



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

VOTE 23: DEPARTMENT OF WORKS

BUDGET SPEECH

2014/2015

BY

HONOURABLE ERKKI NGHIMTINA, MP

MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

28 March 2014

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

Please accept our gratitude for this opportunity to introduce to this August House Vote 23 of the Department of Works for the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

Vote 23 caters for the provision of institutional facilities, office accommodation, official accommodation (housing), as well as the management and maintenance of Government properties. This vote also renders essential and technical services to Offices/Ministries and Agencies with regard to the implementation of Capital Construction Projects on the Development Budget, the provision of standard stock and material supplies as well as printing services and the maintenance of garden infrastructure and equipment to mention but, just a few.

Honourable Members, I am please to highlight to this August House some achievements realised by the Department of Works during the period under review.

- The Department has once again successfully managed a variety of ongoing capital construction projects on behalf of line Ministries worth in excess of N\$ 400.0million
- The Ministry has successfully recruited qualified and experienced professionals from Zimbabwe in order to address the shortage of engineering skills in the Department of Works. Thus far, a total of sixty five (65) professionals have been recruited while a further twenty three (23) were recommended to assume duty on 01 April 2014.
- A targeted implementation rate of 80% of capital projects have been achieved for the 2013/2014 Financial Year
- Arrangements to deploy some of these Zimbabwean Professionals in the field of Architecture, Engineering, and Quantity Surveying to assist with the development of building construction projects in the regions are far advanced
- As part of the Ministry's understudy programme, a Memorandum of Understanding has been amended during the 2013/2014 Financial Year to make provision for Namibians to study and obtain professional qualifications at accredited Universities in Zimbabwe.

This arrangement will see local Namibians joining the Ministry to under study Zimbabwean Professionals, thereafter they will take over the technical responsibilities.

- The Ministry during the period under review has conducted the assessment on the conditions of medical facilities in Namibia. Three hundred and twelve health facilities (312) were visited and inspected over a period of two months. A report was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Social Services indicating a condition assessment rating as well as a priority rating with cost estimates for repairs and/ or rehabilitation of these facilities over a period of one (1) to five (5) years. It is clear from this report that Government is required to invest close to N\$ 3.5 billion in order bring health facilities in the country up to standard.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members

The Department of Works experienced problems with occupants in official accommodation/government flats who could not honour their municipal bills. The Department has therefore requested Local Authorities to discontinue the services of those tenants who accumulated amounts in arrears exceeding N\$ 2,000.

With regard to illegal occupants in official accommodation/Government flats, the Department of Works sought Government Attorney Legal opinion and obtained eviction orders, which were served on the affected illegal occupants by the Master of the Court during the 2013/14 Financial Year.

The exercise on the sale of non-assigned government houses is ongoing and in order to accelerate the process, the Department has finalized the subdivision of properties on block ervens at Oshakati, Ondangwa, Katima Mulilo, Mariental, Keetmanshoop during the 2013/2014 Financial Year, and continues attending to subdivisions of affected properties in Tsumeb and Windhoek. The valuers in the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement will now conduct valuations of these properties.

The Department is also addressing the issue of properties erroneously transferred to Local Authorities. During the period under review, under the alienation programme the Department of Works has so far sold 67 houses and generated an amount of N\$6,084,352.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

Altogether twenty-four (24) Ministries out of twenty-six (26) in total have created Maintenance Units in accordance with the Maintenance Management Framework, approved by Cabinet. Hence, I again urge those Offices/ Ministries/ Agencies who have not yet created their own in-house Maintenance Units to do so.

On the allocation of official accommodation to the government employees, I wish to inform the Honourable Members of this August House that there are no more government accommodation (houses) available for allocation. I therefore, request the Honourable Members to inform the officials in their respective Offices/ Ministries /Agencies to withdraw from requesting such from the Ministry.

