



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE BUDGET SPEECH 2013/2014 FINANCIAL YEAR

**PRESENTED BY: HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, MP,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

WINDHOEK, 11TH APRIL 2013

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THE BUDGET SPEECH 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR

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

Honourable Members,

Since this is the first time I am presenting the budget in my capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs, I would like to express my appreciation to His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba for the trust and confidence he placed on me to be the principal link between Namibia and the rest of the world. While thanking all my predecessors, who have built a strong foundation and strengthened the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I commend the immediate one, Comrade Utoni Nujoma, for his work that enables me to further advance Namibia's Foreign Policy. I look forward to your unreserved support, Honourable Members of Parliament and the nation at large, that I will require to enable me to discharge this national responsibility.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

As I present the budget Vote of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs vote 07 for 2013/14, I wish to join the colleagues who spoke before me, in congratulating Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, for her pragmatic approach in the elaboration of the 2013/14 budget.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

The current international political and economic situation presents us with many and diverse challenges, especially the maintenance of peace and security, and the global economic and financial crisis.

We are witnessing conflicts in many parts of the world, including a number of on-going conflicts in some countries

on the African continent. The situations in eastern DRC and Mali, and the recent coup d'état in the Central African Republic are of concern to Namibia.

I mention these challenges in light of the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to protect Namibia's national interest and to fulfil its international obligations in the maintenance of peace and security.

Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,

In the 21st century, diplomacy remains a vital instrument in both conducting bilateral and multilateral affairs in the world. In the old days, diplomacy was mainly aimed at relations between governments. However, as we all know, the scope is now much broader, and includes companies and individuals who have networks around the world.

The Namibian missions abroad remain the backbone of our diplomacy. In this context, there is a need to maintain our

representation to sustain a wider global network in securing and protecting Namibia's interests.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

I wish to take you through the Ministry's budget request for the Financial Year 2013/14, as outlined in five programmes.

A total amount of **N\$ 693 085,000.00 (Six Hundred and Ninety Three Million, Eighty Five Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is requested for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2013/14. The breakdown of the amount is as follows:

- The amount of **N\$ 110,000,000.00 (One Hundred and Ten Million Namibian Dollars)** is allocated for the Development Budget; and,
- The remaining **N\$ 583,085, 000.00 (Five Hundred and Eighty Three Million, and Eighty Five**

Thousand Namibian Dollars) is earmarked for operational expenses.

The amount allocated for the Development Budget will be **N\$ 110,000,000.00 (One Hundred and Ten Million Namibian Dollars)** for the purchasing and maintenance of diplomatic properties abroad. By purchasing more properties, our rental costs will significantly decrease and result in more savings for the Ministry.

I now turn to the programmes.

Programme 1: Co-ordination and Support Services

An amount of N\$ 49 548,000.00 (Forty Nine Million, Five Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars) is requested under this programme.

This programme entails support services, overall policy development and management to the Ministry. Activities of the Office of the Minister are also covered under this

programme. Furthermore, the programme consists of four key activities outlined as follows:

- **Support Services:**

This is an activity that provides for administrative back-up at Headquarters and Missions abroad. It is within this activity that staff members are recruited and employed both at home and abroad.

- **Training, Development and Wellness:**

This is an essential activity, which facilitates human resource development through assessing and addressing staff training needs. It further creates an understanding and promotes behavioural changes on wellness aspects.

- **Internal Audit:**

This activity ensures that control measures are observed, for adherence to Treasury Instructions and other regulations, and make recommendations if needed.

- **Renovations at Headquarters:**

This activity entails the maintenance and renovations at the Headquarters.

Therefore, money requested for this programme will enable the Ministry to operate effectively.

Programme 2: Bilateral Affairs

A total amount of N\$15 805 000.00 (Fifteen Million Eight Hundred and Five Thousand Namibian Dollars) is allocated for this programme in the 2013/14 Financial Year.

Namibia continues to enjoy strong bilateral relations with many countries around the world. Through these relations we promote cooperation in a wide range of areas, including trade and investment and tourism, among others and foster stronger diplomatic ties as well as people-to-people contact. This is also reflected through the conclusion of various

agreements and memoranda of understanding in various socio-economic and cultural sectors.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

During the past financial year, the Ministry facilitated and coordinated several State and Official Visits of His Excellency the President of Namibia, and by foreign dignitaries who visited our country.

Such visits provide good opportunities for Heads of State and Government to exchange views on matters of common interest and mutual benefit, as they aim at deepening bonds of friendship and expanding cooperation.

