



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MOTIVATION FOR THE BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR VOTE 03

FOR THE

2013/2014 FINANCIAL YEAR

BY

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SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WINDHOEK

16 APRIL 2013

Check against delivery

Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Hon. Members,

I rise to motivate Vote 03 for your consideration. I begin by thanking Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her entire team for the well-articulated and people-centered budget focusing on *Growing the Economy and Optimizing Development Outcomes*. Hon. Minister, we support your notion of “*Jointly Doing More with Less*”. Equally, I thank the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and his team for excellent teamwork.

Leadership leads nation-building and sustainable social development, including poverty eradication and gender –mainstreaming and without neglecting youth empowerment. This is the House of national leaders, catalysts for promoting the Constitution, ensuring national reconciliation, enlightening the born-frees and our children generally to keep hope alive towards brighter and prosperous future for all. It is through competence and unity of purpose that we must strive to inspire that confidence for a better future. As a wise leader has said, “I you have no plan, you are carrying out someone else’s plan.” Another great thinker complemented that thought saying, “We are here on earth to do good unto others. What others are here for, I have no idea.” We must thus not prevaricate but lead by example and common purpose.

That said:

During the past financial year, the National Assembly implemented most of its activities that were planned. Starting with the development

budget, I am happy to inform the House that the renovations to the Parliament Building were completed in May 2012. The feasibility study for the New Parliament building has also been finalised. In this regard, a Parliamentary Committee consisting of Members of Parliament and staff will work together with the consultants appointed by the Ministry of Works and Transport to ensure the success of this project. Let me mention here that no funds were provided for this project during this financial year due to the late completion of the feasibility study. Thus, we expect work to commence during the 2014/15 financial year. About this I regret.

Regarding the operational budget, apart from the practical administrative activities of the Secretariat and the House, the Standing Committees have continued to conduct their oversight activities in different regions of the country. Exchange and study visits were also undertaken to other parliaments in the region and internationally to further strengthening inter-parliamentary relations. Financial assistance to political parties represented in the National Assembly remained an item and represents 24% of the budget. A Joint Parliamentary Committee was established with the view of strengthening cooperation between the two Houses of Parliament with a particular aim of looking at the structures and needs of Parliament as a whole. More on this will be reported at a later stage. Making Parliament visible and getting the citizenry to participate in the law making process also continued to be a priority.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

The National Assembly for this financial year is requesting an amount of **One hundred and twenty two million, eight hundred and twenty thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$122 820 000)** for both the operational and development budget.

This amount requested will be utilised as follows:

Programme 1 – Legislative Management: N\$14 872 000
(Fourteen million, eight hundred and seventy two thousand Namibian dollars)

The aim of this programme is to provide leadership and guidance on and support for the respect of National Assembly proceedings and procedures and related administrative services to the Presiding Officers and Members of Parliament.

This programme will ensure the speedy and accurate procession of legislation, session papers, the production of the Hansard, as well as the provision of timely, relevant and constructive support to the Presiding Officers.

Programme 2: Coordination and Support Services: N\$107 948 000
(One hundred and seven million, nine hundred and forty eight thousand Namibian dollars)

This programme consist of three main activities as follows:

Activity 1: Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services: N\$57 712 000 (Fifty seven million, seven hundred and twelve thousand Namibian dollars)

The purpose of this activity is to provide administrative support and legal advice to the Vote's programmes and to ensure proper financial management, optimal deployment of resources and capacity building.

The activity will also focus on implementing the relevant requirements of Human and Financial Resources. It will also focus on staff training and capacity development for Members of Parliament.

As indicated earlier, the renovation to the Parliament building was completed in May last year. The amount of **five hundred thousand Namibian dollars** (N\$500 000) on the development budget this financial year, is to pay the retention fees to the contractor.

Activity 2: Information services: N\$9 180 000 (Nine million, one hundred and eighty thousand Namibian dollars)

The main aim of this activity is to provide relevant and up to date information, research, and library and ICT services to Members of Parliament and the Secretariat. It is also involves the improvement of communication through innovative use of technology by providing adequate ICT services at Parliament

Further, with collaboration of the National Council public awareness on the functions of Parliament will also be intensified. On 11 April 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Chairman of the National Council and the

Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia for the development of a new parliamentary website.

Activity 3: Parliamentary Committee Services:
N\$41 056 000 (Forty one million, fifty six thousand Namibian dollars)

The main purpose of this programme is to render on-going and effective services to the nine Standing Committees of the National Assembly in their quest to perform their constitutional oversight mandate. Parliament pays membership fees to the SADC PF, IPU and CPA and thus also participate in these Parliamentary organisations activities including PAP. The AU Commission and PAP are yet to do more than talking to enhance competence. The IPU has raised the bar and the UN expects our inputs as well. With that more resources will be required.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,

In conclusion, I now urge you kindly to approve the request of **One hundred and twenty two million, eight hundred and twenty thousand Namibia dollars (N\$122 820 000)** for Vote 3. Further details regarding vote 3 can be found on pages 47 – 53 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework as well as pages 43 – 48 of the Estimates of the Revenue Expenditure books.

I thank you