



**MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION**

BUDGET SPEECH

VOTE 07

FOR THE 2017/2018 FINANCIAL YEAR

BY

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members

1. A number of developments took place since I presented to this August House the 2016/2017 budget of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. Last year in July, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation convened the Foreign Policy Review Conference. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you Honourable members, for your support, active participation and contribution. Some of you Honourable members were resource persons at the said conference. The discussions at that conference were enriching and enlightening. The outcome document will soon be tabled before Parliament and I shall speak at length on this issue then.
2. This review process was necessitated by the dynamics of the international system. We live in a world marked by constant change. International peace and security concerns continue to dominate the global agenda and the world security appears increasingly fragile.
3. At the continental level, the resolve of the African Union on condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of governments was almost tested when the legitimately elected leader of The Gambia was sworn in as President in the neighbouring country of Senegal, due to the outgoing President who almost thwarted the democratically expressed will of The Gambian people. Peace continue to evade the young Republic of South Sudan. In Somalia the political process is consolidating. In our region, the situation in Lesotho is again receiving attention of the SADC member states. After more than 20 years of voluntary exile from the OAU, Morocco has joined the AU. Our continental body, the AU has a new Chairperson of the Commission, His Excellency Mr Moussa Faki of the Republic of Chad.
4. The United Nations have a new Secretary General. Migration in search of better livelihood or escaping conflict is on the rise, creating a humanitarian situation never experienced before. The global economic slowdown is continuing and countries are feeling the effects. Environmental degradation

continue to impede sustainable development and Namibia is not left untouched.

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5. A few days ago, Namibia celebrated its 27th Independence anniversary. In doing so, we paid tribute to the heroes and heroines of our national liberation struggle, and celebrated our political, social and economic achievements to date. We also reiterated our gratitude and appreciation to those who stood with us during the dark and painful days. On the same occasion, messages of congratulations from our friends and partners continued to stream in and for that we are most grateful. This is important for, our bilateral and multilateral partners are integral to the realization of our national development aspirations. Notwithstanding, international cooperation should be for mutual benefit and not create a squeeze win-lose equation. As it is a norm in other countries, in pursuing bilateral and multilateral cooperation, Namibia must not tolerate the flouting of our national laws by those we are engaging. We will only continue to be a respectable and trusted member of the international community by not only honouring our obligations globally, but equally enforcing our own laws here at home, be they economic or social in nature.
6. Our position on the right to self-determination and independence of the people of Western Sahara has been clear and consistent. We believe this right to be indivisible. Therefore, the admission of the Kingdom of Morocco into the African Union (AU), does not change in anyway Namibia's position on the right to self-determination as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the AU. Namibia expects the Kingdom of Morocco, as a member of the AU to fully comply with the principles, values and obligations enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the AU and relevant United Nations resolutions.

We call on Morocco and Western Sahara as members of one family, to commit themselves to reaching a peaceful settlement. Namibia stands ready to work with both parties in order to find a lasting solution.

REVIEW OF THE 2016/2017 FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRAINTS

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members

7. The Ministry highly appreciate the guidance and leadership being provided by H.E. Dr Hage G. Geingob. During the past budget year, the Ministry facilitated and organized State / Official visits of H.E. The President to Botswana, Zambia, USA, Britain, France, South Africa and Cuba. Inbound visit by the President of India was also facilitated. We also facilitated participation to multilateral summits such as SADC, AU, Non-Alignment and the UN General Assembly. We also rendered similar services for your good selves in this august house. Likewise, Namibia received numerous high level visits resulting in the further consolidation of our bilateral relations and cooperation with various countries. The two Deputy Ministers at MIRCO and I also undertook a substantive number of official visits and likewise we received many of our counterparts during the last financial year. These visits provide excellent and rare opportunities for Heads of State to exchange views on matters that are of mutual interest. The visits further serve to strengthen bilateral relations and present ample opportunities for us to mobilize and galvanise international support around our national development priorities. It is also important to note that it is during such events that partnerships are formed, Agreements signed and unfinished business concluded.

8. The past year also witnessed yet another period of depressing drought. As part of our bilateral cooperation, our diplomatic missions vigorously mobilized the international community for assistance in mitigating the drought in our country. In this regard, Namibia appreciates the food and material support received from all bilateral and multilateral partners.

I also wish to inform this august house that Namibia and South Africa continued to engage on the boundaries of the Orange River while negotiations between Namibia and Germany with regard to the Genocide committed in Namibia by the German imperial troops are also continuing.

