



THE RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)



P. O. Box 81500, Olympia, Windhoek; Tel/Fax: +264 61 255973; Fax 2 Email 088615773
Email: rdpparty@iway.na;
Website: www.rdp.org.na

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

First of all I would like to congratulate the Hon Minister of Finance on the presentation of a comprehensive budget presentation. Indeed, it is job well done

Secondly, my intervention this afternoon it essentially to offer the RDP's preliminary response to the budget as presented. We will make a detailed and robust rebuttal in the course of the general debate on the budget.

Honourable Speaker

The Honourable Minister of Finance highlighted the challenges which the budget ought to address, and which in fact the nation faces. Five challenges were highlighted, namely:

- 1) a jobless growth trajectory, with a lopsided distribution of income and resource ownership,
- 2) Substantial skills deficit and a narrow economic base with primary commodities still serving as the engine of export-led growth.
- 3) low Human Development Index (HDI), which calls for rapid progress in the areas of education and health,
- 4) susceptibility to climate change and
- 5) moral decay which manifests itself in, among others, increasing violence against vulnerable members of the society,

Whilst there is no agreement with the enumeration of the challenges, most of these challenges ought to have been address some years ago, except one, which concerns climate change. This is clearly, and manifestly so an indictment to the policies of Government.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

The Minister of Finance stated, and I quote:

“ ...we must do things differently ... and

Act swiftly and decisively to strengthen the institutions through which public services are delivered, and to transform the structure of our economy, so that all Namibians can share in the opportunities that our country offers.

