

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



BUDGET SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE
DR ALBERT KAWANA, MP
MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS,
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
VOTE 26,
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

05 APRIL 2013

PARLIAMENT
**Check Against Delivery*

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 26, National Planning Commission (NPC). The NPC is a technical institution which does not require detailed motivation.

In terms of Article 129 of the Namibian Constitution, the main constitutional functions of the NPC is to plan the priorities and direction of national development. The NPC is, further mandated to:

- Spearhead the identification of Namibia's socio economic development priorities;
- Formulate short-term, medium-term and long-term national development plans;
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of the national development plans; and
- Evaluate the effectiveness of Government economic policies.

The NPC is also responsible for the coordination of Official Development Assistance (ODA), capital projects and has an oversight responsibility over the National Statistics Agency (NSA). I would like to first highlight major outputs achieved in the areas of development planning, and policy formulation, surveillance and monitoring, resource mobilization and data collection.

The main achievement was the finalization of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4). The Government has adopted a more focused approach for implementation of the Plan with emphasis on the three high level objectives, namely, sustainable economic growth, employment creation and reduction of income inequality. It is important to note that NDP4 is not only a Government owned plan, but it is also a holistic agenda which requires participatory approach by both the public and private sectors.

**Honourble Chairperson,
Honourble Members,**

The NPC has successfully completed the design of the computerized National Integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation System. This is a computerised system designed for the monitoring and evaluation of the National Development Plans and formulation and monitoring of the annual National Development Budget. The system was rolled out to all Offices, Ministries and Agencies. It was used for the preparation of the Development Budget for 2013/2014-2015/2016 MTEF. Officials from the Offices, Ministries and Agencies were trained to operate the system. I have no doubt that the system will reduce the workload, save on time, and encourage continuous engagement among Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

The NPC also focused on the monitoring and evaluation of NDP4. The Plan requires that there shall be a bi-annual report prepared which should be submitted to Cabinet. The first bi-annual report on the implementation of NDP4 was submitted to Cabinet in November last year.

In the area of resource mobilization, the NPC managed to raise grants to the amount of N\$ 1.423 billion during 2011/2012 financial year. A fully fledged Official Development Assistance Database was developed. This will make it much easier to track development assistance.

The Namibia Statistics Agency made good progress towards the production and dissemination of critical statistics. These include the production of annual national accounts, quarterly GDP statistics, quarterly trade statistics, monthly consumer price index, provisional result of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, the 2009/2010 Income and Expenditure Survey and two poverty reports.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

The NPC has five main programmes. **The first programme is known as Supervision, Coordination and Support Services.** This programme renders support services to the NPC.

The main activities under this programme include managerial oversight, maintaining and safe keeping of computerized information system, and system administration. An amount of **Thirty - Eight Million, One Hundred and Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$38,109,000)** is requested for this programme.

The second programme is called macroeconomic planning. Its main objective is to facilitate the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies, research and development, as well as maintenance of macro modeling. The programme also ensures effective formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Development Budget and National Development Plans.

The main activities during the 2012/2013 financial year involved the evaluation of the Third National Development Plan; finalization of the Fourth National Development Plan; formulation and production of economic research; and development of a macroeconomic model.

An amount of **Twelve million, Six hundred and Eighty - Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$12,688,000)** is requested for this programme.

The third programme is Regional and Sectoral Planning and Policy Coordination. This programme involves economic planning and research at national and regional levels.

The programme will continue with the roll out of NDP4 and oversee its full implementation. It will further ensure that those sectors that did not finalize their five year sectoral execution plans will complete the exercise within the first quarter of 2013/2014. Furthermore, continuous monitoring will be carried out to ensure that programmes and projects planned for the year are implemented without delay and that targets for the year are met.

The programme will further embark upon social research and compile analytical reports on the country's performance in meeting social needs of our people. These Reports include updating progress made on the MDGs and Poverty assessments. Other responsibilities are to oversee regional planning in order to ensure that regional plans and programmes are in line with NDP4. In this respect, NPC will engage all the Regions to ensure that their respective Strategic Development Plans are in line with NDP4. This will also include overseeing and coordinating budgeting and funding of regional programmes and projects, engage Offices, Ministries, Agencies and other stakeholders in key economic sectors in order to assess strategic Policies and identify challenges.

An amount of **Twelve Million, Three hundred and Eighty - Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$12,387,000)** is requested for this programme.

The fourth programme involves Monitoring, Evaluation and Development Partner Coordination. The main activities of this programme is to monitor, evaluate and report on Government performance at the national and sub-national levels, in line with the national development goals and objectives as stipulated in the NDPs. The programme also involves mobilizing, coordinating and managing development cooperation with development partners to augment funding for development purposes.

Resource mobilization strategy is one of the responsibilities of this programme. The strategy is to ensure that the resource mobilization is clear, systematic, predictable and well coordinated.

An amount of **Forty - Six Million, Nine hundred and Eighty -Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$46,982,000)** is requested for this programme.

The fifth programme is the Namibia Statistics Agency. The Namibia Statistics Agency was established with the sole mandate of serving as central statistical authority and the central repository for all official statistics produced in Namibia. It is, *inter alia*, responsible for collection, production and dissemination of official statistics and spatial data, as well as the coordination of the National Statistics System.

This programme will ensure the production of credible official statistics and spatial data and coordination of Namibia Statistics System. It is also tasked to ensure the production of timely statistics for evidence based planning and decision making, as well as monitoring the implementation of NDP4 and other national programmes.

The Agency will publish thematic reports on mortality, fertility, migration, spatial distribution and urbanization, household and housing conditions.

An amount of **Fifty - Five million, Nine hundred and Eighty - One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$55,981,000)** is requested for this programme.

**Honorable Chairperson,
Honorable Members,**

I humbly request this august House to consider and approve the budget of **ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY - SIX MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTY - SEVEN THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (N\$166,147,000)** for the programmes of the NPC.

I thank you.

-----**END**-----