

**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BUDGET MOTIVATION SPEECH
BY PIETER VAN DER WALT, MP
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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**Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members**

It is an honour for me to stand before this August House to motivate the budget for Vote 26. National Planning Commission is a Constitutional body established in the Office of the President in terms of article 129 of our Constitution to plan the priorities and direct the course of national development. In this process we undertake researches and surveys to provide data for evidence-based planning and policy decision making. The collected data is also used to monitor progress on implemented programmes across sectors. The NPC also undertake reviews of our National Development Plans and programmes to determine impacts, identify challenges and provide remedial measures.

As we deliberate on the budget here today, it is important to note that in order for National Planning Commission to deliver on its mandate and all its activities which are basically economic and development planning, it needs resources. We are all aware that economic and/or development planning is a multifaceted and cross-cutting issue and it plays an important role in shaping Namibia's Development agenda. Therefore, NPC needs to be at the fore front and be visible in every corner of Namibia to ensure that Development is indeed taking place and at the pace where we would like it to be.

**Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members**

The budget for vote 26 is therefore premised on the following key activities:

Monitor the implementation of NDP5

This activity aims to ensure that the aspirations set in NDP5 are achieved. This therefore, calls for NPC to vigorously monitor the implementation of programmes and projects and through physical project visits countrywide to ensure delivery of what we have set for ourselves. NPC is required to report to Cabinet and to the nation at large on the outcomes of NDP5 implementation.

2021 Population and Housing Census

Namibia will conduct the 2021 Population and Housing Census in August 2021. The Census aims to collect detailed information on population up to the lowest level in the whole country, up to villages and localities within constituencies. The census is a complete count where everyone and each and every housing unit will be counted.

Population and Housing census will provide data on demographic and socio-economic indicators essential for planning, policymaking, monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and constituency levels. Furthermore, the census will also develop a geo-referenced national Sampling Frame that will be used to select representative samples for national surveys between censuses.

It should be noted that the pre-census activities have already started in 2018/19 financial year as per the UN recommendations and international best practices.

Annual Agriculture Survey 2019/20

The main objective of the survey is to establish a series of production patterns of agricultural products. This production series data will form the basis of agricultural inputs into national accounts. These also serve as early warning mechanisms against drought, floods etc. The results of the Annual Agriculture Survey will provide a picture of how well the country is doing

with food security by providing an uninterrupted series of agriculture production, other important uses of the outputs of the survey will be among others to monitor the implementation of National Development Plans and monitor Sustainable Development Goals.

The Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2019/20

The Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey is a household-based survey conducted every five years. The last was conducted in 2015/2016. It is designed to collect data on income and expenditure patterns of households. As such, it is the most complete source of information on socio-economic wellbeing of households in the country, it provides indicators for planning, monitoring and evaluation of goals set in the National Development Plans (NDPs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The next survey is due in 2020/2021, however preparation for the survey review of questions, pilot testing, development of survey instruments and procurement of resources starts in the 2019/2020 financial year. Failure to start this survey on time means that the NSA may not be able to provide fresh indicators for the evaluation of the impact of NDP5 and plans for NDP6.

Annual Labour Force Survey 2019/20

The Namibia Annual Labour Force Survey (NLFS) is a household-based survey that is conducted every year since 2012 and the last one was conducted in 2018. The findings will be used to measure national development objectives as well as identifying areas which need interventions, to meet targets as stipulated in the development plans particularly the Fifth National Development Plan, Sustainable Development Goals as well as Vision 2030.

Review of Vision 2030

Vision 2030 is the country's long-term development policy which has been implemented for about 15 years since it was launched in 2004. With only about 11 years remaining before 2030 is reached, it is time to pause and reflect on the achievements made so far towards the realization of the

objectives of Vision 2030, identify the challenges and provide policy recommendation to address challenges or fasten the process. Therefore, a review of Vision 2030 is an important undertaking for Namibia to steer development initiatives towards the realization of Vision 2030 targets and aspirations.

NDP 5 Mid-term Review

The Fifth National Development Plan adopted a result-based approach and as such a result framework was developed with indicators and targets towards which achievement will be measured against. NDP5 has been implemented since 2017/18 and it will end in 2021/2022, which means 2019/2020 financial year marks a midpoint into the implementation of NDP5. It is therefore imperative to reflect on the cumulative achievements thus far, identify the challenges as well strategies to fast track implementation where challenges are identified for the country to reach the set targets at the end of five years.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

The total budget for Vote 26 for 2019/20 is N\$242 million, to cover all our activities. About 72% of the budget allocation to Vote 26 therefore goes to the Namibia Statistics Agency, to ensure that we have consistent and timely release of data for planning purposes. As I mentioned earlier in my statement, economic planning entails undertaking surveys, data collection and data analysis under the custodian of the Namibia Statistics Agency.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

At the heart of spearheading the course of National development is well-researched and well-reasoned plans despite the scarce resources at our disposal. The National Planning Commission will, therefore, try by all

means to utilise the limited available resources more effectively to achieve our well-defined objectives. Indeed, the implementation of our national development plans is very crucial, thus National Planning Commission, in collaboration with stakeholders have for the first time put together an Implementation plan for the NDP5 which outlines the specific programmes and projects to achieve the strategies outlined in the Plan. This Implementation Plan assigns responsibilities to all responsible entities and hold them responsible for the implementation as well as allocation of resources to a specific project.

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members**

In conclusion, I would like to thank Honourable Calle Schlettwein whom I believe had a difficult time in sharing the small envelope with all of us. My sincere gratitude also goes to my whole team at the National Planning Commission for their dedication in the fulfilment of our mandate.

It is now my pleasure to submit to this August House, a total amount of N\$242 million for Vote 26 and I plead with all Honourable Members to support our budget.

I thank you.