



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Private Bag 13344
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA

Tel: (+264-61) 283 9111
Fax: (+264-61) 258 398

Ref:

Enquiries:

**CONTRIBUTION BY HONOURABLE ENGEL NAWATISEB,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF MICT (MP), ON THE DEBATE OF THE
APPROPRIATION BILL 2018 / 2019**

Thursday, the 29th March 2018

**Honorable Deputy Speaker
Honorable Members,**

I am rising to contribute towards the Appropriation Bill tabled recently by our able Finance Minister while at the same time agreeing that this budget is presented at a time when the global economy is slowly recovering at low but visibly progressive rates and levels.

These are indications of having averted the deepening of the crisis which could have severe consequences. These gains which came about because of principled yet painful actions taken by authorities during the previous budget cycle must be sustained and, as a nation, we should resolve to nurture these emerging gains and keep spending pressures under control.

For us to grow, eliminate poverty, protect and create jobs and reduce inequality, we should avoid depending solely from GRN as the corporates, solely from hand-outs as citizens and solely from tenders as entrepreneurs.

Honorable Deputy Speaker, honorable Members,

I have not seen enough to convince me that there is aggressive involvement of the private sector in supplementing GRN efforts to carry the plight for the economic advancement of our people as a collective.

May I advocate therefore, for us to consider the establishment of a body that will crystalize and scrutinize the Corporate Social Responsibility aspect aimed at ensuring that each and every business operating in Namibia and subsequently benefitting from the consumer index of our economy, should make a voluntary contribution towards their direct local communities.

I refer here to residents in various locations of our country who are the buying power and are sustaining the operations of those respective businesses. Efforts by some companies to contribute through the CSR initiatives are quite visible but others are hiding behind the shadows of those that are ambitious.

I think time has come to take stock of companies that are making an impact through cross-aiding government's efforts in that manner and others that are hell bent to only support targeted communities year in and out under the pretext of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Namibians are the owners of our natural resources that are being exploited by the private sector to make business sense and survive in their economic rights, therefore the spread of benefits through CRS considerations must also accrue to all citizens especially those that sits in the most remote corners of our country.

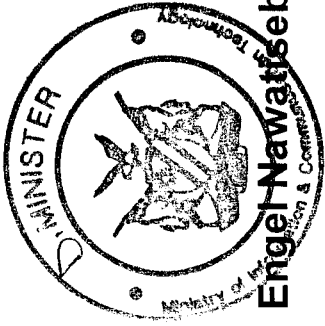
Thus, if we are able to commit such collective indirect contributions towards the fiscus certainly we will help to strengthen macroeconomic fundamentals and rebuilding fiscal buffers, support inclusive growth and economic diversification, contribute to the eradication of poverty and the improvement of social welfare, further contribute to reduction of income inequalities and achieving shared prosperity.

As I am concluding, Honorable Deputy Speaker, Hon. Members,

I would like to see such investments made through social contributions by stakeholder companies and institutions to primarily focus towards government priority areas such as the development of the ICT infrastructure to benefit our citizens in remote villages whose lives at times are compromised because of their inaccessibility to telecommunication and lack of network coverage to report their inconveniencing circumstances to hospitals, clinics, police and other essential services government is rendering throughout all 14 regions of our republic.

The issue around sectoral contributions through stakeholders as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, is very close to my heart, hence thank you for the opportunity, Hon. Deputy to make that point.

With those few remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill.



Engel Nawatiseb

Deputy Minister ,MP