

CONTRIBUTION FOR THE 2014/2015 BUDGET B BY HONOURABLE ALEXIA P.T. MANOMBE-NCUBE (MP)

Honourable Speaker, ~~Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab~~ and Honourable members of the August House, let me extend my sincere appreciation for this wonderful opportunity accorded to add my voice and contribute to the budget of 2014/2015.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank The Hon. Min. of Fin, Cde Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for what, in my view, is indeed the most encompassing budget, especially so in regard to orphans and vulnerable children. Further also to our National Defence Force and our Police Force. This is a job well done! At least all inhabitants of Namibia can put a smile in their face. This is a people's budget! However, Hon. Speaker Sir, I will be indebted to my own values and ethos, if I do not utter my regret in that the orphans and vulnerable children were left at the bottom of the tall ladder and remain the most unfortunate with a mean notch of N\$50.00.

Hon. Speaker Sir, it is my knowledge and personal experience that one can hardly make a decent living from N\$250.00 per month in today's economy. Nevertheless, I seek refuge in the adage which says, "half a loaf is better than none" and for that I say "Okuhepa, ondapandula kuume"

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, allow me today ~~to~~ mostly in my short contribution ^{to} concentrate on a issue that is emotional and close to my heart, "gender based violence."

Hon. Speaker Sir, the measures announced by His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba following a recent special Cabinet meeting with reference to gender based violence are highly commendable. This clearly shows

that His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the Swapo led government is fully committed to *seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, children & women, plead for the widow and the vulnerable in line with our internationally acclaimed constitution. However, it is my earnest hope and belief that this August House should do more than just talking; because the issue of GBV in Namibia has reached catastrophic levels. It now warrants revolutionary, strategic thinking and transformational leadership to find a lasting solution to this menace which is encroaching at all our doorsteps. Let us fight it, with tenacity and resolve it, the same way we fought against colonial oppression and apartheid.*

Hon. Speaker Sir, if one has a girl child or worse still be a woman today in Namibia, falling in love is now one step into the grave or consider yourself half-dead whilst walking alive. Like Mother Teresa and/or Martin Luther King, Jr., we need to act NOW, and not tomorrow. This is an opportune time for all us, whether you are left or right, socialist or capitalist, pan-Africanist or pro-western, white or black, Indian or coloured. We need to be united and resolve to act boldly against this dragon called GBV. GBV steals and strips women and girls of their dignity and freedom of choice.

Hon. Speaker Sir, again thank you Cde Finance Minister for giving ever more money for the education of our children, Here I pause and thank the late Minister, cde Dr. Abraham Iyambo who first toyed with the implementation of free education for all from Primary schools. This initiative is celebrated by all in our country. I do, therefore, Hon. Speaker Sir, dream of such a free education being extended to all university students with immediate effect. This will solve the problem of girls and young women who end-up enslaved by sugar-daddies and marauding men, who

Hon. Speaker The policy of inclusive Education by the Ministry is commendable, however to make sure that every child including children with disabilities are included, is to make sure there is reasonable accommodation, all schools should be made accessible to accommodate children with disabilities. In terms of infrastructures and Information.

disguise themselves as supporting them financially and economically while schooling, and yet, they end-up killing those unsuspecting poor girls and young women. Let us emphatically deal with this dependency syndrome, where women and girls depend on men for survival and sustainability, whilst studying at UNAM, PoN or IUM.

Lastly , the land issue Cde Speaker, the land issue is an old as the first colonial settlers in Namibia, it is the course for our liberation struggle, it still remains a burning issue not settled for the majority for the population of this country. The majority of Namibians are getting poorer while the minority are getting richer. Many landless people find themselves grazing in the corridors along the roads, commercial farmers are claiming these corridors as theirs, as a result the poor landless emerging farmers have nowhere to turn their animals for grazing.

Hon, Speaker, Hon. Members, how long are landless people and some of them who are paying astronomic reap offs to their landlords, the true sons and daughters of the soil going to endure this pain and humiliation? The landless or the land hungry citizens of this beautiful country should be given their inheritance, a dwelling place a place to call their own. Having said that Cde. Speaker, I will also join others who spoke on this issue, by calling for the Land Conference to be revisited.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members I support the Appropriation Bill of 2014/2015 without any reservation, and I trust that the concern raised will be attended and will bear fruits in the foreseeable future.

THANK YOU.

