



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
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**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 <sup>and make a sound</sup> 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 <sup>with</sup> 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 <sup>to help agriculture alive</sup> 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 <sup>House</sup> 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:

