



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Tel: (061) 282 9111
Fax: (061) 221145 / 223937 / 220265
E:mail: headquarters@mfa.gov.na

Private Bag 13347
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA

Ref.:

Enquires:

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEBATE ON THE
APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 1 OF 2014]
BY HON PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**National Assembly, Windhoek
25 February 2014**

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

Much has been said about the budget since it was tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance on 19 February. As expected, the budget drew some criticism from some quarters, including members of the Opposition. For one to do justice ^{and make a sound} to budget critique, it is important to look at the national goals and plans, as embodied in the NDP 4 and see whether the budget is in line ^{with} or it contradicts with these national policies. The NDP 4 focuses on the development of the logistics, tourism, agriculture and manufacturing industries.

It is encouraging to see our agricultural targets focusing on increased irrigation area, national horticultural production and the yields of dry land farming in the MTEF document. This is necessary to ensure food sufficiency in our country. We do not generally receive good rain, yet agriculture is one of our priority area ^{to help agriculture alive} but for domestic consumption and export. Our farmers need support. Government should, therefore, be applauded for always adopting measures to sustain farmers during drought seasons.

Adrian Fozzard states in his publication titled *Approaches to resource allocations in the public sector and their implications for pro-poor budgeting*, that from the 1950s, levels of expenditure increased because of governments' active role in social and economic development programmes. This was partly also caused by the proliferation of government programmes. He further states that in developing countries, it is customary to prioritise development projects as governments devise strategies and development goals aimed at expanding social services. Our budget is expanded to address not only social services, but also to engage in capital projects that stimulate economic growth and create employment.

Against the afore-mentioned, I welcome the allocation of 1.6 billion to the Kudu Gas power plant. Since independence, the Namibian Government underscores the importance of industrialisation. Industrialisation is only possible if there sufficient power supply. Currently, our demand stands at 550MW. Even if we were to operate Paratus, Anixas , Ruacana and Van Eck power stations at base load, which in any case cannot be done for a pro-longed period, we will still be short of generation capacity. It is for that reason that we depend on imports from Eskom of South Africa, ZESA of Zimbabwe and ZESCO of Zambia.

The only solution to the power generation capacity is, indisputably, the construction of the Gas-fired power station, currently envisaged at 400MW x 2 power plants. I reiterate the statement I made in this august ^{House} last year that Kudu is a national project that should be supported by all. We implore upon NamPower to deliver on this project without fail.

Honourable Speaker

The management of the Namibian economy vests with the Government, for when things goes wrong, it is the Government that will be held accountable by the citizenry. Accordingly, I remain an adherent of modern liberalism, which Norwegian academics Dag Einar Thorsen and Amund Lie describe in their publication titled *What is Neo-liberalism* as follows:

Modern liberalism is... characterised by a greater willingness to let the state become an active participant in the economy. This has often issued in a pronounced tendency to regulate the marketplace, and to have the state supply essential goods and services to everyone...Whereas classical or economic liberals favour *laissez-faire* economic policies because it is thought that they lead to more freedom and real democracy, modern liberals tend to claim that this analysis is inadequate and misleading, and that the state must play a significant role in the economy, if the most basic liberal goals and purposes are to be made into reality.

Government should, thus, continue to play an active role in the national economy. After all, it is the Government that creates conducive environment for trade and investment. Further, when the rate of unemployment goes high, it is the government that people will ~~hold~~ hold *accountable*.

Apart from budgeting, we should also pay attention to monitoring budget performance. The return of the funds to the treasury does not augur well. Such funds would have been utilised efficiently in other sectors that are equally in need.

Honourable Speaker

In the recent years I have developed interests in legal affairs. Accordingly, human rights issues are close to my heart. The importance of human rights is illustrated by chapter three of the Namibia Constitution, which is entrenched and cannot be amended. Accordingly, I am glad to learn that the Office of the Ombudsman extends its outreach programmes by educating learners about human rights issues and introducing intake clinic programmes to the communities. I had the opportunity to read the Ombudsman Annual Report, where many labour related matters in the Public Service were attended to and resolved, saving the complainant the expensive exercise of institution legal actions in the Courts. I, therefore, welcome the allocation of N\$ 19.3 million to programmes of (i) receipt and investigation of complains and outreach and public awareness campaign. (ii)

Last year in November, Namibia was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Our election demonstrates the confidence that the world has in our upholding of human rights. Our Constitution is hailed as one of the exemplary blueprints guaranteeing freedom, justice and civil rights. The Namibian government continue to uphold this supreme law. Accordingly, we continue to advocate the respect of human dignity in the world.

