

Contribution of Budget - 2014/2015

By

Dr. M. Amweelo

Comrade speaker

Honourable members of the National Assembly

Allow me to join the other Honorable members who are already congratulated Hon. Minister of Finance, comrade Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa Amadhila, and Director General of National Planning Commission (NPC) Comrade Tom Alweendo on a job well done in the preparation of this budget.

Comrade Speaker my contribution will be basing mainly on the Development Programmes Book and the theme of the budget “Fiscal Sustainability and Job-- Creating Growth—Doing More with Less”. I’m going to talk about two things namely: Infrastructure Investment and Human Investment. On page 6, number 12 of the Minister’s Budget Statement she mentioned about the expanding the economy to achieve high economic growth rates with jobs, by investing in infrastructure. I’m 100% agree with her statement.

The big question is: Why we need infrastructure investment?

We need good hard and soft Infrastructure (such as: Transport infrastructure, Energy infrastructure, Water management infrastructure, Communication infrastructure, Solid waste management infrastructure and Earth

monitoring and measurement networks we also need good soft infrastructure such as: Governance infrastructure, Economic infrastructure, Social infrastructure, Culture, sports and recreational infrastructure) **to get our regions working again Enterprise zones and beyond: good roads, high speed broadband and functioning transport hubs are essential to ensure prosperity for all.**

Budget documents tabled by Cde Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa- Amadhila say: NBC will get over N\$ 1 billion over three years. The money will be used for operating expenses infrastructure network improvement, implementation of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) migration and upgrading of studios. On 24 February 2014 the Standing Committee on ICT has invited NBC Director General with his Staff to brief the Committee on DTT project and the Committee was happy about the progress made by NBC so far. I think this is great news for the regional economy. If the capital is the nation's financial heart, then the regions are most definitely the backbone. Put simply, we need to do all we can to ensure **jobs are created** and prosperity returns to all parts of the country.

On page 15 of the Minister's Budget Statement: with regard to Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEG). A total of N\$14.5 billion has been allocated for three 3 years, it is very good but, I think we need more funds to invest in infrastructure so that we could increase the estimated 83 315 jobs. If we ignore this then the long-awaited economic recovery could well take a lot longer than expected.