I now wish to present to you, Honourable Members the programmes that will be discharged by the Ministry of Works and Transport through the Department of Works during the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

PROGRAM 1: PROVISION OF HORTICULTURAL SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS AND SERVICE CENTRES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

The purpose of this program is to render gardening services to Government Office Buildings and service centres including planning, layout, planting, watering, fertilizing, pruning, cleaning, general maintenance, supply and maintenance of pot plants, maintenance of swimming pools and provide plants for decorations during National events.

For this program, I request an amount of N\$ 11,559,000.

PROGRAM 2: PROVISION OF STORES AND PRINTING SERVICES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

The purpose of this Program is to facilitate the provision of office furniture, equipment and other materials and supplies as well as printing services to all Government Institutions, and the administering of auctioneering services for Government. The program also allows budgetary provision to commence with the upgrading and renovation of the Government Central Stores and Reproduction Services.

For this program, I request an amount of N\$ 31,165,000.

PROGRAM 3: MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

The purpose of this program is to ensure sustainable and reliable maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standard. The conditions of Government houses and flats continues to deteriorate countrywide, in Windhoek alone as estimated investment of N\$120.0million will be required at once.

This program is also responsible to service, maintain and/or overhaul of water pumps and electrical generator plants, as well as the design, upgrading and/or rehabilitation of existing specialised installations of boilers, cooling plants, lifts, sewer plants to ensure sustainability of the electrical and mechanical reticulation and infrastructure at government complexes.

For programme, I request an amount of N\$ 312,358,000.

PROGRAM 4: PROVISION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

This Program provides for the office accommodation requirements of all Ministries. Under this program an amount of N\$ 21 186.00 will be required for the operational budget (utilities) for paying rates and taxes to Local Authorities in the amount, while N\$116 958.00 will be for property rental and related charges for rental of offices accommodation for Offices/ Ministries and Agencies to ensure reasonable and adequate facilities to operate from.

The program further includes the purchasing of land for development, property assessment studies as well as the finalisation of the newly developed electronic Asset Register and a Fixed Asset Management System.

For this programme, I request an amount of N\$ 147,965,000.

PROGRAM 5: GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION BUILDINGS REGULATION, COORDINATION AND SUPERVISION

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

This is a highly technical programme of which its purpose is to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over to Line Ministries completed capital construction projects, renovated Government buildings and suitable upgraded and properly maintained electrical and mechanical systems in buildings. The Program is actively involved in regulating, coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards to an average of 450 projects running concurrently during any given Financial Year.

Under this program Photo-Voltaic Systems for basic power; lights and hot water, are installed and / or refurbished in existing Government schools and clinics in remote areas where the National electrification grid does not reach. Documentation was completed during the 2013/14 Financial Year and budgetary provision is made in the 2014/2015 Financial Year for the installation of photo-voltaic systems at government facilities in Oshana Region.

The Program administers and regulates the Act on Professional bodies involved in the Construction Industry (Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Engineers) and supervises and monitors the construction work by contractors on Government projects including office buildings and service centres.

For this programme, I request an amount of N\$ 84,952,000.

PROGRAM 6: SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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

The purpose of this program is to provide administrative support services, including budgeting and accounting of personnel affairs.

The program also provides and manages a stable, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective ICT services.

In addition, the program also oversees the implementation of the Ministerial Wellness Programmes to ensure that all staff members are well informed about deceases such as HIV/AIDS and related illness.

For this programme, I request an amount of N\$ 87,362,000.

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

Summary: Vote 23 Works

Programme	Amount (N\$'000)
1.Provision of Horticultural Services of GRN office buildings and service centre	11, 559
2. Provision of stores and printing services	31, 165
3. Maintenance of Government Properties	312, 358
4. Provision of office accommodation requirements	147, 965
5. Government construction buildings regulation, coordination and supervision	84, 952
6. Supervision and support services	87, 362
TOTAL	675, 361

In light of the Programs outlined above, I now humbly request this August House to approve the total expenditure of N\$675,361,000 for Vote 23.

Last, but not least, I once again wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Minister of Finance, Director General of National Planning Commission and the entire staff members of the Ministry of Finance for their dedication in putting up an inspiring Budget for the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

I Thank You!