



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BUDGET MOTIVATION SPEECH 2016/2017 FINANCIAL

YEAR FOR VOTE 03

BY

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WINDHOEK

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

I rise to motivate budgetary allocations for Vote 03, National Assembly, for your consideration. First and foremost, I would like to thank Honourable Minister Calle Schlettwein and his entire team for the well grafted budget with an overarching theme of **“Towards Pro-growth Fiscal Consolidation.”** A budget which is underpinned by two fundamental and mutually-reinforcing policy objectives, i.e. to reassert and re-establish a sustainable path for public finance and to redirect increasingly scarce financial resources to the priority areas of national development.

As we all know Namibia is a constitutional state, governed on the principles of separation of powers. Being the legislature and the representative of the people, we are compelled to work towards the prudent management and utilisation of limited financial resources at our disposal, leading to nation-building and sustainable socio-economic development, including poverty eradication.

The budget process and debate on the Appropriation Bill, is one of the most significant events for our nation. This process continues to foster a culture of accountability and transparency within the Government, as the

electorate are enlightened on the benefits of the programmes and activities of the Government of the day.

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

Let me briefly explain how we have spent the money that was allocated to the National Assembly in the 2015/2016 Financial Year, especially the Development Budget.

The Construction of the New Parliament Building

An amount of *Thirty Six Million, Four Hundred and Ten Thousand Namibia Dollars* (N\$36, 410, 000) was originally allocated to the Development Budget. Out of that amount, the proposed new Parliament Building was allocated an amount of *Twenty Five Million, Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollars* (N\$25, 230 000).

After the budget cut that was effected after the Budget Review, the Development Budget of the National Assembly was reduced to **Twenty Six Million Six Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand (N\$26,638 000)** out which **Eleven Million Two Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand (N\$11,234 000)** was allocated to the construction of the new Parliament Building. That amount was fully utilised to cover feasibility studies and

documentation. As you are all aware, the current Parliament Building's office accommodation is inadequate, as it is not tallying with the number of seats of Members of Parliament, which increased as a result of the last Constitutional Amendments. Moreover, the envisaged creation of the Parliamentary Service Commission will also have an impact on the Secretariat's organisational structure, which will culminate into more office space being required.

The renovation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Building started in the 2014/2015 Financial Year and received an allocation of ***Eight Million Two Hundred and Ninety Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$8,290 000)*** in the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

The National Assembly building has been plagued with recurrent pipe bursts, water leakages and low water pressure due to the ailing condition of water pipes. To this end, an amount of **Seven Million One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$7,114 000)** was allocated for the upgrading and renovation of the Parliament Building during the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

I am pleased to inform you that we are in the process of finalising the installation of access control and security cameras in and around the Parliament Building. A wireless network (Wi-Fi) has also been upgraded and is accessible to Members of Parliament and the Secretariat.

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

Constitutional Oversight Role of the National Assembly

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; especially with the view to assessing the implementation of capital projects in the regions.

During the period under review, **thirteen (13)** Bills were tabled in the House; out these, **eight (8)** were passed without amendments, while **five (5)** were passed with amendments. **Sixty-five (65)** Auditor-General Reports as well as **thirty-one (31)** Annual and Ministerial Reports were also tabled in the House. On top of that, **nine (9)** Standing Committee Reports were tabled in the House for note-taking, while **thirteen (13)** Reports from Committees were tabled for discussion.

In keeping in line with our long-standing democratic tradition, **eighty-four (84)** questions were asked with notice and out of those, **seventy-three (73)** were replied to. Thus only **eleven (11)** questions lapsed without being responded to. During the period under review, **108**

Committee meetings were held while **five (5) public hearings** were conducted.

“Taking Parliament to the People” is an important platform to engage the electorate on issues of national concern, including sensitising them on the legislative process. National Assembly participated in various trade exhibitions and numerous schools and tertiary educational institutions visited Parliament.

