

Hon. Silvia MAKONE

13 March

Theme: "Growing the Economy, Optimizing the Development Outcomes"

Thank you Honourable Speaker, Let me on the onset thank His Excellency, ^{confidence} Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia, for the trust he put in me ^{by} and ^{grading} me worth to be appointed as Deputy Minister of Education in his Government. I accepted the challenging responsibility with humility and ~~encourage~~ courage.

Thanks the minister of finances for well presented budget speech

*I must not be isolated from the collective who are responsible for the success –
Mandela*

I thus thank the collective without compromising the individual contributions.

1. Revenue outturn

Among others, ^{What is encouraging in this budget is to see on Page 9, the 42% improvement on the revenue outturn, especially through local interventions of growth of economy and effectiveness of the tax administration. This give us more reason to believe in ourselves}

It is therefore important that the caution of the under utilization of the budgetary allocation by minister be taken seriously, as it has negative implications. It does not make sense that much effort is put in looking for interventions of collecting more revenue, just to lose it by non-implementation, ~~and spending it by servicing debt~~

With regard to the Budget achievements Agricultural Sector: Namibia's achievement in the agriculture sector cannot be overemphasized, especially the beef export ^{we} that is being threatened by the EU 40-days-residency compliance.

Many Honourable members spoke with one voice on this issue, some termed neo-colonialism

This started with stringent livestock (eartag) identification and traceability system on Namibia, as a condition for allowing the country to export red meat to Europe. We were running around, now it's 40 days residency.

If we are not watchful, at the end, we shall be told to go out of our farms as EU will manage our farms. **It let me think about the camel and owner in the desert!**

The book Chika Onyeanyi *I am last speaker*

This brings me to the point of Nation Building. As a nation we need to watch out and be careful no to be divided by outside forces. Sometimes we become enemies to ourselves and sometimes, we, sell ourselves short.

above mentioned
The ~~latter~~ said, brings me to the contribution of one Honorable Nyamu who was comparing tax regimes of different countries.

1. **It is true! The reduction of corporate tax**, is meant to attract investment and production. Investors who are not coming to Namibia just because they are comparing the Namibian tax regime with those of other countries should know that they are losing out. **Namibia has more to offer than just tax**, compare those countries road infrastructure with that of Namibia. Compare communication infrastructure, compare the security situation not to mention the stability of the country. **I repeat we are sometimes selling ourselves short!**

The reduction of corporate tax, is also meant to encourage production.

Production means the businesses should produce more and create employment. *I am* There is corporate tax reduction for financial years 13/14 and 14/15.

There should be a time when accounting should be done to find out how many used this corporate tax reduction for production that increased employment.

~~On this~~ regarding the
Social Safety Nets

Here I can only quote the former president of South Africa

A society that does not value its older people denies its roots and endangers its future – Mandela

In conclusion,

of Finance

I quote the Hon Minister. "In formulating this budget, we had to make crucial choices and trade-offs, and the outcome of this process clearly reflects our policies and priorities"

I want to assure the Minister and her team that they had not gone wrong with their three choices as stipulated on page 33 of the budget speech. Those choices correlates very well with the theme " **Growing the Economy, Optimazing the Development Outcomes.**

We cannot grow the economy without employment; we cannot grow the economy without a healthy, protected, and educated workforce and all the mentioned culminate in optimazing development outcomes.

I SUPPORT THE BILL

