

Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP)

Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) – observation on the appropriation bill 2016/2017

Honourable: Benson Poniso Kaapala

- ❖ **Honourable speaker, honourable members**, allow me to use this opportunity to applaud the Minister of Finance and his distinguished team on the effort invested on the budgetary allocation for the 2016/2017 financial term, the projections look impressive to say the least. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all honourable members of parliament for the support they have shown the past year, in this August house. This is certainly a clear indication that irrespective of our various political affiliations and facets, we are of a common objective, and that is of building the Nation as a team, each and every Namibian, where everybody plays their part and various levels- the right step of an all inclusivity government
- ❖ **Honourable speaker**, my perspective regarding party politics in this country, politics should have its platform and an audience, than to use it when we are voted into positions of influence by the electorate. Party politicking has deprived the electorates from developing at the required momentum and socio- economic growth in many facets of this country. **Honourable speaker**, politics is both a catalyst of socio-economic growth, prosperity, and democracy AND, a time bomb of economic adversity and anarchy if misused, distinguished honourable members, it will do us a world of good if we desist from Mal political practice. A nation is

built on a solid political ideologies, it's a tool we should take cognizance as ambassadors of this nation

- ❖ **Honourable speaker, honourable members**, my perspectives on the budgetary allocation for the 2016/2017 financial term will be brief, often we hear people employed on political grounds in contrast to their skills set and competency be it the private sector or government where nepotism seems to thrive- we should not condone this practice, and perhaps come up with a more transparent procedure, where say a that *“it's not what you know, but who know exists”* does not exist. Employment created through comradeship as political compensation should desist in this all inclusive present government. **Honourable speaker, honourable members**, we are happy that Namibia has adopted a political pluralism, which would aid to check and balance our development in this country.
- ❖ The issues of discrimination in this country should stop (note: SWATF/KOEVOT), we are reminded of the racial discrimination practised by the white minority government before the independence that provoked anarchy and a revolution. Namibia has a good reflection of the past in this regard, please that heed that the budget is for each and every Namibian son and daughter irrespective of their political standing, whether employed or not, old, young, tribal group or race or ethnicity and religion, this is an all-inclusive government, lets act as such.
- ❖ Regions should be capacitated to plan and forecast for their people at grass root level, we still have regional and local governments that lack the expertise and capacity to optimise their budgets after 26 years of independence, and this is evident at the disparity of socio-economic growth from one region to another. We need a radical shift or approach in this regard, as stipulated in the constitution of this great nation, article 10 of the regional council Act 1992 and the policy of decentralisation which was adopted in

1998, providing implantation guidelines and broader citizen economic participation in decision making.

- ❖ The budget should encourage and amplify innovation ,creativity and industrialization by investing in our people with productive ideas, this will at one and the same create employment and catalyse economic development and industrialization we so desperately lack after 26 years of independence , government alone will fail , with certainty if we are flying solo.
- ❖ Entrepreneurship has driven many world economies to stardom, and I commend government of taking cognizance of this and investing in efforts to include this as one of our valued economic tools, however, I have an issue with financial institutions tasked for this assignment in the way; they make funds available to aspiring and struggling business owners. The criteria employed by these institutions to avail capital are rather too stringent. Many people don't have the financial security to obtain loans so they start-up their businesses, this should be revisited and we should look for ways to relax this strict policies on firm and viable ideas.
- ❖ Housing is a basic need; this has been privatised, which has limited our people to have access to shelter, We as a government have not put measures in place to curb the housing prices going through the roofs, if honourable members of parliament fail to purchase/rent a house , what about the ordinary citizens? The budget ought to address this issue with the urgency and vigour it demands.
- ❖ **Honourable speaker, honourable members** candidly, I am very disappointed on how sport and sporting infrastructure is underfunded in this country relative to other countries, the sporting industry as we all know is a multibillion dollar industry if well invested and groomed, we have done little to nothing to have a slice of this industry latter on develop or nature sporting careers at an international level
- ❖ My views on the new parliament building as many of you are that I support that idea of a new parliament building, and parliamentary

infrastructure for law and policy making. Under funding will jeopardise the performance of parliament in the county, we have a constitutional mandate to have an over sight function under Article 59, rules and procedures, committees and standing orders. We have parliamentary committees struggling to reach out because of funding this needs serious attention. It is important for members of Parliament to be afforded adequate resources to do research on important issues diligently.

- ❖ The Health ministry – has an enormous task to provide quality health care to all citizens of this country, the issue of referrals should be revised, and Government must ensure that everyone has access to quality health care at regional level. How is it that quality health care and health infrastructures is not equally distributed in all the regions, this is evident in the case of Zambezi region and most of other regions where patients are desperately referred to other nearby regions to have access to this facilities in pickups bakkies at time , this is negligent and dreadful. Our health system and access thereof is lukewarm and efforts should be made to upgrade, I hope we address that with this current budget
- ❖ In conclusion **Honourable speaker, honourable members**, the policy of inclusivity as adopted by this government should address the “elephant in the room” The SWATF/KOEVOET saga, this group of people should not be discriminated against, this is what I was speaking off earlier when I reiterated the national budget allocation covering everyone, this group are as much a part of us, as any Namibian and have developed to the economy of this country as any patriotic/productive citizen has. Let us embrace the policy of national reconciliation and *Harambe*. They deserve their pensions and recognition as war vets, as agreed in resolution 435 of 1978.

I thank you

