

Hon. Speaker

" MEMBERS

I rise to congratulate Hon. Saara Kugongelwa-Amadhila, our Minister of Finance for the forward looking and people-centered budget.

As in the past, the Hon. Minister has risen to the occasion and ensured that social justice, education and health formed the centre-piece of the budget.

I equally wish to commend the Hon. Minister for her determination to help grow the Namibian economy by allocating resources to critical sectors. Here, of particular importance is the focus on infrastructure development.

Hon. Speaker, there is a need to grow our economy. The establishment of the SME Bank is indeed a commendable step towards levelling the playing ground for our SMEs. What is however critical is the fact that we need to adequately fund the new Bank in order for it to play its intended role in helping to create an enterprise culture in our country.

Allow me, therefore, to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister and his former Team at the Ministry of Trade and Industry for establishing the SME Bank.

If the SME sector is not taken care of than we cannot talk of growing our economy. After all the SME sector is one of the biggest contributors to employment creation.

Hon. Speaker, coming back to the Budget, allow me to, thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for the tax relief for individuals which I greatly welcome. The tax relief is, indeed, an outstanding element in the budget that has direct and immediate impact on our citizens.

In conclusion, the Honourable Minister of Finance has, indeed, made huge efforts in coming up with a budget framework that carries immense optimism despite the current global and local economic situation.

With these comments, I conclude my contribution.

I support the Appropriation Bill

Comrade Speaker, I thank you.