



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

VOTE 24: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

BUDGET SPEECH

2013 - 2014

BY

HONOURABLE ERKKI NGHIMTINA

MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

15 April 2013

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

I am honoured to present Vote 24 of the Department of Transport for the 2013/2014 Financial Year.

Vote 24 caters for the development of efficient and effective transport infrastructure, which promotes economic development and social upliftment. The Department's objectives amongst others are to ensure that the mobility wishes of the people and industry are met.

Honourable Members of this House, transportation infrastructures such as roads, rail, air and water transport are the catalysts that facilitate smooth flow of people, goods and services for the betterment of any nation. Therefore the Ministry will continue to ensure progressive development of the much needed means of transport for our economic emancipation. It is further expected of the Ministry to ensure that the development and maintenance of transportation is not compromised.

The infrastructure development and maintenance thereof is to curtail poverty and hunger resulting from limited movement of goods and service. Transport infrastructure can boost our potential to prosper even during the world economic downturn. It is therefore necessary for us to open up the existing and untapped markets through the provision of adequate and world-class transportation infrastructures.

Investing in the development of the transportation infrastructure has far-reaching benefits that can trigger the creation of employment opportunities and can keep all economic sectors afloat. It is our wish as a Ministry to deliver, deliver and deliver on the expectations of the Namibian people. It is against this background that I humbly ask you Honourable Members to render us support in our endeavor to realize our important national dream.

BITUMEN ROADS

A) BITUMEN ROADS COMPLETED

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

Allow me to enumerate the Department of Transport's achievements attained in the preceding Financial Year 2012/2013 in the Road sub-sector:

Rundu-Elundu: A 236 km road from Rundu to Elundu was completed in July 2012.

TR 15/1 Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi Road: This project is divided into three sections, A, B and C. Section A and B is completed. While Section C which is 67 km from Elavi to Mpungu Valei and Katwitwi is ongoing and is expected to be completed in July 2013.

TR 14/2: Gobabis-Otjinene: The upgrading of 157 km to bitumen standards represents the first phase of the Gobabis to Grootfontein road, was completed in June 2012. The road will form part of Trans-Kalahari Highway extension to the Trans –Caprivi Highway and to Southern Angola.

MR122: Omakange- Iitananga: A 83 km road runs from Omakange in the Kunene Region to Iitanaga in the Omusati Region creating the link between the two Regions was completed in March 2012.

B) ONGOING BITUMEN ROADS

The implementation of the following upgrading to bitumen projects will continue during the 2013/2014:

MR125: Liselo – Linyanti- Kongola- Singalamwe: A 212 km of existing gravel road is being upgraded to bitumen standards in the Caprivi Region and is expected to be completed in June 2014.

MR120: Okatana-Endola-Onhuno: A 34.6 km road is being constructed to bitumen standards from Okatana via Endola to Onhuno in Oshana and Ohangwena Regions and is expected to be completed in October 2013.

DR3609: Oshakati- Omungwelum: A 37.3 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards. Construction has commenced.

C) BITUMEN ROAD PROJECTS TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Honourable Members of this House, the following upgrading to bitumen projects will be constructed during the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 Financial Year:

DR3668: Okalongo- Omuvelo Gwakasamane: Is at a design stage and expected to commence during the 2013/2014 Financial Year.

DR3603: Onayena- Okankolo: A 31 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Oshikoto Region. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to commence in this Financial Year, subject to funds availability.

DR3615: Onamutuku (Oiwani) - Oshikuku: A 16 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Omusati Region. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to commence in this Financial Year, subject to funds availability.

DR3608: Omafo- Outapi: A 98 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Ohangwena and Omusati Regions. The construction is expected to commence in this Financial Year.

MR67: Omakange- Ruacana: A 86 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Omusati Region. The construction is expected to commence in the 2013/2014 Financial Year.

MR121: Oshigambo- Eenhana: A 48 km gravel road will be upgrade to bitumen standards in Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions. The construction is expected to commence in this Financial Year 2013/2014.

TR10/2: Elundu- Eenhana: A 25 km section, which was constructed as gravel road with a low volume seal, will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Ohangwena Region. The construction is expected to commence during this 2013/2014 Financial Year.

MR91: Gobabis- Aminus- Aranos: A 246 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Omaheke and Hardap Regions. The project is at a design tender stage and construction is expected to commence in this 2013/2014 Financial Year.

MR118: Rosh Pinah- Oranjemund: A 100 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Karas Region. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to comment still during this Financial Year.

MR44: Walvis Bay- Swakopmund: A 38 km gravel road behind the dunes will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Erongo Region. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to commence this Financial Year.

