



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**2014/2014 BUDGET SPEECH BY HONOURABLE
DR. NICKEY IYAMBO, MP
MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

VOTE 31

01 April 2014



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members:**

The Ministry of Veterans Affairs' mandate, is to initiate promote and implement projects and programmes that address the socio-economic needs of the veterans including keeping the national liberation history alive. Therefore, I am now taking ground to motivate Vote 31 for your kind consideration and approval.

Firstly, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Director General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for a well composed budget which indeed aims to support inclusive growth in a fiscal sustainable manner and by doing so, enable us to achieve our national development goals, investing in our future and to raise the living standards of our people.

Secondly, I want to draw the Honourable Members' attention to the Government Accountability Report of the 2012/2013 financial year, which detailed the activities of the year under review. Therefore, for the detailed activities of what had happened, fact and figures are available in that Accountability Report pages 378 - 385. The execution rate of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the 2012/2013 financial year stands at **99.88%**.

Thirdly, I am now moving to present the budget request for the Vote 31, Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the 2014/2015 Financial Year:

The Ministry is requesting the Honourable Members to support and approve the allocation of One Billion Five Hundred and Fifty Eight Million Two Hundred and Forty Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,558,243,000) to enable the Ministry to carry out its Mandate as outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2014/2015 - 2016/2017 on pages 358 - 362.

The Programmes under Vote 31 and the funds allocated for each of programme and its activities are as follows:

PROGRAMME 1: VETERANS WELFARE DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this programme is to coordinate the designing, monitoring and evaluation of activities that are aimed at improving the welfare of veterans of the national liberation struggle. An amount One billion four hundred and seventy eight million and eighty one thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,478,081,000) is allocated.

Activity 1): Registration of Veterans and Dependents of Deceased Veterans

The Ministry continues to register many Namibians who feel have contributed to the course of our independence. To date the Veterans Board granted veteran status to 27,014 applicants.

Honourable Members, you may recall that last year, I introduced the Veterans Act Amendment Bill 2013 which you unanimously passed. Under registration activity, the Ministry will review the existing regulations and formulate new ones that will interpret those new amendments introduced in the Amendment of the Veterans Act, 2013.

The Ministry will also continue printing Veterans' Identification Cards until all veterans are issued with their cards.

To cover these activities the Ministry requests five hundred and eighty one thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$581,000) during the 2014/2015 financial year.

Activity 2): Support Package to Veterans (Payment of Monthly Financial Assistance)

The Ministry will continue to pay a monthly subvention to unemployed veterans and veterans whose income is below the taxable threshold.

An amount of two hundred and seventy million Namibia Dollars (N\$270,000,000) is requested to pay monthly subventions to veterans.

Activity 3: Payment of a Once-Off Gratuity (lump sum)

As veterans are approved, the lump sums are paid to veterans as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the liberation struggle.

The Ministry is requesting four hundred and seventy four million, four hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$474,400,000) for the 2014/2015 financial year.

Activity 4: Education and Training Grants to Veterans and Dependents of Deceased Veterans

The purpose of the Educational and Training Grant is to provide financial support to veterans and dependents of deceased and living veterans who wish to further their studies or obtain vocational skills at institutions of higher learning in Namibia.

A total amount of five million Namibia Dollars (N\$5,000,000) is requested to implement this activity for the 2014/2015 financial year.

Activity 5: Funeral Grant

For this activity, the Ministry requires three million Namibia Dollars (N\$3,000,000) for the 2014/2015 financial year.

Activity 6: Individual Veterans' Projects

Veterans continue venturing into projects in areas of property development, livestock farming, transportation and crop production. Some projects are successfully implemented and veterans are reaping the fruits of their projects.

An amount of six hundred and twenty one million Namibia Dollars (N\$621,000,000) is required for the 2014/2015 financial year.

Activity 7: Housing

To date 122 houses were constructed for the elderly, sickly and severely disabled veterans since the inception of the programme in 2012.

We envisage constructing 70 houses across the 14 regions of the country in the 2014/2015 financial year. The Ministry therefor requests fifteen million Namibia Dollars (N\$15,000,000) for this purpose.

