

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE APPROPRIATION BILL BY HON
LEMPY LUCAS, MP, DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
WATER AND FORESTRY, 27TH MARCH 2013**

Hon Speaker

Hon Members

I rise with a deep sense of appreciation and privilege to add my voice and support to the budget debate for 2013/2014 financial year as presented to this August House by the Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Speaker

Hon Members

Allow me, at this juncture of my maiden speech, in my new capacity as Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to thank His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia for the trust and confidence bestowed on me by redeploying me to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, whose mandate is to promote, develop, manage and utilise Agriculture, Water and Forestry resources, and I would like to assure the President and the Namibian Nation at large that we will do our utmost best to ensure that the Ministry's mandate is fully achieved.

Hon Speaker

Hon Members

Most of the Hon Members who made their contributions expressed their concerns about the severe drought situation which is prevailing in our country, which will affect both humans as well as livestock. This is a worrisome situation to us as a Ministry too. However, measures are put in place to make sure that Government intervenes timeously.

In addition to the drought, the issue of EU's forty days' residency compliance requirements draw criticism from the large quota of our population.

The Ministerial Policy statement delivered on Tuesday, 26th February 2013, to this August House by Hon. John Mutorwa, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry articulated very loudly and clearly the Governments' position on this specific issue.

This is in a way reminding us to properly defining Namibia national interest. Of course, I am aware that there exist divergent views in defining national interest, but in this particular case signify what is best for the nation in its relations with EU.

We as Namibians should remain unanimous and speak with one voice in defending what is best for our people. As law makers this is not the time for cheap politics, we should take off our party colours and speak as Namibians and even if it requires us to make tough decisions such as looking for other markets on the continent and outside Africa. When the Namibian people witnessed the lowering of the then South African Apartheid Regime Flag and the hoisting of the Namibian National Flag, it signifies the total burial of colonialism apartheid Neo-Colonialism and all forms of social injustice and that Namibia is to decide its own destiny.

Hon Speaker

Hon Members

I commend the Ministry of Finance for allocating the second largest amount of Dollars to the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Despite the fact that there have been critics from some quarters of our society, I believe credit should be given when it is due. Allow me, Cde Speaker to make use of this opportunity to congratulate the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Health and Social Services for having

received an (ALMA) African Leaders Malaria Alliance Award for Excellence in the category of implementation and impact, during the 20th Ordinary Session of the AU Summit Meeting held in January 2013, in Addis Ababa on Maternal Mortality and Malaria Elimination.

Namibia has made significant progress in the fight against Malaria over the past decade and has achieved the global target. This is indeed commendable.

Hon Speaker

Hon Members

The Education Sector has been a priority area of our Government since Independence, allow me to pay tribute to the Son of the Soil, the late Dr Abraham Iyambo, the former Minister of Education for having moved the Education Sector to a greater height during his tenure, the late Dr Iyambo had a clear vision and a lot of wishes he wanted to see before his demise, I will mention two (2) of the Hundreds:

- Renaming of the Polytechnic of Namibia to the University of Science and Technology

- Ensure that measures are put in place to encourage and incentivise research by higher Education Institutions and to strengthen research on national priorities.

His famous name Minister Deliver, Deliver will be enshrined in the Namibian History^{Book} and the list of his wishes I have no doubt will be realised by his successors.

Defence is one Sector which is closer to my heart. Our country has enjoyed peace and political stability since the 21st March 1990, which is the pre-requisite for investment. The men and women in uniform's responsibilities require commitment, dedication and patriotism to their Motherland. The Government should thus continue to build, upgrade and maintain the NDF facilities to motivate their moral and create a conducive environment that will enable them to achieve their constitutional mandate that is to defend the territory and national interest of Namibia, and I congratulate them for the excellent performance at the Rally in Oshakati, marking the 23rd Independence Anniversary.

Hon Speaker

Hon Members

Finally, allow me to say few words about the Parliamentary Women's Caucus. The non-existence of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus is a concern to some of us. This is a very important body that exist in most if not all the Parliaments in the SADC Region. This is the body that do the lobbying and advocacy for women. It is the body that empower women (MP's) through training, workshops and seminars.

I am looking forward to see its coming back in not to a distant future.

With this few remarks, I support the appropriation bill and I thank you.