MR44 and MR76: Swakopmund- Henties Bay- Uis- Khorixas- Kamanjab: A 412 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Erongo and Kunene Regions. The Feasibility Studies has been completed and the project will go on design tender stage and construction is expected to commence in the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

TR14/2: Otjinene- Grootfontein: A 309 km gravel road will be upgraded to bitumen standards in Otjozondjupa Region. The project is at a design stage and construction will commence in the 2013/2014 Financial Year, subject to funds availability.

TR1/6: Windhoek- Okahandja: A 67 km existing bitumen road will be rehabilitated and upgraded to dual carriageway in Otjozondjupa and Khomas Regions. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to commence in the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

ON ROAD REHABILITATION

TR 7/1 Okahandja-Karibib: A 112 km from Okahandja to Karibib was completed in August 2012.

GRAVEL ROADS

A) GRAVEL ROADS COMPLETED

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

DR3660: MR92 to Omagongati (Omagongati – Ohakweenyanga): A 12 km gravel road constructed in the Omusati Region is completed.

DR 3610: Mangetti West phase 1 (Casablanca – Luwaya): A 52 km gravel road from Casablanca to Luwaya connecting the two Regions, Oshikoto and Kavango respectively is completed.

DR 3642: Okahao – Outapi: A 45 km gravel road is completed.

DR 3653: Oshikuku - Ekangolinene: A 26 km gravel road is completed in the Omusati Region and will be inaugurated on 23 May 2013.

DR 3428: Rupara/Muveve to Gcangcu: A 13 km gravel road constructed in the Kavango Region is completed.

B) ONGOING GRAVEL ROAD PROJECTS

The construction works for the following roads will continue during the 2013/2014 Financial Year:

DR 3524: Ngoma (Izimewe) – Nakabolelwa: A 23 km gravel road is being constructed in Caprivi Region and expected to be completed in August 2013.

DR 3427: Kamupupu – Mbururu: A 21 km gravel road is being constructed in the Kavango Region and expected to be completed in January 2014.

DR 3449 Tjova – Divayi: A 28 km gravel road is being constructed and progressing well in the Kavango Region. It is expected to be completed in May 2013.

DR3448 Kaisosi – Cuma: A 62 km gravel road is being constructed in the Kavango Region and expected to be completed in May 2013.

DR 3657: Oshapapa (Oshali) – Epumbu: A 32 km gravel road being constructed is progressing well in the Oshikoto Region and expected to be completed in March 2014.

DR 3673: Omuthiya – Onanke: A 33 km gravel road is being constructed and progressing well in the Oshikoto Region. It is expected to be completed in May 2013.

DR 3670: Oshandi – Eembahu –Oshiweda: A 33 km gravel road being constructed in the Ohangwena Region is progressing well. It is expected to be completed in March 2014.

DR 3671: Onamutai– Ongwediva– Okatana and DR 3672: A 17 km gravel road is being constructed in Oshana Region and expected to be completed in April 2013.

DR3672: Outapi – Okapalelona Border Post. A 13.6 km gravel road is being constructed and progressing well in the Omusati Region. Construction is expected to be completed in May 2013.

DR3674: Onayena – Omahenge: A 24 km gravel road in the Oshikoto and Ohangwena has commenced and expected to be completed in May 2014.

C) GRAVEL ROADS TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Honourable Members of this House, the following road projects are expected to be constructed during the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 Financial Year respectively:

DR 3649: Onalulago – Epembe: A 46 km gravel road is at a tender design stage in Oshikoto and the Ohangwena Regions. The construction will commence in this Financial Year.

DR3624: Etomba- Omundaungilo: A 75 km gravel road will be constructed in Ohangwena Region. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to commence this Financial Year.

DR3635: Amwaanda- Omutambogomawe: A 95 km gravel road will be constructed in Omusati Region. The project is at a design stage and expected to commence in this Financial Year .

DR3681: Epato- Onaushe: A 38 km gravel road will be constructed in Omusati Region. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to commence in Financial Year 2013/2014.

DR3508: Esize- Malindi- Sifuha- Schuckmannsburg: A 50 km gravel road will be constructed in Caprivi Region. The project is at a design stage and construction is expected to commence in 2014/2015 Financial Year.

DR3444: Tsintsabis- Gava: A 130 km gravel road will be constructed in Kavango Region. The project is at a design tender stage and construction is expected to commence in Financial Year 2014/2015.

DEVELOPMENT OF BRIDGES:

Ongwediva Bridge (Bridge No 139): The Ongwediva Bridge No. 139 in Oshana Region is being rehabilitated and upgraded to dual carriage way. Construction is ongoing and expected to be completed in September 2013.

Okandjengedi Bridge (Bridge No 138): The Okandjengedi Bridge in Oshana Region is also being rehabilitated and upgraded to dual carriage way. Construction is ongoing and expected to be completed in September 2013.

