



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
VOTE 17**

MOTIVATION SPEECH

BUDGET FOR THE 2016/2017 FINANCIAL YEAR

BY

**SOPHIA SHANINGWA, MP
MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 22nd MARCH 2016

**Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Hon. Members of this August House,**

I stand before you to motivate the budget allocation to Vote 17, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, for the financial year 2016/2017.

**Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee
Honourable Members,**

The Budget allocation to Vote 17 for the financial year 2016/2017 amounts to N\$ **2,808,922,000 (Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Two Thousand Namibian Dollars)**. The allocation represents a reduction of 10% in comparison to the budget allocation during the previous the financial year. The allocation is broken down into N\$**2,079,783,000 (Two Billion and Seventy Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars)** for Operational Budget and N\$ **729,139,000 (Seven Hundred and Twenty Nine Million, One Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars)** for the Development Budget.

The activities of the Ministry are grouped under five (5) main programmes, and the budgetary allocation for the fiscal year 2016/2017 is divided among these programmes. I will now present the allocations per programme.

The Programmes that the Budget covers are:

1. Rural Development
2. Support to Planning, Infrastructure, and Housing Development
3. Decentralization (Enhancement of Public Participation)
4. Coordination of Regional Councils, Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities Affairs
5. Policy Supervision and Support Services

PROGRAMME ONE: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A budget of N\$ **89,157,000 (Eighty Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars)** has been allocated to our Rural Development Programme.

The focus of our Rural Development Programme is on reducing rural poverty and improving the livelihood of our people who reside in rural areas by empowering rural communities in taking advantage of opportunities and initiating self-help development projects that will enable them to take charge of their own development and to improve their well-being.

This Programme is in line with our President's declaration of an all-out war against poverty, and I seek the support of this August House for the budgetary allocation to this programme in the amount of N\$89,157,000.

**Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee
Honourable Members**

**PROGRAMME TWO:
SUPPORT TO PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT**

**N\$ 1,452,395,000 (*One Billion, Four Hundred and Fifty Two Million, Three
Hundred and Ninety Five Thousand Namibia Dollars*);**

This Programme consists of the various interventions by the Government that are aimed at supporting and boosting the development and availability of housing, basic infrastructure and services as well as ensuring proper and sustainable urban and regional planning and development in the country.

Despite known challenges, including resource constraint, we remain steadfast in our resolve to address the backlog in the development and availability of serviced land and affordable housing and basic services to our people, especially the ultra-low and low income groups. In this regard, we will use the budget allocation to continue our housing delivery interventions under the Mass Housing Development Programme and the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia as well as support to Regional Councils and Local Authorities to maintain and increase the delivery of serviced land and provision of basic infrastructure and services at the grassroots level.

The Namibia Housing Enterprise (NHE) remains an important instrument of the Government in provision of housing products to a section of our population. As such, I wish to thank the Minister and staff of the Ministry of Finance for the budgetary allocation of N\$100 million in the 2016/2017 fiscal year for the recapitalization of the NHE with a view to strengthen its balance sheet and enable it to source external funding to sustain its operations. As the line-Minister, I know the company's funding requirement is more than the allocation, but little is better than nothing.

The provision of housing is not only the responsibility of the Government, but also the private sector through Public Private Partnership and the community itself. As such, Ministry has been working with and support community-based organisation such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) whose members are people in the ultra-low and low income groups and that are involved in the construction and delivery of affordable housing for these needy and often less serviced market segment. We will continue our financial support to the Federation during the 2016/2017 financial year in the amount of N\$7 million. .

**Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee
Honourable Members,**

**PROGRAMME THREE (DECENTRALISATION):
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION,
N\$ 8,988,000 (*Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Eight Thousand
Namibia Dollars*);**

**Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee
Honourable Members**

We will utilise the budgetary allocation to continue our existing initiatives and to implement new programmes that are aimed at enhancing the environment in which decision making and service delivery are brought closer to the people as well as for local communities to participate in the processes of planning, identifying and prioritizing their development needs.

While the process of decentralisation may be slow in pace, I wish to take this opportunity to commend those Ministries that have either already decentralised the functions that have been identified for decentralisation and those who have made significant progress in this regard. These are the Ministries of Education, Arts and Culture and Works and Transport as well as Land Reform and Information and Communication Technology.

During 2016/2017, we will continue the work that we have started with the Ministries of Gender Equality and Child Welfare; Land Reform; Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare; Youth, Sport and National Service; and Agriculture, Water and Forestry, with a view to accelerate the decentralisation process of decentralising their identified functions.

We will also continue our effort to build and enhance the capacity of the Constituency Development Committees to effectively perform their regional development planning role as well as for Regional Councils and Local Authorities to properly take on and manage the decentralised functions.

**PROGRAMME FOUR:
COORDINATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES
AND TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES AFFAIRS**

**Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee
Honourable Members,**

I am seeking the support of this August House for a budget allocation in the amount of N\$ 1,122,917,000 (One Billion, One Hundred and Twenty Two Million, Nine Hundred and Seventeen Thousand Namibia Dollars for our Regional Councils, Local and Traditional Authorities Coordination Programme.

We will use the budgetary allocation to this Programme to enhance the governance and service delivery capacity of these sub-national government structures as well as support to recognized Traditional Authorities to perform their community administrative and developmental roles.

During the coming financial year, we plan to undertake the following activities under this Programme:

- Strengthening the governance capacity of local authorities, especially the village councils and small or struggling towns as well as their capacity to effectively respond to fire disasters;;
- Budgetary allocations to local authorities to them to meet operational expenses related to governance, the valuation, compensation of homesteads for loss of communal land;
- Assistance to Local Authorities and Regional Councils in formulating and implementing their Local and Regional Economic Development (LRED) plans and strategies, with the aim of creating and enhancing environment for private investment, business and economic growth;
- Support to traditional authorities' Community Trust Funds and the Council of Traditional Leaders; and

**PROGRAMME 5:
POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Hon. Chairperson of the whole House Committee

Hon. Members

I am seeking the support of this August House for the budgetary allocation in the amount of N\$ 135,465,000 (One Hundred and Thirty Five Million, Four Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand Namibia Dollars) to our last Programme: Policy Supervision and Support Services.

The purpose of this programme is to provide administrative support to the other four programmes of the Ministry. The activities under this programme are Policy Supervision; Support Services; and to support the activities of Regional Governors.

Hon. Chairperson of the whole House Committee

Hon. Members

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to renew my appreciation to my two Deputy Ministers and my staff for their support to me and for their loyalty, hard-work and shared commitment to service. We are equally grateful to the Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning/National Planning Commission and their staff for the effort that they have made to find resources to allocate to Ministry of urban and Rural Development in the face of limited resources and competing needs. I admit that our sector deals with some of the pressing issues in the country - access to serviced urban land, housing, regional and local authority governance, and Traditional Authorities.

Finally, I now request this August House to support and approve the budget allocation to Vote 17 for the **2016/2017 Financial Year** in the amount of **N\$ 2,808,922,000 (Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Two Thousand Namibia Dollars).**

**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND SUPPORT, AND SO I SUBMIT
HON. CHAIRPERSON**

