

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**BUDGET STATEMENT FOR
VOTE 01: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR
THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR
BY HON. MARTIN ANDJABA, MINISTER IN
THE PRESIDENCY**

23 APRIL 2019

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

Honourable Speaker;

It is with honour and pleasure that I rise to table the budget estimates for Vote 01: Office of the President in this august Assembly for the 2019/2020 Financial Year. I am tabling this budget estimates for approval just a few days after His Excellency President Hage G. Geingob delivered his annual State of the Nation Address in which he not only updated the public on the state of the nation, but also emphasised, among others, the importance of transparency and accountability in public service delivery. I am also presenting this budget estimates well aware of the need for us as a nation to strive to do more with less.

Our President has declared this year as the year of accountability. Over the last three years, the government took not only bold and difficult decisions, but crucial decisions to address the complex sets of domestic and external shocks to our economy. These decisions were based on the need to resuscitate inclusive economic growth and job creation, as well as ensure long-term fiscal sustainability.

I wish to inform this august Assembly, that this budget estimates makes provision for the following components in the Presidency, namely the Private Office of the President; Office of the Vice-President; Former Presidents Support Services Directorate; Namibia Central Intelligence Service (NCIS) and the Departments responsible for State House and Administration, and Executive Policy Services, Research and Media Liaison. The Office of the Minister in the Presidency is part and parcel of these administrative components.

As noted in my budget motivation for the previous Financial Year (2018/2019), I wish to inform this House that the Divisions Marginalized Communities and Disability Affairs have now been officially transferred to the Office of the Vice President with the view to accelerate implementation of targeted programmes for these special groups. Together with Veterans Affairs, these units are now budgeted for under Vote 31, with a different Accounting Officer. In order to ensure transparency and accountability, Vote 31 is tabled and motivated separately, and therefore, I will in the next few days table the Budget Estimates for Vote 31.

I also wish to mention that although Veterans Affairs, Marginalized Communities and Disability Affairs divisions have a separate budget vote, it should be noted that these units are still part of the Presidency.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;

As noted earlier, the 2019/2020 Financial Year budget was tabled against the backdrop of fiscal consolidation measures to reduce public expenditure and ensure resource allocation to priority areas that will spur economic growth and job creation.

I wish to inform the House that the Presidency is not only committed to efficient and effective implementation of the programmes, but also to do more within the limited allocated resources in order to achieve our set objectives as delineated in our 2017/18-2021/22 Strategic Plan.

We will not relent, but continue to embrace the ethos of hard work, innovation and accountability to ensure that we do not compromise on the provision of quality support services to the Head of State to effectively discharge his constitutional mandate. We will also continue to ensure that the Vice President and former Presidents are provided with necessary support services.

It is important to note that despite stringent fiscal measures adopted by our government over the past three years, notable results have been realized. For example, the Hon. Minister of Finance noted in his budget speech that the budget deficit has been narrowed from 8.1 percent in 2015/2016 to 4.1 percent in the 2018/2019 Financial Year, whereas growth in public debt stock slowed to an average of 11.2 percent in the past two (2) years compared to an average of 30.1 percent in the previous three (3) years. These commendable achievements demonstrate that everything is possible if we hold hands, put our shoulders to the wheel and pull in the same direction in the spirit of Harambee as our President emphasised, in our collective endeavour to improve service delivery to all our people.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;

It is now my pleasure to submit the budget estimates as outlined in the Appropriation Bill representing different Programmes under Vote 01. The Office of the President is allocated a total budget estimates of N\$435,369,000-00 (Four Hundred and Thirty Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars) for the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

This represents an increase of 7 percent or N\$29,836,000-00 (Twenty-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Namibian Dollars), compared to N\$405,533,000-00 (Four Hundred and Five Million, Five Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand Namibian Dollars) allocated in the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

Out of the total allocation, N\$345,369,000-00 (Three Hundred and Forty Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars) is Operational Budget, whereas the remaining N\$90,000,000-00 (Ninety Million Namibian Dollars) is Development Budget. These figures represent a decrease of N\$31,650,000-00 (Thirty-One Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Namibian Dollars) in the Operational Budget, and an increase of N\$61, 486, 000-00 (Sixty-One Million, Four Hundred and Eighty Six Thousand Namibian Dollars) in the Development Budget, as compared to the last Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;

Allow me to turn my focus to the various Programmes funded under Vote 01: Office of the President.