Rehoboth-Mariental: Bridge No 0157 (Bridge No 2312 and Bridge No 0158): Three Bridges between Rehoboth and Mariental in the Hardap Region will be rehabilitated. The project is at the construction tender stage and rehabilitation is expected to commence in the current Financial Year 2013/2014.

Okahandja- Ovitoto Bridges: The construction of three Bridges over the Bobbejaan River, Niehaus and Swakop River which links Ovitoto and Okahandja in Otjozondjupa Region is progressing well. The Construction of the bypasses is completed and expected to be completed in September 2013.

Pilot Projects: Steel Bridges: The Department of Transport in conjunction with Disaster Management Unit in the Prime Minister's Office has also installed two Steel Bridges at Groot Aub in Khomas Region and Oshigambo in Oshikoto Region for emergency relief.

OPUWO AERODROME

The feasibility study for the relocation of Opuwo aerodrome was completed in March 2012 and it is expected that the design for the aerodrome will commence during this Financial Year.

PROVISION OF ACCESS ROADS

Apart from road infrastructure development, our Ministry is highly engaged in coming up with a viable program to construct access roads to connect community centres, health facilities, schools and agricultural centres situated along the tarred Trunk or Main Roads.

PROGRAM 2: ROADS

The purposes of this programme are to develop, rehabilitate and upgrade the rural and urban road network. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover construction of new and ongoing upgrading projects and labour based gravel roads as elaborated earlier.

I, therefore request an amount of N\$ 833 034 000 for this Programme.

PROGRAM 3: TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND REGULATION ADMINISTRATION

Upgrading of Vehicle and Driver Testing Stations

The Department of Transport is responsible for the construction, renovation and upgrading of 18 testing stations out of 21 all over the country. To date, vehicles and driver testing stations at Rundu, Katima Mulilo, Ongwediva, Luderitz and Eenhana has been completed. Outapi testing station is expected to be completed during this Financial Year.

Renovations at Grootfontein, Walvis Bay and Windhoek testing stations are completed. Renovations at Okahandja testing station will commence during this Financial Year. Commencement of the Feasibility Study of the Opuwo testing station is also envisaged under the current Financial Year.

NONE-MOTORIZED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

MR 44: Swakopmund-Walvisbay Road

The Ministry intends to construct a 38 km none-motorized facility between Swakopmund to Walvis Bay. A feasibility study is envisaged to commence under the current Financial Year. This multi model transport facility will ensure that people can safely walk, cycle and drive efficiently and conveniently to their destination with ease and peace of mind.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROAD SAFETY

Following a Cabinet approval The Ministry of Works and Transport undertook to provide, for the first time, budgetary assistance to the National Road Safety Council for the furtherance of road safety activities. In this regard, we would like to see the integration of Road Safety into the school curriculum from pre-primary to tertiary level. With this in place we are convinced that our road safety performance as a country will improve over time.

I, therefore request an amount of N\$104 362 000 for this Financial Year 2013/2014.

PROGRAM 4: RAILWAYS NETWORK DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

I now wish to report on activities in the Railway sub-sector;

Construction of Permanent Way of Aus-Luderitz Railway Line: The construction of rail track to Luderitz is ongoing. Thirty-Three (33km) kilometres of track work is completed. The remaining section of Thirty-Seven (37km) kilometres will be completed by early 2014.

Aus, Luderitz Station, and Marshalling yard in Luderitz: To accommodate future growth of the Port ground handling areas in the stations are being improved. It is planned that improvement works will be completed by May 2013.

Flood Damaged Railway Line Near Aus: Repair works near Aus has started in March 2012 and completion is expected in 2013.

Ondangwa- Oshikango Railway: The Northern Railway Line Extension Phase II was completed in July 2012.

Northern Railway Line Extension Project Phase III (Ondangwa-Oshakati): Plans are afoot to connect Oshakati to the railway network. In this regard, identification of inhabitants who will be affected by construction of the railway line to Oshakati has started with a view to compensate them before construction activities can start.

Rehabilitation of the Kranzberg-Tsumeb Railway Section: The process of rail track rehabilitation and repair work is ongoing.

Trans-Kalahari Railway Line: A Project Specific Bilateral Agreement is currently being finalised by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and Botswana. It is also expected for Namibia to host the Trans-Kalahari Railway Line Project Office, which will handle all project matters.

The establishment of a Railway Line Inspectorate envisaged adequately monitoring and controlling railway line operations maintenance will commence during this Financial Year.

I, therefore request an amount of N\$455 306 000 for this program.

PROGRAMME 5: CIVIL AVIATION AND METEOROLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Directorate of Civil Aviation has commissioned the Very High Frequency Omni Directional Range Beacon (VOR) at Ondangwa Airport. This state of art will assist the aircrafts during bad condition to find the airport, as well as Air Traffic Controllers in locating the exact position of the aircraft.