Back home, I should mention that ~~the~~ acts of crime being perpetrated against innocent persons are, ~~by~~ by their very nature, violation of the human rights of the victims. Passion killings have become the order of the day as criminals mercilessly murder innocent civilians. The bringing to justice of perpetrators of crime is therefore crucial to ensure justice to the victims. I, therefore, support the targets of the Ministry of Justice to finalise registered criminal cases up to 70% at the end of the current MTEF period. As a matter of fact, I would even want to see a higher percentage, if possible. In this respect, I welcome the allocation of N\$ 116 million and N\$ 60.5 million to the superior and lower courts respectively, in 2014/15 budget.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

Let me now turn to my favourite area, international relations.

There are talks about diverting funds from the Ministry of Defence. It gives an impression that people like Honourable Maamberg want a poorly resourced and, therefore, weak defence force. Given his zero possibility of making it through the ballot box, I am inclined to support him by one thing - that he wants a toothless defence force to afford him an opportunity to make a sinister and notorious move of ascending the throne. I render him a friendly advice not to do so. Accordingly, I support target No 3 of the Ministry of Defence set in the MTEF document, namely to replace obsolete equipment with at least 20% latest technology by the end of the MTEF period and acquire modern equipment.

International relations continue to be tainted by injustice, selective morality and lip services. The continued embargo against Cuba is a case in point. The people of Cuba can count on Namibians as their all-weather allies in their quest for justice. On my part, I declare my respect and admiration for Commandant Fidel Castor Ruz and the Cuban people for their fortitude and resolve. Their courage and steadfastness continue to send messages to their adversaries that one can never kill the spirit of revolution. No amount of coercive diplomacy will break the morale of progressive people in defence of the gains of their revolution. There is no justifiable and rational ground to maintain the exercise that has harmed the Cuban economy for many years. This embargo should be lifted forthwith, to ensure that the Cuban people chart an unfettered course for their country.

The continued incarceration of the four Cuban nationals, who are part of the Cuban Five, is one of the notorious and insensitive ridicule to the cardinal values of justice and human liberty. There have been worldwide calls for the release of the Cuban Five to which the intended party turned a deaf ear. This reflects an unfortunate manifestation of disregard for international public opinion. It reflects a mockery on the importance of international cooperation that we hear being preached in the esteemed corridors of international power. What cooperation do we preach when we cannot even maintain good neighbourliness?

As a matter of fact, the unipolar power contributes to international conflicts. Clubs of good boys are formed and used against those perceived to be stubborn. The politics of patronage undermines the sovereignty of states. Thus, Richard Mansbach and Kirstern Rafferty points to the importance of balance-of power in their publication titled *Introduction to global politics*. The uneven distribution of power in the international political system is the source of controversial application of international law. The people of Palestine are massacred day and night, and the darlings of the culprit pretend as if all is well in the world. New agenda items are placed before the United Nations Security Council at the expense of longstanding unresolved issues, such as the Middle East peace process. The centres of power preoccupy themselves with peripheral issues, running away from the international community's responsibility over the question of Western Sahara. Resolutions after one another are passed and become just one of those decisions in the history of mankind.

Last year, I had the honour to lead the Namibian delegation to the Zimbabwe presidential and parliamentary elections. Given the peaceful atmosphere in which elections took place, the results were a clear indication of the will of the Zimbabwean people. That notwithstanding, we see signs of disappointments from some quarters and perpetual denial of the inevitable that has happened. Those concerned expose themselves that indeed they had a regime change agenda against Zimbabwe. It is a pity that they had to adopt a position clearly demonstrating nothing less than frustrations resulting from the failure of ill-conceived expectations. I submit that there are no longer grounds for maintaining sanctions against Zimbabwe. No amount of explanations in any sugar-coated language will render the sanctions justifiable. They should, therefore, be unconditionally lifted forthwith. I further salute the people of Zimbabwe for adopting the indigenisation programme, thereby placing the economy in the hands of the Zimbabwe nationals. Programmes of this nature sends one message to the world, *i.e.* that Africa cannot afford to possess natural resources that only benefits people from other continents.