Programme 1: Supervision and Support Services

There are two sub-programmes under this allocation, i.e. Support Services and State Security Management.

Support Services

The allocation to this sub-programme is NS61, 638,000-00 (Sixty-One Million, Six Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars) for operational purposes only.

The objective of this sub-programme is to support the Executive Branch of Government, as the apex of the executive political authority to act in the national interests and uphold the dignity of the Office of the President. I further wish to inform the House that additional activities under this Programme also, include carrying out executive assignments, providing for logistical and procurement requirements, capacity building, maintenance of infrastructure and improvement of public service delivery.

State Security Management

Under the State Security Management sub-programme, the Office of the President is allocated a total amount of NS225, 875,000-00 (Two Hundred and Twenty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy Five Namibian Dollars).

Of this amount, NS135, 875,000-00 (One Hundred and Thirty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Namibian Dollars) is allocated for operational expenses, while the remaining NS90,000,000-00 (Ninety Million Namibian Dollars) is provided for the Development Budget.

I wish to inform this House that the objective of this programme is to ensure that the Namibia Central Intelligence Service (NCIS) detects and identifies threats or potential threats to the security of Namibia and thereby contribute to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the country.

Therefore, the main activities under this Programme relate to effective gathering of intelligence to protect Namibia's territorial integrity and national interests.

Programme 02: Protection of the National Constitution

The Namibian Constitution has been and continues to be hailed as one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, guaranteeing fundamental human rights and freedoms. Therefore, a noble call to all Namibians to protect and preserve the national Constitution. The purpose of this Programme is therefore to comply with Chapter 5 of the Constitution and other relevant provisions of the Constitution, as well as to maintain peace, stability and foster good governance.

The Office of the President is allocated an amount of N\$124,571,000-00 (One Hundred and Twenty Four Million, Five Hundred and Seventy One Thousand Namibian Dollars for operational expenditures, whereas the Office of the Vice-President is allocated an amount of N\$9,426,000-00 (Nine Million, Four Hundred and Twenty Six Namibian Dollars) for operational expenditures under this Programme.

The main activities under this programme include, but not limited to, the execution of executive functions, undertaking or hosting of State and Official Visits in order to strengthen and consolidate diplomatic relations with the international community and to promote trade, investments and economic development. As Chair of SADC, the President is also expected to carry out mandated functions of our regional body including spearheading regional economic integration and preserve peace and stability in the region.

Programme 03: Democracy Consolidation and Promotion

Governance in Namibia is based on the rule of law. Transparency and accountability are core pillars of democratic governance. It is, therefore, critical that we continue to promote, consolidate and nurture democratic governance to further deepen peace and stability.

Under this Programme, an amount of N\$13, 859,000-00 (Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars) is allocated to the Directorate: Former Presidents Support Services for operational purposes.

The objectives of this programme are, among others, to ensure that the Offices of Namibia's Former Heads of State are properly maintained and provided with efficient and effective support services. The main activities under this programme include but not limited to:

- Serving as Members of the Presidential Advisory Council;**
- Performing ceremonial functions as per invitation from**

- public and private sectors;
- **Attending to official functions inside and outside Namibia, such as those assigned to our statesmen by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU), among others.**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

I have no doubt that with the resources allocated for the 2019/2020 Financial Year and the dedicated staff complement we would be able to provide the necessary support and advisory services to the Head of State and Government to fulfil his constitutional mandate in steering Namibia to social prosperity.

I now call upon all members of this august Assembly to support the 2019/2020 budget allocation for Vote 01: Office of the President.

I thank you.