

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**BUDGET SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE
DR ALBERT KAWANA, MP
MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS,
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
VOTE 01,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

04 April 2013

PARLIAMENT

**Check Against Delivery*

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise with honour and humility to motivate Vote 01, Office of the President to this august House. In presenting this motivation, I am mindful of the need to fast-track the debate on the Appropriation Bill for immediate implementation. Indeed, our able Minister of Finance and her colleagues have produced volumes of information, including the accountability report. Yesterday, His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of our Republic addressed his nation. The address centered mainly on the Appropriation Bill. The purpose of my motivation, therefore, is merely to fill the gaps on the Vote of the Office of the President. I am further mindful of the fact that we are at the Committee stage of the Bill where only details should be addressed.

The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia vests in our President with specific duties and responsibilities. Article 32 outlines the most critical duties and roles of the President. The President is also entrusted with numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. In addition, the common law and customary law, as recognized under Article 66 of the Namibian Constitution, impose certain functions on the President. These responsibilities place additional demands and their implementation requires both human and financial resources.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

As a demonstration of the sterling leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba over the years, our country continues to enjoy peace and stability. This has enabled the Government to implement policies and programmes aimed at advancing the national development agenda, and the improvement of the living conditions of our people.

In the fulfillment of his constitutional mandate, the President has engaged in consultations with various stakeholders, both inside and outside Government.

He also travelled to various parts of the country to gauge the implementation of government projects and to familiarize himself with the challenges faced by communities in our country. It is the positive policies of our SWAPO Party Government that today, about 71% of our citizens are satisfied with the performance of the SWAPO Party Government. This is confirmed by the latest Afrobarometer results conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research. Its results were released on Thursday 14 March 2013. This is a big achievement that will serve as a motivation to continue to address the socio-economic needs of our nation. We are, however, fully aware that we are still faced with many challenges such as poverty, unemployment, lack of decent housing and rural development. These areas should continue to receive the attention of our Government.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

It is important to point out that Vote 01 is sub-divided into four programmes in line with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The Programmes under Vote 1 have been reduced from five to four. This was done as part of the ongoing innovation and reforms to improve efficiencies in the administration of the budget.

The Programmes under Vote 1 and the funds allocated to each of them are as follows:

Programme 1: Supervision and Support Services has been allocated an amount of N\$330,016,591 (**Three Hundred and Thirty Million, Sixteen Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety - One Namibia Dollars**).

Programme 2: Cabinet Administrative Support Management has been allocated an amount of N\$12,383,060.00 (**Twelve Million, Three Hundred and Eighty - Three Thousand and Sixty Namibia Dollars**).

Programme 3: Protection of the National Constitution has been allocated an amount of N\$52,097,001.00 (**Fifty - Two Million, Ninety - Seven Thousand and One Namibia Dollars**).

Programme 4: Democracy Consolidation and Promotion has been allocated an amount of N\$15,576,348.00 (**Fifteen Million, Five Hundred and Seventy - Six Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty - Eight Namibia Dollars**).

At the end of the financial year, the accountability report will indicate the extent of implementation of the aforementioned programmes as well as the Challenges encountered.

May I point out, Honourable Chairperson, that under Programme 4, support is provided to the Office of the Founding President in line with the Former Presidents' Pension and Other Benefits Act, 2004 (Act No. 18 of 2004.)

This underscores the vital role that the Founding President, and indeed the future former Presidents of our Republic will continue to play in consolidating the culture of democracy, the rule of law and constitutionalism in our country.

Technical, logistical and administrative support is also provided to the First Lady of our Republic, Madam Penhupifo Pohamba, to carry out her outreach and advocacy role for the benefit of vulnerable communities in our society. Our First Lady held wide consultations with traditional and community leaders countrywide on the Prevention of the transmission of HIV/AIDS from Mother to Child, with specific focus on the involvement of men. The initiatives have benefitted many communities around the country.

It is important to also note that the First Lady has been active at the international level as President of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV / AIDS.

She attended international conferences on HIV / AIDS and other high level meetings convened by the United Nations and the African Union. As a result of her hard work, she was recognized as an Ambassador for Peace by the Universal Peace Federation.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

We are proud that through his statesmanship, our President has steered our country with a steady hand. This has earned Namibia respect and admiration among the nations of the world. Today, Namibia is at peace with her neighbors and our international profile continues to grow, thanks to the leadership of our country's top diplomat, namely, our President.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, our President is charged with carrying out important national functions. In order to discharge these duties successfully and thereby keep our country on the path of progress, development, prosperity, peace and stability, I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to give our President and his support staff, the means to do so.

I, therefore, humbly request you Honourable Members to support and approve the total allocation of N\$410,073,000.00 (**Four Hundred and Ten Million and Seventy - Three Thousand Namibia Dollars**) in respect of Vote 01.

Of this total allocation, an amount of N\$236,573,00.000.00 (**Two Hundred and Thirty - Six Million, Five Hundred and Seventy - Three Thousand Namibia Dollars**) is earmarked for the Operational budget, while the remaining N\$173,500,000.00 (**One Hundred and Seventy - Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars**) is earmarked for the Development Budget.

I Thank You.

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