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

I am pleased to further report the completion of the Wide Area Multilateration installation at the Walvis Bay and in the Mpacha Airports. The next step would be the integration of these new Stations into the existing Radar Surveillance network.

The Radar Training of our Air Traffic Controllers for the Area Control Centre at Eros Airport was completed by the Experts from Sweden.

Construction of the DCA Head Quarter project is at a tender evaluation stage.

SUBSTANTIATION FOR RECAPITALIZING THE NATIONAL AIRLINE

The transport sector constitutes a pivotal logistical factor in Namibia's economy and the unlocking of its future growth potential. All modes of transport are important and the transport sector as a whole has thus been singled out as one of the sectors for expansion during the NDP4 Development Plan. Due to the vast size of the country and great distances having to be covered often in short periods of time the aviation industry has become firmly established in Namibia and thus also the long established roots of the national airline (since 1948).

Air Namibia constitutes an integral part of Namibia's logistical hub and connects the country to main markets in the sub-continent and Europe. The Government furthermore recognizes that its established core routes are poised to establish wider connectivity and market penetration - and more sectors will become increasingly reliant on air travel with future economic growth and development.

The tourism sector in Namibia has shown a steady growth over many years and this welcomed expansion could materialize as a result of the services offered by the national airline. The annual growth of airline passengers utilizing the direct FRA-WHK route of Air Namibia has grown from 97,000 in 2009 to 144,000 in 2012. It is estimated that around 80,000 jobs are linked (directly and indirectly) to the tourism industry and the contribution to GDP is estimated between N\$1, 5 - N\$2, 0 billion per annum.

The national airline must fulfill a strategic role in economic growth and development, and this mission cannot simply be entrusted to a foreign operator. The market conditions and demographics prevailing in Namibia are not conducive to attracting operators that can be entrusted with providing long-term services. With economic downturns, they usually disappear - and numerous examples exist to validate this statement. It is for this reason that the Government resolved to recapitalize the airline recently and render support to the initiated strategic turn-around plan.

I, therefore request an amount of N\$ 1 684 072 000 for this Programme.

DIRECTORATE OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

PROGRAMME 7: MARITIME AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY

The Ministry has acquired a River Dredger which will be utilized to maintain certain portions of the Zambezi River depths as well as to construct mooring points to ensure safety of the River Landing Craft operating between Katima Mulilo and Impalila Island.

Walvis Bay Port limits were extended to provide sufficient room for ship anchorage and control within the protected port area.

An administrative office will be constructed at Walvis Bay to create a conducive maritime environment, for the provision of efficient maritime services.

The Ministry has also acquire and installed Marine Information, Safety and Surveillance Systems (Radar and Navtex) to ensure safety of ships in our EEZ and detect, monitor and control shipping, fishing and mining operations offshore.

I therefore request an amount of N\$97 925 000 for this program.

DIRECTORATE OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The Directorate of Aircraft Accident Investigations has recorded notable reduction in aircraft accidents in Namibia during the past Financial Year.

This reduction of accident occurrences was attributed to the safety recommendations generated by the investigators of the Directorate of Aircraft Accident Investigation.

Based on the findings of the ICAO in 2006 the Ministry envisaged to construct a hangar for Directorate of Aircraft Accident Investigation to store wreckages of aircrafts and/or aircraft engines that were involved in accidents for investigation purpose. Modern investigation equipment including CVR and FDR read out need to be purchased and installed in this hanger. This will save us a lot since Namibia will no longer send components overseas for further and detailed investigation.

I request an amount of N\$10 658 000.

PROGRAM 8: METEOROLOGICAL FACILITIES

The purpose of this program is to ensure a safe, secure and efficient Civil Aviation and Meteorological infrastructure and to be in compliance with the World Meteorological Organisation and ICAO Conventions as well as with the SADC Protocol on Transport and Meteorology.

I therefore request an amount of N\$59 297 000 for the construction of manned meteorological offices and associated facilities at Rundu, Katima Mulilo Mariental and Opuwo.

PROGRAMME 9: GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The purpose of this program is to provide Government with reliable and safe road transport services. The allocated amount will be used for personnel expenditure as well as for goods and other services.

For the financial year 2013/2014, the total operational budget of N\$239 710 000 is allocated to vote 2401 (Government Garage).

Due to the ever increasing demand for vehicles and trucks to transport relief food to areas affected by drought and flood, an amount of N\$50 000 000 will be spent on acquisition of vehicles during the Financial Year 2013/2014.

I therefore request an amount of N\$239 710 000 for this program.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in light of the above outlined programs, I humbly submit Vote 24 for the total amount of N\$3,645,814.000 for the 2013/2014 Financial Year for your consideration and approval.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.