

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**BUDGET SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE
DR ALBERT KAWANA, MP
MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS,
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
VOTE 01,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

12 March 2014

PARLIAMENT

**Check Against Delivery*

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise once again with honour and humility to motivate Vote 01, Office of the President to this august House. In presenting this motivation, I am mindful of the need to fast-track the debate on the Appropriation Bill for immediate implementation as agreed in the SWAPO Party Caucus. Indeed, our able Minister of Finance and her colleagues have produced volumes of information, including the accountability report. In addition, His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of our Republic will address his nation soon. The address will mainly center on the Appropriation Bill. The purpose of my motivation, therefore, is merely to fill the gaps on the Vote of the Office of the President. I am further mindful of the fact that we are at the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill where only details should be addressed.

The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia vests in our President with specific duties and responsibilities. Article 32 outlines the most critical duties and roles of the President. The President is also entrusted with numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. In addition, the common law and customary law, as recognized under Article 66 of the Namibian Constitution, impose certain functions on the President. These responsibilities place additional demands and their implementation requires both human and financial resources.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

As a demonstration of the sterling leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba over the years, our country continues to enjoy peace and stability. This has enabled the Government to implement policies and programmes aimed at advancing the national development agenda, and the improvement of the living conditions of our people. We continue to be rated highly in good governance. We are among the top ten and in some cases top five on the Continent.

In the fulfillment of his constitutional mandate, the President has engaged in consultations with various stakeholders, both inside and outside Government. In addition, our President travelled to various parts of the country to gauge the implementation of the SWAPO Party Government projects and to familiarize himself with the challenges faced by communities in our country.

I am, therefore, proud to inform this august House that due to the positive policies of our SWAPO Party Government, well over 70% of our citizens are satisfied with the performance of the SWAPO Party Government. This is consistently confirmed by the Afrobarometer results conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research. This is indeed a big achievement that will serve as a motivation to continue to address the socio-economic needs of our nation. We are, however, fully aware that we are still faced with many challenges such as poverty, unemployment, lack of decent housing and the need for rural development. These areas should continue to receive the attention of our Government.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

It is important to point out that Vote 01 is sub-divided into four Programmes in line with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The Programmes under Vote 1 and the funds allocated to each of them are as follows:

Programme 1: Supervision and Support Services has been allocated an amount of N\$426,303,000.00 (**Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Million, Three Hundred and Three Thousand Namibia Dollars**).

Programme 2: Cabinet Administrative Support Management has been allocated an amount of N\$17,931,000.00 (**Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars**).

Programme 3: Protection of the National Constitution has been allocated an amount of N\$154,555,000.00 (**One Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Five Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars**).

Programme 4: Democracy Consolidation and Promotion has been allocated an amount of N\$16,177,000.000 (**Sixteen Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars**).

At the end of the financial year, the accountability report will indicate the extent of implementation of the Programmes as well as the Challenges encountered. There is, therefore, no need for me to go into details. May I point out, Honourable Chairperson, that under Programme 4, support is provided to the Office of the Founding President in line with the Former Presidents' Pension and Other Benefits Act of 2004, (Act No. 18 of 2004).

This indeed underscores the vital role that our Founding President, and future former Presidents of our Republic will continue to play in consolidating the culture of democracy, rule of law and constitutionalism in our country.

Technical, logistical and administrative support is also provided to the First Lady of our Republic, Madam Penehupifo Pohamba. This will enable her to carry out outreach and advocacy role for the benefit of vulnerable communities in our society. I have no doubt Honourable Members are aware of numerous international awards our First Lady has received in recognition of her social work. We, therefore, congratulate her for keeping Namibia on the world map. We can only say thank you our First Lady for the wonderful job you are doing for your country and your people.

**Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

We are proud that through his statesmanship, our President has steered our country with a steady hand. This has earned Namibia respect, envy and admiration among the nations of the world. Today, Namibia is at peace with her neighbors and our international profile continues to grow, thanks to the leadership qualities of our President.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, our President is charged with carrying out important national functions. In order to discharge these duties successfully and thereby keep our country on the path of progress, development, prosperity, peace and stability, I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to give our President and his support staff, the means to do so.

I, therefore, humbly request you Honourable Members to support and approve the total allocation of N\$614,966,000.00 (**Six Hundred and Fourteen Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars**) in respect of Vote 01.

Of this total allocation, an amount of N\$402,466,000.00 (**Four Hundred and Two Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars**) is earmarked for the Operational budget, while the remaining N\$212,500,000.00 (**Two Hundred and Twelve Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars**) is earmarked for the Development Budget.

I Thank You.

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