enter afresh to pay per day? I would have argued that if you enter and stay for three days, you cannot pay an entrance fee per day. This to me does not make sense, therefore I will have to investigate.

*Honourable Mudge*, thank you very much for the kind words and the positive remarks. The condition of the facilities I think we cannot deny what was said about the condition of the facilities, but when were those facilities built? What were the possibilities of maintenance? Therefore, if people today notice that this facility is run down, we should understand that there is need for resources to maintain and upgrade them to compete and

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therefore, I fully agree and it is my problem. However, we need more funds and if we can give more funds to this Ministry and it is well spent, we can make money out of this Ministry.

***Honourable Kaura***, thank you, the animal–human conflict is a very serious issue. I for one do not like to debate or talk easily about that, so let me just say it is a very serious issue. I requested my officials to compile a very clear report as to what is the extent of the problem, what can be done and I really intend to visit some of these places shortly as soon as the Budget is approved so that I can travel there and talk to the people on the ground. I do not think discussing the issue in this House will help the people out there. I want to go there talk to the people on the ground and see what is the problem and come back and report to you as national leaders as to what is happening and also to request from you as to how we can meet these people.

***Honourable Iyambo***, concerning the two cheques, I will have to investigate. I know there is a portion of the park fees that has to remain with the Ministry but why there are two cheques, I will have to investigate. My information is that they have embarked on a new fee structure which will be implemented only on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. The present fee structure has been in place since 1995, but I will have to get the proper information and come back to you. Maybe I should at the right time make a Ministerial Statement to clear all these issues.

***Honourable Kaiyamo***, thank you for your support. You know, sometimes things that people are used to are not so easy to get rid of. If people still talk about Damaraland and Hereroland, etcetera, we need to bear with them, but this does not mean that people use this in a negative sense. However, we will look into your concerns because it is true, we need unity in this country.

***Honourable Kazenambo***, if one would have been able to bring Sossusvlei and Etosha to Germany and America for them to market it themselves, it would have been a good thing to do. Sesriem will never travel to America to market itself and, therefore, we need mechanism, some maybe even expensive, but we need ways and means to market those places and to market Namibia. Comrades, your concerns are taken seriously but we will have to consult on what would be the easiest, the cheapest but the most effective ways when it comes to marketing.

If I have failed to answer some of the questions of some of the Honourable

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Members, then I apologise. Thank you for your kind support!

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**HON. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any objections? Agreed to. Honourable Members I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

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**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned under Rule 90 automatic adjournment until tomorrow 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 22:55 UNTIL 2005.06.22 AT 14:30**