



2013/2014

BUDGET MOTIVATION SPEECH

APPROPRIATION VOTE 12

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR

BY

HONORABLE ROSALIA NGHIDINWA (MP)

17 April 2013

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee

Honourable Members of this August House,

I rise to motivate Vote 12 of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. First of all, I would like to thank Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance and the Director General of the National Planning Commission and their teams for presenting a well-articulated National budget for 2013/2014 focusing on the priorities of the country. The Ministry appreciate the budget allocation for this financial year and promise to make use of it effectively and efficiently.

During the tabling of this budget in this august house by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on 26 February 2013 under the theme *"Growing the Economy, Optimizing Development Outcomes, Jointly Doing More with Less"*, various ministries and Government institutions were reminded to prioritise their activities by delivering more with limited resources. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare would honour your request Hon. Minister to do more with the meager resources

at our disposal. This is indeed a people-centred and development oriented budget policy, which our Government has consistently and persistently pursued over the years. The budget is also in line with the SWAPO-Party top priorities with a huge allocation to education, health and other critical sectors of our economy. However, while appreciating the budget allocated to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, my aspiration is that the allocation to this social ministry be increased in the years to come, taking into account the central and important role of the Ministry; which is ensuring that women, men and children are taken care of.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; Namibia has ratified the UN Convention on the rights of the child and the African Charter, both comprehensive instruments that sets out rights and defines universal principles and norms for the status of children. She is among the few countries providing child welfare grants to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). I am proud to announce that one hundred and forty five, four hundred and fifty two children (145 452) received grants during 2012/2013

financial year which represent 94% of 155 000 orphans in the country.

Through income generating activities, the Ministry encourages community members to embark upon economically viable projects that will improve their lives and that of their families and that are sustainable in the long run. In the preceding financial year 2012/13 the Ministry facilitated the transfer of an amount of N\$1,000,000.00 (one million) to 13 Regional Councils, earmarked for funding such Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in the respective regions. Out of the total, eighty eight (88) IGAs, 70 are owned by women. This is in line with the national gender policy which aims at “creating a society in which women and men enjoys equal rights and equal access to basic services as well as opportunities to participate in and contribute towards political, social, economic and cultural development of Namibia”.

Other additional achievements of the Ministry of Gender Equality during the past Financial Year includes the development of Namibian Standards of ECD centres, training of 122 kindergarten teachers, and 10 community kindergarten or ECD centres were

constructed, while 18 have been renovated. Irrespective of the mentioned progress and achievements, the need to expand and improve ECD centres remains.

Furthermore, the Ministry commenced to provide subsidies to Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres that meet set standards. Currently, and for the first time, the Ministry is piloting the provision of ECD subsidies in the form of monthly allowances to ECD caregivers (kindergarten teachers) prioritising those serving the poor and marginalized communities. Over 150 ECD centres (two from each constituency) have caregivers receiving monthly allowance from the government and close to 300 caregivers are benefiting from this initiative. Following the set criteria, more caregivers will continue to be added on the subsidies system every financial year.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members

Let me now take this opportunity to take you through the budget allocation of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for

the 2013/2014 financial year and outline individual programmes for which the funds will be utilised. An amount of **N\$ 531,317,000 (Five Hundred and Thirty One Million, Three Hundred and Seventeen Thousand)** is allocated for 2013/2014 Financial Year. Out of that amount, **N\$ 500, 333, 000 (Five Hundred Million, Three Hundred and Thirty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is allocated for Operational budget of the Ministry, while **N\$ 30, 984, 000 (Thirty Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Four Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is allocated for Developmental programmes.

Although the total allocated funds to our Ministry is not adequate to sustain gender equality programmes and are inadequate to win the war against Gender Based Violence, we are indebted to your all round support, especially from the Honourable Speaker, who tabled the unopposed motion on GBV in this august house; Honourable Members and the entire community we must overcome this dark page in our history. Women and girls are raped, maimed and murdered every day; and babies are being

dumped; and this brutal killing of our women must be addressed by all members of the Namibian society.

This is a Constitutional and human right call, which require collected efforts by all of us; government, communities, NGOs, and all stakeholders to devise mechanisms to address these uncalled for social behaviour, in order to protect the lives of the Namibian people as it is stipulated in Article 6 (8) (2) b and 10 (2) of our Constitution.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members; the Ministry will use its budget for the following programmes:

PROGRAMME 1: Policy Supervision and Support Services

This program provides administration support services, ensure efficient and effective service delivery, Mainstream HIV and AIDS programs, strengthen coordination and networking at all levels, promote ICT usage and access, improve staff competence, facilitate

the development and acquisition of specialized skilled staff, budget planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable members, with effect from 2013/14, the Ministry is geared towards operationalising community empowerment centres in all 13 Regions, in order to promote women and men economic empowerment. These centres will be used to train women and men on income generating activities with special emphasis on women. To this effect, the construction of community empowerment centres has been completed at Aminus in Omaheke and Outapi in Omusati Regions.

Others have already been completed during the previous Financial Years such as Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Okongo, Ongwediva, Kalkrand, Opuwo, Tsintsabis, Tsunkwe and Gobabis of which renovations have been provided for in this budget.

For the Regions such as Karas and Erongo, provision has been made in this Financial Year for the construction and feasibility study respectively.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, for the last two Financial Years, the Ministry embarked upon the construction and renovation of the Juvenis Building (former Nictus Building), for office accommodation at Head Office in Windhoek. These projects will be completed by the end of September 2013.