9. MIRCO also spearheads the effort to have many Namibians employed at international organisations. To this end, MIRCO has created a link of international vacancies on its website as a central point for Namibians to know the organisations and available vacancies that are on offer. Having Namibians employed in international organisations not only creates employment for Namibian nationals, but it also benefits the country in terms of skill acquisition. As President Hage G. Geingob said, we must no longer talk of brain drain but brain gain.

10. Our effective participation in the AU activities as well as the honoring of our obligations have raised Namibia's profile. In this regard, I wish to congratulate H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, who was nominated as a Board Member of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), and also as one of the ten Champions for education, science and technology in Africa, representing the Southern African Region in both cases.

11. In addition, H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, was also invited to become one of the Champions to promote infrastructure development in Africa.

12. In our endeavors to promote good governance and rule of law, Namibia acceded to the African Peer-Review Mechanism (APRM) as the 36th Member States. The Ministry will now begin to establish the required structures.

13. During the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Namibia deposited its instruments of ratification of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, following ratification by Parliament on 13 September 2016, the agreement entered into from the 4th November 2016. Similarly, Namibia launched its bid to host the African Regional Office for the Green Climate Fund, and has signed the Privileges and Immunities Agreement.

14. During the same session of the United Nations General Assembly, Madam Monica Geingos our First Lady was appointed as UNAIDS Special Advocate for Young Women and Adolescent girls.

15. On 22 September 2016, Namibia co-hosted an event on Women, Peace and Security (UNSC Resolution 1325) with Italy, Spain and the United Arab Emirates entitled "A new agenda for Women, Peace and Security and Mediation," to advance gender equality in the world. I am also happy to inform this august house that the Ministry continues to assist with Namibia's participation in UN Peacekeeping Missions. We wish to commend these dedicated officers for their excellent services and professionalism in contributing to international peace and security in the world.

MOTIVATION FOR THE 2017/2018 FINANCIAL YEAR

The proposed allocation for the 2017/18 financial year is **NS\$802,702,000** (Eight hundred and two million, seven hundred and two thousand Namibia Dollars)

12% or NS\$96,961,000 (*Ninety Six million nine hundred sixty one thousand Namibia Dollars*) of the total amount requested will be utilized for capital projects at our diplomatic missions and at headquarters.

The remaining **88% or NS\$705,741,000** (*seven hundred and five million seven hundred and forty one thousand Namibian Dollars*) of the total allocation will be utilized for the operational budget for various programmes of the Ministry as follows:

Programme 1: Regional and Bilateral Relations and Cooperation

An amount of **NS\$48,435,000** (*forty eight million four hundred and thirty five thousand Namibian Dollars*) has been allocated for this programme and **NS\$30,000,000** is for the activities concerning the negotiations between the Governments of Namibia and Germany on the matter of Genocide, Apology and Reparations and the remainder of **NS\$18,435,000** is for the program.

16. Namibia maintains diplomatic relations with 150 countries around the world. Through these bilateral relations we seek to foster stronger political engagements, enhance bilateral cooperation, promote trade and investment, tourism and encourage people-to-people contact.

17. The contribution of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation to the ultimate goal of prosperity of our country should not only be measured on how much money was spent but on the tangible impact it makes in the lives of Namibians. In this regard, the Ministry will continue to forge ahead in ensuring that a strong economic foundation is laid for the benefit of our present and future generations.

18. Another essential aspect of this programme is to organise and coordinate Joint Commissions of Cooperation with other countries. These Joint Commissions of Cooperation identify potential areas of cooperation as set out in our National Development Plan.

Programme 2: Multilateral Policy Co-ordination

An amount of **NS\$36,438,000.00** (*thirty six million, four hundred and thirty eight thousand Namibian Dollars*) has been allocated for this programme and **NS\$21,427,000.00** is for annual contributions to International organizations, leaving a balance of **NS\$15,011,000.00** for multilateral activities.

19. Namibia continues to play its part in SADC activities, including in peace and security. In strengthening democracy in the region, Namibia will participate in SADC Electoral Observer Missions in Angola, Lesotho and the DRC.

20. As stated during my Ministerial Statement on the outcome of the Assembly of the AU this year, Namibia remains committed to the full implementation of Agenda 2063. At the 4th African Union Executive Council Retreat held in May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, I was honored to be elected as Chair of the AU Ministerial Follow-Up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.

21. As a member of the AU Committee of Ten Heads of State (C-10) on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council, Namibia will continue to participate in the activities of the C10. Similarly, Namibia will continue to participate in the activities of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly to promote international peace and security, sustainable

development, human rights, gender equality and address the adverse effects of climate change.

