



23/03/2011

APPROPRIATION BILL 2011/2012
CONTRIBUTION BY HON J //GAROEGB
PRESIDENT OF THE UDF OF NAMIBIA

Mr. Speaker, Sir,
Hon Members of this August House,

I am rising to participate in today's Budget Debate. One can easily call this year's Budget a Marathon Budget with about ten Ministries receiving far beyond one Billion Namibian Dollars mark each.

This Mr. Speaker, Sir, rekindles me to believe that the reason for the poverty and underdevelopment in Namibia is not lack of resources, but lack of resourcefulness.

Before I however proceed with the Budget, please allow me to touch on the Hon. Deputy Speaker's Outreach to the Erongo, 15-21 August 2010. I am so grateful that the Hon. Deputy Speaker's Outreach to the Erongo was, indeed, a commendable success. It, infact, brought the Parliament to the people. For the individual MP it is not so easy to do proper research in his/her Constituency, but a fully equipped Group like this Outreach is more reliable than an individual doing the study on the ground and is reporting to the Parliament.

.../reporting to the Parliament

It is also proper that this Report came to this August House at the very time we are deliberating on the Budget for this year. I as a lawmaker am elected to articulate the needs, aspirations and hopes of the electorate – hence I am delighted to see that my Hon. Colleagues from this August House are going an extra mile to live-up to the expectations of our people.

We are very concerned about the poverty and the underdevelopment of both rural and urban areas in the Erongo Region. According to the Auditor-General's Reports a great number of Municipalities, Towns, Villages and Settlements are bankrupt. Out of these about twenty one (21) residential areas our Government singled out Usakos, Karibib and Uis to be degraded to a lower status.

It is our view that the government must support local authorities in order to make services affordable and sustainable as is the case with parastatals like Transnamib and Air Namibia ect.

Since the beginning of this year I am advising the Government to take heed of the position of Usakos. Usakos, a historic town now degraded by the Government from a status of a Municipality to that of a town without proper consultation with the leadership and residents. Today Usakos is a sight for the sore eyes of everyone on the Trans Kalahari International Road but in stead of bailing it out of any misery, the Government rather found it fit to degrade it to make its status even worst which it really does not deserve.

.../really does not deserve

Following feasible Projects were envisaged for Usakos immediately after independence and we would like our Government to relook them, namely, the Oil Refinery was a well thought after Project which would be establish with Angolan blessing. The second Project was that of a Dry Fishery. These two Projects would make Usakos development pron.

We further contend that since New Uranium Mines are mushrooming in the near vicinity of Usakos, a Joint Venture needs to be negotiated for building houses for Mineworkers and subsequent development which can be beneficial to both institutions. Since, in the words of the Hon. Deputy Speaker's Outreach, the potential of Uranium mining in the coastal areas leads to the commissioning of new mines, which create social challenges for the municipality, especially in the areas of housing.

Mines only have a short lifespan before the minerals are exploited, existing and potential mining companies should therefore be obligated to invest in existing towns and infrastructure, especially housing, as part of their social responsibility. This will also discourage the formation of ghost towns.

We cannot understand why Karibib, an upcoming mine town with eminent development in the right direction, has been degraded from a municipality to a town status.

There are other Municipalities country wide which are not better off than Karibib which has a potential to sustainable growth which is condusive for a town on the Trans Kalahari International Road.

.../trans Kalahari International Road

We believe that Uis, a beautiful ex-mine village can with only a little support from the local government, develop into a tourist center what it already is. Uis, again without any proper consultation with the leadership and residents, was degraded to the status of a Settlement Area and is now systematically moving in a direction to become a ghost town.

Honorable Speaker

Honorable members of the National Assembly

Coming back to the Budget details.

The budget 2011/12 reads the following at some paragraphs;

And I quote

“Starting this financial year, the Government will implement a Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (or TIPEEG). This program is aimed specifically at addressing economic growth and the high unemployment rate through support to strategic growth sectors. The TIPEEG will focus on four key sectors, namely, agriculture, transport, tourism and housing and sanitation.

The total budget for the programme over the MTEF is provided under each of the sectors and it amounts to N\$ 9.1 billion. Inclusive of Public Works, the allocation for job creation amounts to N\$14.7 billion. It is envisaged that the implementation of TIPEEG will result in the preservation and creation of about 104,000 direct and indirect job opportunities.”

.../indirect job opportunities

End of Quote

My questions on this are as follows:

- How will the Government and the lined Ministries ensure that the private sector comes to cooperation in implementing these ideals of this budget in creating much needed jobs and not necessary double counting their previous efforts while reaping the benefits of the new budget in accessing the business opportunities as created by the current budget?
- (I raise this question against the known reality that the national government spend fuel's much of the economic flow in the country and that it is rather time for the private sector to respond effectively through the identified sectors)
- Most of the private sectors institutions would published their Corporate Social Responsibility in making donations that they even get tax benefits from but the principles of creating more jobs are basically compromise:

I would like to understand the measurements or tools that TIPEEG is going to exercise in tracking the intended new jobs to be created by this budget?

Health expenditure allocation:

A look at the composition of health expenditure reveals that more than 80% of the Ministry's budget goes into current expenditure. It is encouraging to see that capital/development expenditure has been increasing rising from 7% in 2007 to 17% of total expenditure in 2011, indicating that the Ministry has been investing more in health infrastructure such as hospitals, clinics, medications and equipments and if this trend continues Namibia will not only provide quality health to its people...

.../health to its people

My question on this is as follows:

- The spending on the new infrastructure and services in an attempt to bring services to much needed places throughout the country. is highly appreciated?

However I would like to understand if there are programmes in-place for the Government (Ministry of Health in this regard in its budgetary expenditure submission to Finance) in maintaining the much needed standards and conditions of this new and existing infrastructure and services to avoid any large re-allocation of funds for mayor spending again?

Allocation **to** **Education**
Since independence, education has received the largest share of our country's budget and this year is no different, with education receiving more than N\$8.0 billion or 22% of total budget.

When people are educated they are able to find work and improve the quality of their lives and the lives of their families.

Although education receives the largest share of the national wealth, it spends more than 90% of its budget on consumption or current expenditure, and spending very little, less than 10% capital expenditures, explaining the reason why there is a still high shortage of schools, hostels, text books, school desks,.

- How does this budget intend to redress this situation in making education a reality for every child in Namibia, irrespective of the economic status ~~of~~

National Police

With regard to the right of every Namibian to personal security, we are facing and experiencing increase crime and violence, which includes gender-based violence.

.../gender-based violence

On the crime front the electronic frauds have hit our Country and our citizens have fell victim to this type of crimes, electronic frauds and scams that are committed.

Honorable Minister my analyses tell me that we as the country did not do much in budgeting for capacity building, training and up skilling our police f Police officers in both the prevention and investigation of criminal activities, with specific reference to this crimes.

- How responsive is this budget in this regard of crime prevention and investigation?

May I rest my case

I thank you