Another essential aspect of the work of Bilateral Affairs in the Ministry is the organization and coordination of Joint Commissions of Economic Cooperation, and Diplomatic Consultations with other countries, as outlined in the Ministry's Strategic Plan.

In order to strengthen bilateral cooperation for the interest of our country and its people, and to fund the necessary high level visits, as envisaged for 2013/14, hence the requested budget allocation.

Programme 3: Multilateral Affairs

An amount of **N\$46 976,000.00 (Forty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Six Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is requested for this programme to be utilized in carrying out Namibia's international obligations.

Namibia continues to fulfil its international obligations as a member of the International Community. It plays an active role as Member State of the Southern African Development Community (SADC); the Southern African Customs Union (SACU); and the African Union (AU); the United Nations; as well as the Commonwealth; the Group of 77 and China; and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). As we begin the year 2013, issues of socio-economic development,

international peace and security, climate change, global finance, food security, energy, to mention but a few, still dominate the global agenda. International cooperation will thus be required to face these challenges. And with the support of this honourable house, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is up to the task.

Under this programme, Namibia's financial obligations to international organisations have to be honoured. It is thus imperative for Namibia to pay its assessed contributions to international organisations where all Member States have an equal voice to help shape the international agenda. Participation in these organisations also helps us to advance our own national socio-economic and sustainable development agenda. Our participation further enhances our good international standing and creates opportunities for Namibians to work in international organisations where they gain useful exposure, experience and expertise. In this respect, I wish to encourage Namibians with appropriate qualifications and skills to take up the challenge and apply for positions in these organisations.

I am delighted to inform this august house that the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government has decided that the OAU/AU 50th anniversary since it was founded in 1963 be celebrated throughout the year, under the theme “Pan Africanism and the African Renaissance”. It is expected that all Member States will organize various activities at national level to mark this historic and momentous event. It is indeed fitting to celebrate the achievements of our Continental organisation over the past 50 years, which has contributed enormously to Africa’s independence, unity and solidarity. Namibia has established a national committee to prepare for the yearlong celebrations. The celebrations will include commemorative lectures, football matches, public debates, and essay competitions among others. A commemorative book containing all public lectures and activities devoted to the 50th anniversary will be published. I wish to invite Honourable Members, and the entire nation, to actively participate in these celebrations. We will do well to

remember that Namibia is a product of a strong support and solidarity of Africa and the world at large.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

You will recall that Namibia was elected as Deputy Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in August last year. In August this year, Namibia will assume the Chairmanship of the Organ. And this will require us to do coordination on behalf of SADC.

Honourable Chairperson, the budget allocation to this programme will therefore, allow Namibia to pursue its multilateral agenda as elaborated above.

Programme 4: Protocol and Consular Affairs:

An amount of N\$ 11,230,000.00 (Eleven Million, Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibian Dollars) is requested for this programme.

The Programme of Protocol and Consular Affairs is responsible for providing protocol services to both Namibian and foreign dignitaries.

The Programme also coordinates and supports activities carried out by His Excellency the President, His Excellency the Founding President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Speaker, the Chairperson of the National Council and the Chief Justice. On request, the Protocol Department also provides advice and training on protocol and diplomatic etiquette to Members of Parliament, and local and regional authorities.

Programme 5: Namibian Missions Abroad:

An amount of **NS 459,526,000.00 (Four Hundred and Fifty Nine Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Namibian Dollars)**, which represents approximately 80% of the Ministry's budget, is earmarked for this programme. The consideration of this budget

allocation has to be seen against the backdrop that its execution is affected by the volatility of foreign exchange rates.

The objectives of Missions include the promotion of Namibia's national interest and the protection of the welfare of our nationals abroad, and the strengthening of relations with countries, regional and international organisations to which they are accredited.

In pursuit of the policy of economic diplomacy, the Missions promote trade and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, amongst others. The promotion of cooperation in areas such as tourism, culture, education, and agriculture, is part of the important work of Missions.

The amount appropriated under this programme will be utilized to continue enhancing the functions of the 26 Namibian Diplomatic Missions and 2 Consular Posts abroad. It will also enable us to open 2 new Consular Posts,

one in the Cuando Cubango Province in Angola and the other in the Katanga Province in the DRC during this Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

In conclusion, I must emphasize that the budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is essential in the pursuit of our foreign policy objectives.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, I thank you all for your continuing support and understanding of the Ministry's challenging responsibilities.

I therefore submit to you the budget allocation for Vote 07 to the amount of **N\$ 693 085,000.00 (Six hundred and Ninety Three Million, Eighty Five Thousand Namibian Dollars)** for your approval.

I Thank You.