22. Namibia is serving as a Member of the Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which promotes the peaceful use of nuclear technology and enhance nuclear disarmament. Nuclear technology and security is an important pillar of international relations. As the fourth largest producer of Uranium, the Ministry will increase efforts to position Namibia to adequately benefit from this resource material and nuclear technology. The Ministry will also continue to facilitate and monitors Namibia's compliance with international law and multilateral treaty obligations to which we are part.

Programme 3: Protocol and Consular

An amount of **NS\$13,452,000.00** (*thirteen million four hundred and fifty two thousand Namibian Dollars*) is allocated to this programme.

23. The Programme will continue to provide Protocol and Consular services as well as administering the extension of Privileges and Immunities to Diplomatic Corps.

Programme 4: Foreign Missions Representations

An amount of **NS\$585,723,000.00** (*five hundred eighty five million, seven hundred twenty three thousand Namibian Dollars*) has been allocated to this programme.

24. A new Mission has been opened in Algeria, this brings the total number to 35 diplomatic missions including 3 General consulates. In line with the NDP 5 diplomatic missions will focus their activities on economic diplomacy in order to contribute to economic growth and prosperity at home. Those Missions are indispensable to the implementation of our foreign policy, in particular economic diplomacy. While the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation is not the lead Ministry in trade related matters, through our economic diplomacy we are the facilitators, we work closely with the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development in promoting trade and

investment. A good example is the successful hosting of the Invest in Namibia Conference in November 2016.

25. As we all know, globalization has enabled the use of ICT to advance Economic Development through the integration of regional and international markets and cooperation. The Namibian Missions will continue to actively promote our development agenda through effective media presence and connectivity, which is essential to Foreign Direct Investment, and particularly marketing Namibia as a potential logistics hub in Southern Africa.

Programme 5: Coordination and Support Service

An amount of **NS\$118,654,000.00** (*one hundred eighteen million and six hundred fifty four thousand Namibian Dollars*) has been allocated for this programme. **NS\$8,104,000** for the Office of the Minister, **NS\$110,550,000** for Administration.

26. On Service Delivery and Mainstream Operations, and in order to curbing costs and enhance efficiency, the Ministry aims at ensuring that priority is given to effective property management, through acquisition as opposed to rental of diplomatic premises, in order to curb such costs, and the proper upkeep through regular maintenance schedules. Projects on the renovations of ablution facilities at the Headquarters, as well as completion of capital projects in Addis Ababa, Luanda, Pretoria, Lusaka, and New York.

27. Information Communication Technology is vital in the conduct of diplomacy and will continue. Therefore, ICT infrastructure of the Ministry will be enhanced.

28. The Ministry will also develop a Wellness Program, in line with the national guidelines adopted through core conventions on labour and legislation thereof. Wellness at the workplace plays a pivotal role particularly for the work composition being comprised primarily of rotating staff serving in the Foreign Service.

29. Namibia's image globally needs to be impeccable in order to command respect and attract investment. Therefore, the Ministry will use a mix of communication platforms such as facebook, WhatsApp, e-newsletters, website, brochures, as well as trade fairs and exhibitions to constantly communicate and engage on Namibia's international relations strategy and its intended benefits.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members**

30. The recently tabled 2017 budget by the Minister of Finance aims to slow down the increase in government debt, by borrowing less and improve quality spending without compromising service delivery.

31. Let me therefore thank Hon. Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Tom Alweendo the Minister of Economic Planning and Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Governor of the Bank of Namibia Mr Ipumbu Shiimi and their team for the budget presented to this House.

32. The Ministry could not have achieved all that I have elaborated without the assistance and cooperation from my colleagues and staff in the Ministry. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to specially thank the Deputy Ministers Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga and Hon. Maureen Hinda, Amb. Tuliameni Kalomoh, my Special Advisor, Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Permanent Secretary and all staff members, at the Headquarters and diplomatic missions for their dedication and commitment. I would also like to thank Ambassadors Wilfried Emvula, Hanno Rumpf, Ringo Abed and all the staff who retired during the year under review, for their services to the nation and wish them all the best in the future endeavours. Similarly I would also like to thank the Namibian Association of Retired Ambassadors for their continued assistance to the Ministry.

I now submit for your consideration the budget request for Vote 07 amounting to **N\$802,702,000** (Eight hundred and two million, seven hundred and two thousand Namibia Dollars).

I thank you.