



DTA OF NAMIBIA

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Namibia the way forward by Hon. K. Kaura

Honorable speaker, honorable members Namibia is moving forward slowly, laboriously, but focused and determined. I am amazed to read old countries such as Cyprus struggling to survive and teetering on the verge of bankruptcy yet in the Namibian newspaper of March 22, 2013 we are reading "Growth in 2012 exceeds expectations. Namibia is well on its way to achieve the economic growth target of 4.6% for 2012 – 2013 set out in the fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) after the country recorded economic growth of 5.0% last year."

We are further informed that the mining sector expanded by 11.2% in 2012 following a contraction of 7.9% the previous year. This shows confidence in the Namibian democratic governance and the peace we have been blessed with for the last 23 years and let us keep it that way.

Honorable speaker we cannot be oblivious to the looming deadly drought we are facing. However I want to advice us that the N\$ 400 which is earmarked to be paid to a farmer when he/she sells a cow is totally imprudent. The drought is not forever. It is going to come to an end maybe by next year. Now if the farmer has sold all his cows and is left with bulls and oxen, how is he/she going to continue farming? Angola after the devastating civil war is buying cows from Namibia to restock. Where are we going to buy cows to restock? That decision must be rescinded and N\$ 400 must be paid to any live animal the farmer sells whether ox, bull, cow, heifer etc

Honorable speaker, I got an exciting message from newspapers and the radio that the Right honorable Prime Minister Hage Geingop is advocating the removal of the infamous red line, I say right on brother. Don't advocate the removal; remove it immediately you are the boss. You have all the power at your disposal what are you waiting for. However I would like to

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remind you that a year ago when two buffalos penetrated the Otjozondjupa region the whole region was quarantined for a whole month until the buffalos were eliminated. Remove the Red line immediately please I implore you but if ten buffalos penetrate the center of Namibia the whole of Namibia will be quarantined and not a kilogram of meat will ever be market to the E.U but I encourage you to remove it.

Honorable speaker I want to ask this question to the education minister. I want to find out whether the education ministry has incriminated itself when it announced after 23 years that education will be free of charge on the primary education level 23 years after independence in clear violation of Article 20 of the Namibian constitution. If the parents sue the government for the government's 23 years violation of the Namibian constitution, will the government refund the parents?

From the speech of the honorable Minister of finance we are apprised of the fact that the inflation reached 6.5% in 2012. This inflation increase speaks for itself that old aged pension must be increased to N\$1000 per month and N\$500 for dependent and vulnerable children.

The finance minister further informed us that our foreign reserves stand at N\$14.9 billion which is equivalent to 3-4 months of import cover. In my opinion that is playing with Russian roulette. That import cover is too low and the reserves must be increased to at least N\$ 30 billion so that it can cover at least six month.

At number 38 of the minister's speech the debt stock for 2012 is estimated at N\$27.5 billion or 26.3% of the G.D.P and fall within the 35% bench mark. Honorable minister we cannot slab ourselves on the back with 51.2% unemployment. We have fellow Namibians living from the garbage dumps.

At number 116 of the finance minister's speech we are informed that funds are allocated to the white elephant (Air Namibia) but I don't see the amount anywhere. Honorable minister is it not better to allocate that money to students that need bursaries at UNAM and The polytechnic of Namibia. Why can't air Namibia sign an agreement with reputable airlines like Quatar Air line to do the job for air Namibia, it will cost a few dollars for us for the

Quatar Air line to do the job while carrying the Namibian. I believe that is doable.

In conclusion, I want to implore government to provide fodder to farmers together with the N\$400 to be paid for the sale of life stock. Fodder was always provided and it was very helpful in the drought of 1991-92. The government must restore farmers diesel which was faced out around 1995 and the land tax must be revisited immediately because how do you quantify what is the worth of the farm in the middle of a drought situation like the one we are facing now. It must be revisited with the aim of abolishing it entirely.

I rest my case