Activity 8: Resettlement

The Ministry envisage acquiring 3 farms during this financial year and it is requesting fifteen million Namibia Dollars (N\$15,000,000) for that purpose.

Activity 9: Development Planning/Projects Management Programme

The purpose of this activity is to plan and implement Ministerial development projects and to facilitate the implementation of Veterans projects in the areas of poultry farming, agriculture, brickmaking and recreational facilities for veterans to improve their income and livelihood that are income generating and self-sustainable. An amount of twenty three million one hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$23,100,000) is allocated with the following sub activities:

i) Etaka Veterans Recreational Centre

An amount of three million Namibia Dollars (N\$3,000,000) is allocated.

ii) Ministerial Capital Projects with three sub-activities

(a) Acquisition and Construction of Offices for MOVA Head office and Regional Offices:

An amount of four million Namibian Dollars (N\$4,000,000) is allocated.

(b) Agricultural Support Programme

An amount of one hundred thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$100,000) is allocated.

(c) Construction of Veteran Houses

An amount of sixteen million Namibia Dollars (N\$16,000,000) is allocated.

Activity 10: Veterans Association Grant

An amount of one million Namibia Dollars (N\$1,000,000) is needed to enable the Namibia National Liberation Veterans Association to do its work during the 2014/2015 financial year as per their mandate and in accordance with the Veterans Act, (Act No 2 of 2008).

Activity 11: Improvement of Welfare for Ex-Plan Combatants

This activity is aimed at the improvement of the welfare of Ex-PLAN combatant veterans who were actively involved in combat formation up to 1989, who are unemployed, retired, disabled and Robben Island Political Prisoners.

An amount of fifty million Namibia Dollars (N\$50,000,000) is allocated for the 2014/2015 financial year.

PROGRAMME 2: LIBERATION STRUGGLE HERITAGE

The aim of this programme is to ensure that the history of the liberation struggle is preserved and kept alive for the present and future generations. This will be done through undertaking research, documenting, collecting and preserving information and/or materials on the history of the liberation struggle. The project will also include the building of outdoor museums, the identification of sites where acts of the liberation struggle took place and the marking and erection of monuments at the sites.

In order to undertake these tasks, the Programme needs eleven million six hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$11,600,000) for the 2014/2015 financial year.

PROGRAMME 3: COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The main objective of this programme is to ensure an enabling and conducive environment and to improve performance culture in the Ministry.

An amount of Sixty eight million five hundred and sixty two thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$68,562,000) is allocated with the following activities:

Activity 1: Capacity Building

To enhance the capacity of staff members for them to effectively and efficiently deliver services to veterans of the liberation struggle the Ministry has financially assisted 13 Staff Members to undergo qualifying courses at the University of Namibia, Polytechnic of Namibia and The International University of Management during 2013/2014 financial year.

An amount of nine hundred and thirty three thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$933,000) is requested for this activity.

Activity 2: Monitoring and Evaluation

The Ministry conducts periodical monitoring and evaluation of individual veterans' projects in order to ensure that the veteran's projects are sustainable and progressing. An amount of three hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$300,000) is requested to execute this activity.

Activity 3: Veterans Sensitization

The Ministry regularly sensitize and provide relevant information to veterans with regard to the benefits of veterans and about the Ministry's programmes for veterans. An amount of three hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$300,000) is requested.

Activity 4: General Administrative Services

This activity focus on the general administration support services of the Ministry. An amount of twenty six million, four hundred and sixty five thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$26,465,000) is requested for the Ministry to carry out this activity in the 2014/2015 financial year.

Activity 5: Personnel Expenditure

This aims at the management and monitoring of remuneration expenditure, benefits, and other personnel expenditure of the Ministry.

An amount of forty million, five hundred and sixty four thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$40,564,000) is requested to cater for this activity in the 2014/2015 financial year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members:

It is against this background that those activities of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Vote 31, are being presented and I am requesting the support and approval from you Honourable Members for a total amount of **One Billion Five Hundred and Fifty Eight Million Two Hundred and Forty Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,558,243,000)** for the 2014/2015 financial year.

Honourable Members, I anticipate your full support!

I thank you all!