

BUDGET DEBATE
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Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

Thank you very much for giving the floor.

Hon Speaker, I am at pains when perusing the previous budgets plus the current one. If you look back at the previous budgets you will see these documents decorated with beautiful titles, such as pro-poor, people-centred and so on and so forth. However, the poor is still dying from hunger and starvation, many are still feeding from the dumpsites around our towns and cities while others continue to sleep on empty stomachs.

Where is the problem? The problem is the way we set our priorities. For instance, you have hundreds of millions of dollars earmarked for constructing of new buildings here and there. This is not a priority.

I want to suggest that let's spend money to:

- Improve rural water supply
- Construct water catchment dams to catch water during the rainy seasons
- Support communal farmers with sufficient funding
- Make land available to the poor in towns and cities
- Introduce solar electrification for housing for the poor
- Award construction tenders to Namibian companies instead of foreigners, etc.

Hon Speaker, I also agree that our economy is still not in our hands up to now. Imagine 24 years of independence. One Hon Member said we are sleeping while foreigners are stealing our wealth. That is not the case. Foreigners are not stealing because they are there at our behest. We have given them a free ticket to do exactly what they are doing.

It is also true that the land question is still not yet resolved. However, what is disturbing is because it is being raised by the Hon Members from the ruling party (SWAPO). The Namibian electorate mandated

