

**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BUDGET MOTIVATION SPEECH
BY OBETH KANDJOZE, MP
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
13 APRIL 2018**

**Honourable speaker
Honourable Members**

It is an honour for me to rise before this August House to motivate the budget for Vote 26. The National Planning Commission (NPC) is a Constitutional body established in the Office of the President in terms of Article 129 of our Constitution, to plan the priorities and direction of national development.

As we deliberate on the budget here today, it is important to note that economic planning as the main function of NPC is at the core of national development for this country. We are all aware that economic planning is multi-faceted and cross-cutting and it plays an important role in shaping Namibia's Development agenda. Therefore, NPC is at the fore front in the country's endeavour to achieve our aspirations in our developmental frameworks.

NPC has successfully coordinated the Development of the fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and its Implementation Plan in which all other development frameworks that Namibia ascended to, are mainstreamed. To effectively monitor all the development plans, NPC has successfully developed an Integrated National Performance Framework guiding the conduct of monitoring and evaluation in the country.

**Honourable speaker
Honourable members**

The total budget of Vote 26 for 2018/19 is N\$161 million which is meant to cover all our activities. When compared to the previous year, this represents 8.5 percent reduction from the N\$176 million allocated in 2017/18. The current budget allocation is premised on the following major activities:

- 1. The Implementation of NDP5:** this activity aims to ensure that the aspirations set in NDP5 are achieved. This therefore calls for NPC to vigorously monitor the implementation of projects and programmes countrywide to ensure delivery of what we have set for ourselves. This activity further entails the mobilisation and coordination of Development Partner's support to ensure that it is targeted towards our priorities.
- 2. Macroeconomic research and data collection:** This activity entails conducting economic research, data collection and undertaking of surveys which are done through the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), all to ensure that planning and decision making is evidence based.
- 3. Planning and Policy Coordination:** This activity focuses primarily on ensuring coordination and provision of direction and advisory services for the Implementation of programmes and projects in the regions and across sectors to ensure that all stakeholders of these clusters are directed with regards to the implementation of their programmes and projects. This is all done to achieve one common goal, that of "Namibia's Economic Development". It is through this activity that NPC undertakes the review of socio-economic policies to assess their relevance and effectiveness and coordinates the development of these policies in line with our developmental frameworks.

A table with the different programme activities and their respective budgetary allocations for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years is as follows:

Programmes	Budget Allocation	
	2017/18	2018/19
Macroeconomic Planning	10,416,000	9,458,000
Planning and Policy Coordination	13,183,000	13,081,000
Monitoring and Evaluation and Development Partners' Coordination	13,758,000	13,957,000
Policy Coordination and Support Services:	138,863,000	124,499,000
<i>Of which NSA</i>	107,233,000	94,149,000
Total	176,220,000	160,995,000

As mentioned earlier, economic planning entails, among others, undertaking surveys, by NSA. It is for this reason that 58% of the budget allocated to Vote 26 goes to NSA to ensure consistent and timely release of data for planning purposes.

While a lot has been achieved since the establishment of NSA, more still needs to be done to strengthen the national statistics system and to ensure that we achieve the highest standards possible in statistics management. Capacity enhancement across the national statistical system is crucial to enable proper identification, prioritization and tracking of our county's development interventions to inform policy planning, decision making and monitoring & evaluation.

Honourable speaker,
Honourable members,

In line with the government position of "*Doing More with Less*," NPC has embraced this notion to ensure that we make the best out of the limited resources allocated to us. However, we foresee challenges in executing some of our national activities which include the following:

- a) Agricultural survey
- b) Labour force survey
- c) 2021 Pre-enumeration Population and Housing Census
- d) Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Development Plans

With our current limited budget allocation we may not be able to carry out the above mentioned activities which serve as sources of information for planning and decision making at various levels. As we are all aware, we are now in the middle of implementing our National Development Plans, with emphasis being put on monitoring and evaluation. The limited budget, therefore, hampers effective monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable members**

In conclusion, Firstly, I would like to thank His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for his wisdom and guidance in placing planning at the centre of nation building.

Secondly, I would like to thank the Ministry of Finance under the leadership of Honourable Calle Schlettwein whom I believe had a difficult time in sharing the small envelope with all of us. I would also like to thank the former Minister of Economic Planning at the NPC, Honourable Tom Alweendo who immensely contributed to NPC's budget preparation. My sincere gratitude also goes to my whole team at the National Planning Commission for their dedication in the fulfilment of our mandate.

During this year of reckoning, at the National Planning Commission we pledge to do our utmost best to ensure service delivery to the citizens in an accountable and transparent manner.

It is now my pleasure to submit to this August House, a total amount of N\$161 million for Vote 26 and I plead with all Honourable Members to support our budget.

I thank you.