



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

VOTE 14 (MLSW)

BUDGET MOTIVATION STATEMENT
2014/15

BY HONOURABLE MINISTER DOREEN SIOKA, MP

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members,

Introduction

The Mandate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare which is to *provide labour, employment and social welfare services in accordance with the Namibian Constitution.*

Our country is faced with immense challenges of high unemployment, which now stands at 27.4%, low wages that perpetuate extreme income inequality and intolerable conditions of employment in some major sectors of our national economy. We have witnessed in recent weeks with respect to on-site housing conditions and inhuman modes of transporting workers as well as wide spread vulnerability amongst the elderly and disabled persons particularly in rural areas. Given these precarious circumstances facing our people, the role of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has never before been more vital to the socio-economic development of our nation.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

Allow me to first highlight the main achievements of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for the financial year 2013/2014 as follows:

1. Employment

The Ministry achieved important milestones in its strategy to effectively facilitate employment and to coordinate employment creation efforts. As a result,

- **The Second National Employment Policy was launched**

This dynamic policy is product of extensive social dialogue and collaboration between the Ministry and its social partners, the employers' organisations and the trade unions, together with a wide range of Ministries and agencies, State-owned enterprises and civil society institutions, which sets forth a comprehensive strategy for employment creation in key sectors. The Policy articulates how we can create employment that is targeted in the Fourth National Development

Plan (NDP4) with detailed action plans for the implementation of the strategies by key role players.

- **National Employment Conference**

The Ministry has successfully organized the Employment Conference for the period 24-25 October 2013. The Conference which deliberated on the strategies to create employment was necessitated by the high rate of unemployment in the country. Key among the highlights of the Conference is that His Excellency the President has launched the National Employment Policy at the Conference. A task force was established at the Conference to oversee the implementation of the Policy. I will report on the impact of the task force in the next Financial Year End 2014/2015.

- **Launch of the Integrated Employment Information System.**

The Ministry has launched a Computerized System called Namibia Integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS) in terms of the Employment Service Act, Act no. 8 of 2011 on the 4 December 2013. Following the successful launch, the Ministry has commenced a mass registration which was carried out in all fourteen regions to register job seekers. The system is a comprehensive database to facilitate employment of the unemployed and employment planning, to register job seekers, identify the skilled and yet unemployed with the intention to find employment for them. Employers are required to register vacancies with the Ministry for the system and are also required to employ job seekers from the system. The design of the whole process is such that it continues to match the unemployed with prospective employers, while at the same time registering training and education providers so that the Ministry is in position to advice job seekers where they can upgrade their skills.

The registration process is on-going. NIEIS can be accessed electronically at Namibia@work.com

- **Enhanced professional testing services offered by the Ministry to facilitate career planning and employment**

