

Contribution by Hon. Leevi Katoma, MP to the Appropriation Bill 2017

Honourable Speaker

Thank you very much for granting me the opportunity to contribute to the appropriation under discussion

On the onset, I would like to applaud the Minister of Finance Hon. Calle and entire team for the tabling and papering of the 2017/2018 budget.

Hon Minister you did a great job wealth commended I am impressed by the fact that good efforts has been done in this budget aims to reduce deficit from 6.3 percent to 3.6 percent during the period of 2017 to 2018.

The other commendable efforts done though need to be seriously looked into in the next round of budget cycle is the allocation of 16% ~~of allocation~~ made to the area of infrastructure development an area which serve as the driving force of development and economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. The pro-poor and pro-grow 2015/2016 budget focused on four priorities, namely diversification and industrializing the economy, skills development, SME development, enhancing access to development finance and leveraging PPP for infrastructure development and public service delivery.

The accountability report of 2015/2016 showed some notable key achievements in this regard namely: diversified export markets for our beef, secured through new export markets in Russia, Zimbabwe, China and others countries. We are very proud and commend the achievements in the area of diversification of economy, however a lot still need to be done in this area if we are to achieve the potential diversification of our economy, by so doing we need to establish our own base of factors of production of our products by way of producing them locally, as we are blessed with abundant land which serve as a major factor of production in any economic venture. Gradually Increases the allocation of funds from 16% upwards to infrastructure development. Create more job opportunities^{by} empowering our business people, especially in the area of construction industry like other countries do, by way of subsidizing their companies for them to be able to compete with other foreign companies both locally and international. I am glad that in the area of promoting Public Private Partnership initiatives efforts are at an advancing stage for which ^{the} law is about to be ^{passed} enacted ^{August} by this house. I am equally glad to note that some efforts are already in place to support and stimulate manufacturing efforts in

the country, this is a welcomed incentives, however more efforts need to be done to support other areas such as small scale business that has a supplementary had to play in the stream of economic growth and development. I am fully agree that we need to allocated significant amount of funds to essential sectors and services such as Education, Health, Agriculture and other sectors, I am equally convinced that some sectors like security sectors too need to be considered as important as they are in their own rights. Because a country without good security system add not to progress economically, as it will ^{be} characterized with so many security threats issues such as high rate of crime which would scared potential investors to invest in such country, it would also characterized with ~~so many~~ ^{Other} social security issues like, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and many others which cannot be brought to good control if there is no good and up to date security system in place, on the other hand world terrorist elements are also hard at work to destabilize peace at every corner of the globe including our country, if a given country's security system is weak, then it has potentiality to suffer the consequence of insecurity elements, hence it is always good to improve and update your security

infrastructures where possible because if a country is not well organized in terms of security, obviously that country would not be in a position to be able to defend itself and ~~the whole~~^{the} entire territorial integrity from any eventualities.

Honourable Speaker and Hon. Members

Urban land delivery process is one such issue that need to be fast-tracked. In Namibia as well as in the entire world serviced land delivery has been accepted as playing key role in all efforts of viable housing and thriving business development undertakings.

Most of our Municipalities, Towns and Village Councils if not all are faced with persistent delays in delivering land for both residential, business and industrial purposes due to insufficient funds and cumbersome legal frame work governing land tenure in Namibia, therefore the allocation of 390 million for the purpose of this function is to little and far behind to curb the persistent delays in urban land delivery, hence my humble request for more allocation to be made to this function as it play integral role in urban development and economic growth.

Honourable Speaker, I, support the apparition bill and I thank you.