



THE RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)



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Remarks on the Budget Submission for 2013/2014 by Honorable Minister of Finance, Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila

By Honorable Kandy Nehova

13th March 2013

**Honorable Speaker,
Honorable Members of this
August House,**

**Allow me to make few
comments on the budget
before us. As a nation we are
faced with three major socio-
economic problems, namely
poverty, unemployment and**

glaring inequality in the distribution of our wealth.

We have been talking about these problems since independence and even before independence, when we promised this nation many good things, including equality, provision of employment, better housing and quality free education and health for all.

The mothers and fathers of our Constitution, cognizant of the imbalances created by the brutal and divisive Apartheid regime, established under Article 129 of the Constitution, the National Planning Commission in order to plan the economic development of this country.

I am sure most of us in this Chamber are aware of the details.

The Constitution, under Article 98, further directs as to how the economic development of Namibia should be organized. Again I believe that most of us are fully aware of the details.

**Honorable Speaker,
Honorable Members,
Right from the start we knew that the private sector will not finance or build public infrastructures such as roads, schools, hospitals, defense and**

**security installations, water
installations, power
installations and public
administration
infrastructures.**

**We also knew that for this
country to advance to the level
where it would be considered
a developed nation, we needed
to invest heavily in capacity
building aimed at empowering
our young people with the
necessary skills to enable the
nation to exploiting all the**

natural resources that this country is richly endowed with. By exploiting, we did not mean to extract and send raw materials to other countries and in so doing, exporting jobs that go with value addition activities in those countries, but we meant to extract and add value to all our resources before exporting semi-finished to finished products while retaining jobs and skills on our soil.

As we sit in this August House today, we have failed this nation because we have failed to plan. Either we did not understand the role and function of the National Planning Commission or we have put the wrong people in that important national institution or both.

**Honorable Speaker,
What I am trying to emphasize today, and I have done so before,**

is that this country cannot, and will not, realize its development potential unless and until it has formulated a comprehensive national development master plan or program comprising:

- a) Types, quantities and quality of public infrastructures and installations, including maintenance thereof**
- b) Types and quantities of industries**

- c) Quality standards to be developed and maintained**
- d) Quantity and quality of human resources / skills needed to develop our country**
- e) Quantity of material and financial resources needed to accomplish the above**
- f) In addition the master plan should prioritize and benchmark national projects**

Only when we have set up a comprehensive development

master plan that we can assist the government, private businesses and other local and international development partners, and indeed, the individual citizens to make informed decisions to both short-term and long-term development objectives for the welfare of families, communities, the nation and Africa at large.

Honorable Speaker

By involving all stakeholders in the organization and participation in the economic development, we will be fostering patriotism and a sense of ownership, self-confidence and dignity in our people.

Honorable Speaker,

I insist that as long as we fail to embrace the principle of planning in the real sense as meant in the Supreme Law of

our country, the Constitution, we will go nowhere despite the semantics, the rhetoric, the slogans and beautiful terms used in this and the previous budget discussions.

All the scattered and disjointed plans or any other knee-jerk, crisis-taming intervention no matter how much financial resources are poured into it, will take us nowhere.

To emphasize my point, we have been pumping billions into our national budgets for over 20 years now, but, apparently; we are not yet in a position to manufacture beddings and uniforms for patients in public hospitals, leave alone manufacturing basic drugs for our patients.

May I also add the fact that our zinc, iron ore, copper, lead, silver, gold, diamonds, uranium, fish and livestock

are still being exported largely, if not exclusively, in raw form?

Indeed they are, and this is despite claims that we are making progress in our economic development.

**Honorable Speaker,
Honorable Members,
I conclude by reminding this August House, once again, that no industrialization, no economic expansion, no job**

creation, no poverty alleviation, let alone poverty eradication will be achieved without a comprehensive economic development master plan.

I would therefore like to urge all of us in this August House to demand that the National Planning Commission produce this requisite development tool and allow this country to finally move forward?

By the way, secure permanent jobs can only be created in small, medium and large-scale enterprises and not in temporary activities like bush clearing as purported by TIPEEG.

Finally, I also wish to remind this August House that this nation has all the necessary brains to do all what is required, but what is missing are honesty, accountability

and political will from the ruling elites.

**My remarks notwithstanding,
I wish to congratulate
Honorable Saara
Kuugongelwa Amadhila for
preparing this budget on time.**

I rest my case for now.