During the period under review, the National Assembly managed to reach out to about **fifty-seven thousand (57 000)** citizens - judging by the number of people who attended the trade fairs and business expos where we displayed and promoted our materials.

As part of its outreach programme to take Parliament to the people, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly undertook an outreach trip to the two Kavango Regions from 12th – 24th July 2015. During that visit she engaged the local communities on the oversight functions of Parliament and also responded to complaints regarding service delivery. A Report from that visit was tabled and adopted by this August House.

In line with our democratic practice, an amount of Ninety **One Million Nine Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$91 975 000)** was allocated to Political Parties, but only **Thirty Nine Million Two Hundred and One Thousand (N\$39, 201 000)** came

from our initial budget allocation while **Fifty Two Million Seven Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand (NS52,774 000)** came from the Contingency Fund.

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

The International Cooperation mandate

In relation to regional and international parliamentary relationships, the Namibian Parliament, in collaboration with IPU and UNICEF hosted the first-ever SADC Regional Parliamentary Seminar on Child Nutrition from 28 -29th September 2015, in Windhoek. The seminar was attended by Members of Parliament from SADC Member Countries and International Experts on Child Nutrition. The Seminar produced a Report which was tabled at the SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly for discussion.

As part of our international commitment and obligation, both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker as well as some Members of Parliament attended various meetings of the SADC-Parliamentary Forum, the Pan African Parliament (PAP) as well as the International Parliamentary Union (IPU).

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

For the Financial Year 2016/2017, the National Assembly is requesting an amount of *Two Hundred and Twenty Seven Million, Six Hundred and Twenty Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$227, 628, 000)* for both the Operational and Development budget.

This allocation consists of *Two Hundred and Thirteen Million, and Twenty Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$213, 022 000)* for the Operational Budget and, *Fourteen Million, Six Hundred and Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$14, 606 000)*, for the Development Budget.

The breakdown of the Development Budget is as follows:

- **Twelve Million Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand (N\$12,920 000)** for the construction of the new Parliament Building;
- **One Million Namibia Dollars (N\$1,000 000)** for the renovation and upgrading of the SADC-PF Building; and
- **Six Hundred and Eighty Thousand (N\$680 000)** for the upgrading and renovation of the Parliament Building.

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

With regard to the Operational Budget, the National Assembly has clustered its activities under two (2) main Programmes, namely; **Legislative Management, and Coordination and Support Services.**

Programme 1: Legislative Management:

Am amount of *Fifteen Million, Two Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$15,225,000)* has been allocated to this programme.

The aim of this programme is to provide leadership, guidance and specialised support in respect of Parliamentary proceedings and procedures, and related administrative services to the Presiding Officers and Members of Parliament. The programmes' activities include, among others, the timely and accurate processing of Session Papers, Legislation and production of National Assembly's Hansard.

Programme 2: Coordination and Support Services:

An amount of *One Hundred and Ninety Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$197, 797 0000* has been allocated to this programme.

This programme is sub divided into three (3) Main Divisions namely:
Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services, Information Services, and Committee Services.

Parliamentary Support Services has received a budget allocation of *One Hundred and Twenty Two Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$122 922 000.00).*

The aim of this programme is to provide, administrative support through proper financial management and optimal deployment of human resources, the provision of transport and legal advice to the Vote's programmes and, training and capacity development for Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary staff members. The funding of Political Parties and the provision of additional office space for Political office bearers are also provided for under this division.

Information Services is allocated an amount of **Ten Million, Five Hundred and Forty Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$10 546 000.00)** for the provision of relevant and up-to- date

information, research, library and modern ICT services to Members of Parliament and the Secretariat.

Committee Services with the ultimate aim to provide operational, administrative, secretarial and clerical assistance and guidance to Committee Services has been allocated an amount of *Sixty Four Million, Three Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$64 329 000.00)*.

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

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your attentiveness and kindly implore you to approve the budget request of *Two Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$227 628 000)* for Vote 3.

I thank you