Other capital development activities to be undertaken this Financial Year are the renovation of Regional and Constituency Offices of our Ministry, the construction of new Constituency Offices of the Ministry of Gender in Okatjali, Epembe; Omuthiya, Sesfontein, Stampriet; and the renovation of Children Homes and After School Centres in Windhoek and Homes of Safeties in Opuwo and Khorixas.

A total amount of (N\$ 93, 038, 000) Ninety Three Million and Thirty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars) is allocated for this programme inclusive of capital projects.

Programme 2. Care and Protection of Children:

This programme focus on the protection and rights of children as a legal and moral obligation which is provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, as was ratified by Namibia. This programme offer support to poor and vulnerable children in the form of child welfare and orphans grants just to meet their basic needs. However, the value of these grants is being depleted by inflation and there is a need to increase the monetary value of the grants from the current N\$ 200 per month, as well as to expand such support to other vulnerable children who are not yet covered such as impoverished, neglected and street children, which we think will address poverty among vulnerable groups in Namibia. Soon, the Ministry will provide this august house with an Atlas of orphans and vulnerable children in Namibia, and the Ministry will continue conducting studies into effective, viable, and sustainable mechanisms of supporting orphans and vulnerable children in our country.

An amount of N\$ 377,658,000 (Three Hundred and Seventy Seven Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars) is allocated to this program for the 2013/2014 financial year.

PROGRAMME 3: Support Community and Early Childhood Development

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members;

The purpose of this programme is to empower disadvantaged urban and rural communities through mobilization of communities towards sustainable socio-economic development. Through this programme, communities are supported financially and technically to start viable Income Generating Activities in an effort to create employment opportunities and improving livelihoods for rural and urban communities; especially women to increase their participation in the economy.

The Ministry would like to target the most vulnerable communities of Ovatwe in Kunene Region, Khwe San in Western Caprivi, San community in Omusati, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Ohangwena and Kavango Regions.

This programme also mobilizes and supports parents and community involvement in early childhood care, education and development issues for children from 0-4 years of age. Early childhood development lays the foundation for learning, and prepares children to become useful citizens and to lead productive future lives. It is also worth mentioning that the government is preparing to transfer the function of Early Childhood Development from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to the Ministry of Education during the course of NDP 4.

An amount of N\$46,218,000 (Forty Six Million and Two Hundred and Eighteen Thousand) is allocated for this programme.

PROGRAMME 4: Promotion of Gender Mainstreaming and Empowerment of Women

The main purpose of this programme is to improve the status of women and girls to that of men and boys by ensuring equal access to all the available resources for sustainable development.

This includes the promotion of positive cultural practices and beliefs, development of gender responsible policies and laws, gender research and gender mainstreaming at all levels.

Under this programme the Ministry will increase awareness at all level of structures, in order to influence the increasing of women representation in politics and decision making structures, as per the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development; from the current **25% (2012)** to 50% by 2015. The Ministry will ensure that gender responsive laws and policies are developed and existing ones are reviewed or amended for gender responsiveness. While the Ministry is continuing to implement the National Gender Policy and the National Gender Based Violence (GBV) Plan of Action; it will strive to empower women economically through Income

Generating Activities; and participating in all major economic sectors.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members; there is a realization that when women are empowered economically; their empowerment translates into economic liberation which in turn lessens their dependency to men and vulnerability to gender based violence most especially from their men counterparts. Therefore, I am appealing to this august house to revise all the necessary policies and legislation to ensure that women are participating in the country's economic activities such as public works and procurement, agriculture, mining, fisheries, commercial and communal farming through the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and tourism; based on equal percentages.

Honourable Members, the Ministry will continue to strengthen programmes and strategies to combat the evil of gender based violence which is badly affecting our society today. The Zero Tolerance Campaign against GBV, human trafficking, baby dumping and brutal killing should be every day's activity until the battle against gender based violence is won.

In addition; the Ministry will be conducting an in - depth research on Gender Based Violence to identify the root causes of such phenomena that is devastating the image of women and girl child in Namibia.

An amount of N\$14,403,000 (Fourteen Million Four Hundred and Three Thousand Namibian Dollars) is allocated to this programme.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members

I will fail my duty if I do not acknowledge the valuable support from our development partners. They continue to commit resources through various programs such as capacity building and technical support in legislation, policy development and monitoring and evaluation of our programs. In particular, I would like to thank UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN WOMEN and USAID through the President's Emergency Programme for AIDS Reliefs (PEPFAR), Global Fund and others. We are thankful for the substantial resources received from the Global Fund program to

support caregivers in providing psychosocial support to vulnerable children.

I equally would like to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and the entire staff of the Ministry for their valuable contribution.

Indeed I am humbled; to thank H.E. the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hifikepunye Lukas Pohamba, for trusting me to lead the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

In conclusion, the Ministry is aware of the serious situation of draught, which the government is facing due to climate changes which might have impacted upon the allocation of funds to this Ministry **from N\$ 567, 989, 000 (Five Hundred and Sixty Seven Million, Nine Hundred, Eighty Nine Thousand)** in the 2012/13 Financial Year, **to N\$ 531, 317, 000 (Five Hundred and Thirty One Million, Three Hundred and Seventeen Thousand)** this financial year, however, with the limited allocation at our disposal, we have opted to do more with less.

It is now my humble honour to request this august house to approve the budget allocated to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare under vote 12 amounting to **N\$ 531,317,000 (Five Hundred and Thirty One Million, Three Hundred and Seventeen Thousand)** for 2013/2014 Financial Year.

Stop Gender Based Violence, Speak Out.

I THANK YOU