Honourable Speaker

As a member of the international community, Namibia further has a place to play in international trade. Concurring with Cambridge's academic Amrita Narlikar in the publication entitled *Editorial: small states in multilateral negotiations*, I submit that in an integrated world economy, Namibia as a small state need to fully engage the WTO and participate in its activities and negotiations at all levels. The elevation of the Namibian mission in Geneva, to a fully-fledged mission by deploying a full Ambassador to that mission attests to Namibia's upholding of multilateralism and the importance she attaches to international trade negotiations and other forms of specialised diplomacy. Accordingly, I welcome the allocation of N\$ 39 million to multilateral programmes. We should dispel the notion that multilateral relations should be left to be championed by large states. As a sovereign nation, we should make our presence felt in the global trade system.

Namibia's foreign policy is carried out abroad by our diplomatic missions. Foreign representation is allocated N\$768 in the 2014/15 budget. Representing one's own country abroad is a responsibility that should be carried out with commitment and dedication. The effectiveness of diplomatic representation is measured by the output. This includes a number of foreign direct investments that come to Namibia. The Minister of Finance reported in her Budget ^{Statement} that foreign direct investment increased to N\$ 6 billion during the previous financial year. This is assuring. I would like to underscore that efficiency in diplomacy is not just about a number of visits that diplomat arrange from their receiving states to a sending state and *vice versa*. The follow up on such visits is more important as that is where the value for bilateral visits will be determined.

Lack of follow up on bilateral agreements and meetings of bilateral Joint commissions of cooperation continue to hamper the realisations of deriving maximum mutual benefits. Stakeholders attending preparatory meetings of Joint Commissions quite ill-prepared, thus keeping items standing over from one meeting to subsequent meetings. Similarly, diplomats abroad are at times frustrated by delayed responses from the line Ministries on matters crucial to economic diplomacy. They are left pondering what to do and what not to do in order to make out the best from their representation. Prompt response to our diplomats is essential for the overall success of our foreign relations. We should enhance efficiency by setting reasonable time for delivery. As they say in law "time is of essence"!

*1 → insert here from next page

In the period of changing trends in foreign policies, the making of foreign policy is a national responsibility for all foreign policy-makers. Public diplomacy is important in the practice of both political and economic diplomacy. In their publication titled *Wither Foreign Ministries in a post-Western World*, Brian Hocking, Jan Melissen, Shaun Riordan and Paul Sharp opine that,

Globalization has left its mark on diplomacy and foreign ministries. The breakdown of the distinction between domestic and foreign policy has ended the foreign ministry's gatekeeper role and near monopoly of foreign policy. Almost all government ministries now deal with international policy.

In the practice of diplomacy, stakeholder ministries have a forum where they meet to exchange views and digest policy related issues. In his publication titled *The changing politics of foreign*

policy, Christopher Hill avers that the foreign policy of a country is better coordinated by foreign policy executives, comprising of the Ministries engaged in both political and economic relations. A properly constructed forum is necessary to avoid the risk of having *ad hoc* coordination made in corridors and subsequently fade away in the thin air.

To effectively plan and carry out foreign policy and diplomatic practice, Hocking *et al.*, in ^{their} ~~his~~ publication cited earlier recommends the need for a diplomatic reserve that serves as a think-tank on foreign policy matters. This reserve could be drawn from the academia, business community, and experienced diplomats, among others. Accommodating these actors will, to a certain extent, ensure that there is a degree of public participation on foreign policy-making. We should move in that direction where our foreign relations are a direct result of domestic consultation.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

This year, the Namibian people will go to the polls to exercise their democratic rights. To ensure macro-economic Stability, I urge them to deliver a solid Namibian vote to SWAPO Party! With these words I support the Budget 2014/15 and MTEF 2014/15 – 2016/17.

more to the previous page)
diplomacy is not only confined to politics and economics
it needs our attention,