

13 MARCH

Speaking Notes by Ignatius Nkotongo Shixwameni (MP)
on the 2nd reading debate of the
2013-2014 budget

1. Congratulations to the Minister of Finance and her staff and the DG of the national planning commission and his staff for both presenting the budget on time and for presenting a budget which is transparent and to a greater extend a tough balancing act.

Thank the speaker, the government chief whip and the PM for the current arrangements to have ministers' limited in speaking during the 2nd reading debate. Time is money and we should do the budget as effectively and efficiently in a short time span.

2. Repeat my appeal for the budget debate cycle on the floor to be relooked at and made shorter in order for it to be passed by both houses before the start of the financial year. In order to allow more time for the implementation of capital projects on time, within the financial year

- 2.1 The second reading debate should be further shortened. A multi party Budget Committee or Caucus should be created to look at the budget either shortly before or immediately after it is tabled in the house.

2nd reading debates, be limited to at the most two persons or even one person per each party represented in the parliament which should only take about at most a week only.

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2.2 Thank the minister of finance for taking onboard our (The APP) tax recommendations during this financial year for upping the non-taxable bracket to up to N\$ 50 000-00 and creating two more clear upper tax brackets.

We welcome the tax break^s for the lower and middle income classes, yet we feel the already rich and the two upper brackets should not have be given a tax break. They are suppose to continue to pay more in order to keep the budget deficit, lower.

3. The Big Bang and the fast forward economic development and the central role of the state: - re-emphasize it.

3.1 What happened to **TESEEF** and the whole issue of a **BBEE policy / framework**?

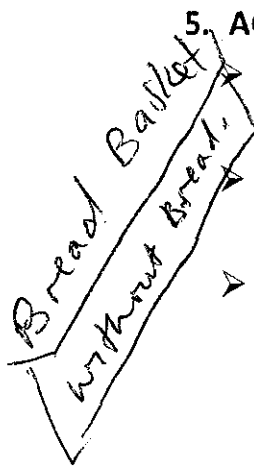
3.2 **TIPEEG**, the enrichment of the already richer, not the solution to employment creation, nor long-term poverty eradication or the empowerment of our people at all.

4. **POVERTY ERADICATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT MINIMIZATION**

- The need to adopt a holistic approach and no knee-jerk reaction is needed.
- The only solution is the implementation of a **BPHIG** to take people out of poverty. (Venezuela and Brazil as examples)

[We need a greater investment in mass based sports such as inter alia soccer, rugby, boxing, tennis, basket ball, netball to make them professional codes.

We need serious investment in culture and arts development to support our cultural workers and artist throughout the country attain professional status.



5. AGRICULTURE AND THE GREEN SCHEME

Welcome the investment made in the agri -sector for the past three years in the green scheme.

Expand the green scheme to the interior areas, "The Murambas," and not only alongside the rivers.

- Have a relook at the owernership of the green scheme owernership model and let us have the communities have at least not less then 45 % shareholding in the green name companies apart from them being given small pieces of land to cultivate.

6. WATER FOR THE RURAL AREAS

- More solar powered boreholes.
- Each village to be equipped with a borehole.
- Boreholes repair in rural areas be done timely.
- A Water canal or pipeline alongside the Rundu-Mururwani road and the Rundu-Divundu road as promised two years ago.

7. EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Congratulations that after 22 years of denials and defence in this chamber by senior ministers at last we have free universal basic education. Hope that this is the beginning only and that we will as a nation extend free education to the other levels in order to ensure mass skills development and vocational fund.
- Fund UNAM and POLTECHNICAN adequately.
- Stop indebting our youth before they even start working.
- Abolish the NSFAP scheme and use the money to have free vocational and technical training and university education. Rather give the money to unam, the polytechnic and vocational institutions to free education to all who quality and deserve it.

8. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

- Hence we need to urgently address and eradicate the squatter camps around the country and build decent and affordable houses for all.
- Housing is indeed a human right.

9. Just wealth redistribution an urgent necessity during our lifetime.

- We need economic transformation in favour of the majority, the only solution to our people's prosperity
- Let all companies who mine or exploit our natural resources, (mineral, marine, tourism, agriculture) be compelled to cede 51 % percent shareholding to Namibians and Namibian communities, just as those that are tenderers for Namibian contracts.
- We need to empower and capitalize Epangelo Mining more and more and sufficient to engage all major mining companies

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10. SOEs: ^{her}Transfer to SOEs could have been used for ~~only~~ purposes.)
- *The need for a national conference to evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of our SOEs and to recommend the way ahead for our SOEs.

11. EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

- The civil service bill is getting to higher and higher and we need value for our dollars
- Hard work and friendly ethics in government is urgently needed.

With this few remarks, I thank you and the rest my care!!