

HON. B. ULENGETA

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Speaker of the National Assembly, Right Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

in the same spirit as several of my colleagues have done, I would like to express myself on the Appropriation Bill tabled in this House on 19 February 2014 by the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa - Amadhila.

Traditionally, the budget presentation, as much as it gives us a glimpse of the artistry, creativity or brilliance the particular Minister applies to the figures, graphs and numbers at hand, it is more the result of consultations, compromises and decisions of the cabinet as a whole, and not necessarily the impositions of the Minister of Finance alone.

Whatever either censure, or commendations we express with regard to the financial propositions on the table, therefore, (and there are quite a lot of the former, yet not so much of the latter!), are directed to President Pohamba's Cabinet, and not to the Minister of Finance; at least not to her alone!

Having said that, let me hasten to admit that Minister Kuugongelwa-Amadhila really tries her bit to make good of a bad situation.

She has tried, and in many ways succeeded, to show some aspects of light in a very dark configuration...

(Configuration in the sense of some kind of financial and economic arrangement she presents)

In her budget statement the minister refers several times to progress:

"We have made considerable progress in many spheres, thanks to the pro-active socio-economic development policies that were implemented."

PROGRESS??

Mr. Speaker, let me, before I get into more sorrowful things, commend the government on some real progress that was achieved, and should be encouraged to continue with for the short period of time they still have left:...

The creation of and a fairly efficient National Youth Service: this institution needs to be expanded and actually made mandatory for every Namibian youth, Black or White, Rich or Poor, short or tall!

The expansion of the national economic infrastructure with regard to the ports, the national road and aerial networks is a necessary prerequisite for socio-economic development and we have done fairly well in this regard. In the last few years the opening up of the up-graded Kamanjab - Omakange - Okahao road has expanded this infrastructural network, and so has the Rundu - Nkurenkuru - Elundu - Eenhana, and the Gobabis - Otjinene up-grading projects. It is heartening to see in this same regard that government now takes on the Gobabis - Aranos access way, via Aminuis, as well as that short but very irritating strip between Oshigambo and Eenhana. I therefore await, with good reasons, soon an announcement regarding Grootfontein - Tsumkwe - Gam, and Omakange - Ruacana, and the double carriageway between Windhoek and Walvis Bay via Okahandja and Usakos, for now,

Air Namibia is a money-eater, but a strong moral booster, a powerful national symbol, and an essential feature of our international image as a Nation, Land of the Brave. However, and this is a serious however - government must make sure that these funds are successfully re-couped from tourism, and other aspects of foreign trade.

The minister and deputy minister of Education are trying their best to bring under control a hopeless and

