

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**BUDGET SPEECH FOR
VOTE 01: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/2017
BY THE MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL
AFFAIRS, HONOURABLE FRANS KAPOFI**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,

Yesterday, the President of our Republic, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, delivered the State of the Nation Address to a joint sitting of our Parliament. As required by the supreme law, and in keeping with the commitment to the tenets of transparency, accountability, good governance and the rule of law, the President informed our people about the state of the nation. He also launched the Harambee Prosperity Plan, which sets out a mid-term vision for accelerated implementation of prioritized government programmes and interventions to combat poverty, create jobs and put Namibia on a trajectory of economic growth. I am, therefore, pleased to rise and motivate the Vote 1: Office of the President for the 2016/2017 Financial Year.

In carrying out his constitutional mandate, the President requires adequate support and resources. The budget that I motivate today is designed to ensure that the human, financial, logistical and other resources that the President requires are indeed placed at his disposal so that he can carry out his duties of providing the necessary leadership to the nation, and thereby continue to build an inclusive Namibian House where no one feels left out. The noble task on the shoulders of our President is enormous. Namibia is indeed blessed that, building on a solid foundation of peace and stability established by his predecessors, Dr. Geingob is pursuing strategies to bring prosperity to all our people.

As the President has pointed out, prosperity does not mean creating opulence and excess, but ensuring that every Namibian has access to basic amenities and services such as safe drinking water, quality education and adequate health care. Coupled with this, is the President's declaration of an all-out war against poverty. It is incumbent upon all Namibians to support the President in these efforts so that collectively we can bring about a fairer society, where income disparities are addressed, where unemployment is addressed and where our people are all proud to call this beautiful country their home. A peaceful, stable, tolerant and prosperous society.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,

For the 2016/2017 Financial Year, Vote 1: Office of the President is allocated an amount of N\$679,128,000-00. The allocation is broken down as follows: an amount of N\$539,983,800-00 is operational, while N\$139,145,000-00 is the development budget. The allocation for this Financial Year represents a decreased of N\$35,906,200-00, compared to the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

The Office of the President has four (4) programmes namely:

Programme 1 – Security Management and Support Services with an amount of N\$389,040,000-00

Programme 2 – Marginalized Communities and People with Disabilities with an amount of N\$ 80,344,000-00

Programme 3 – Protection of National Constitution with an amount of N\$156,781,800-00 and,

Programme 4 – Democracy and Consolidation, with an amount of N\$52,963,000-00

Allow me, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to provide information on the four programmes I outlined above.

Programme 01: Supervision and Support Services

The purpose of this programme is to support the Executive Organ of the State to act in national interest and uphold the dignity of the Office of the President. Its main objective is to ensure that the NCIS detects and identifies threat or potential threat to the security of Namibia and take action necessary to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country.

The main activities under this Programme include:

- Provision of Advisory and Administrative Services,
- Carrying out executive assignments,
- Providing logistics and procurement,
- Capacity Building, and
- Maintenance of Infrastructure

In turn, this is expected to translate into:

- Enhancement of Effective and efficient governance,
- Maintenance of Peace, security and stability in Namibia, and
- Improved Public Service delivery.

Programme 02: Marginalised Communities and People with Disabilities

The purpose of this programme is to integrate the San, Ovatie and Ovatjimba communities and people with disabilities into the mainstream economy and other aspects of society.

The main activities that fall under the Programme include providing support to students and learners from identified communities to access schooling. Education support targeting the beneficiary communities, which is provided under the San Development Programme, is crucial in terms of developing and integrating these communities into the broader society, creating a better future, empowering them and enabling them to realize their full potential.

Under this Programme, beneficiaries of education support are identified and they are assisted with enrolment at tertiary institutions. Build Together Projects for construction of permanent buildings for schools and teachers houses at various settlement centres for beneficiary communities are also co-ordinated under this programme.

Resettlement and Relocation

Under this activity, beneficiary communities have been resettled on communal land or commercial farms purchased by government. Post resettlement services provided to the communities include support for agronomic and horticultural projects, supply of materials, equipment, seeds and, in a number of cases livestock. A

number of landless San families from Oshivelo have been relocated to Farm Ondera in the Oshikoto Region in order to have better access to land and better livelihoods. The San community at Gam has been provided with blankets, mattresses and food items. Water has been provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and a community garden will be developed soon. A coordinator has been appointed for this project.

Twenty (20) houses will be built at Corridor 17 and two sites have been earmarked for the relocation of landless San Communities in the areas of Otjinene, Epukiro and Eiseb Block.

Other forms of support provided to the beneficiary communities include the provision of coffins.

This programme also covers interventions aimed supporting activities targeting persons with disabilities. The overall mandate in this regard, is to strengthen and co-ordinate the implementation of policies and legal framework in relation to disability issues and also to initiate programmes that enable young children and youth with disabilities to gain access to education, health care and employment opportunities. Towards, this end, officials and political leaders charged with the implementation of these activities have carried out familiarization visits around the country to assess the challenges faced by persons living with disabilities.

The review of the National Disability Council Act and its Regulations will be initiated in order to make its implementation more effective.

A registration drive will be carried out countrywide to ensure that more persons with disabilities are registered so that they can access support services provided by the Government. Disability Resource Centres in different parts of the country will also be improved. Similarly, an employment database for persons with disabilities will be put in place.

People living with disability need the utmost attention from society because in many instances, they are not able to help themselves. For this reason, I call upon our citizens to inform Government of the existence of such cases for possible assistance.

Programme 03: Protection of the national Constitution

The purpose of this programme is to comply with Chapter 5 and other relevant provisions of the Constitution pertaining to the mandate of the President, including the maintenance of peace and stability and promoting good governance.

Specific activities under the programme include the carrying out of executive functions, hosting official functions and undertaking official visits. These are expected to translate into:

- Compliance with the Constitution
- Formulation and implementation of policies related to national development objectives,
- Strengthening and consolidation of diplomatic relations with other states, as well as regional and international organisations,
- Improved Democratic Governance, and
- Enhanced Trade and Economic Development.

Programme 04: Democracy consolidation promotion

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that the Offices of the Founding President and the Second President of the Republic are properly maintained and efficient and effective services are provided to the said Offices.

The main activities that fall under the programme include:

- Performing of official and ceremonial functions as required;
- Attending to our country's international obligations as required from time to time.

These are expected to translate into:

- Improved Democratic governance; and
- Promotion of Peace and Stability in the country.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,

Yesterday, our President was in this House to fulfill his constitutional responsibility of reporting to the people of Namibia through the annual State of the Nation Address. He used the occasion to launch the Harambee Prosperity Plan, which is a strategy to accelerate implementation specific priority policies of the Government.

He has requested all of us to read the Plan and internalize it. Therefore, I cannot say more.

What I did in my statement today, is to motivate and emphasize the need to provide the resources necessary to enable the President to carry out his duties and mandate during the 2016/2017 Financial Year.

I, therefore, request you Honourable Members to support Vote 1: Office of the President, amounting to N\$679,128,000-00. In the spirit of Harambee, I am confident that the allocation will receive your full support.

I thank you.