



## **UNITED PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT**

**"A Political Party duly registered in terms of the electoral laws of the Republic of Namibia"**

P.O. Box 4621, Rehoboth, Cell: 081 369 8259, e mail [na.na.unitedpeople@yahoo.com](mailto:na.na.unitedpeople@yahoo.com)  
081 140 4 573, Fax 062 52 5915

### **UPM PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE**

#### **CONTRIBUTION ON THE 2019/20 NATIONAL BUDGET, HON JAN VANWYK,**

##### **Thank you Hon Speaker**

Hon Speaker, Hon Members, I rise to make a small and humble contribution, to the debate on the national budget as tabled by the Hon Minister of Finance. The UPM appreciates efforts of Government to get Namibia out of its financial crises, however, more needs to be done to put words into action and to ensure sustainable economic growth. Although the increase in the development budget is a welcome move, it could also be regarded as a last effort of Government to restore lost trust before election later this year.

The increase in the capital budget should not be regarded as an effort to create jobs for Namibians, as it is clear that jobs created would not benefit the majority of the Namibian Workers as the construction industry has been captured already by the Chinese with the approval of the Government to benefit the Swapo elite. My statement is underscored by the rejection of my motion by the ruling party on 15 March 2017 in this august house. With the majority vote of 54 against 14 this government made it clear two years ago that it does not care about the namibian workers, instead it stood firm in protecting their chinese friends. Hopefully the namibian workers will keep this in mind when voting later this year.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members whilst we complain and deny the effect of the chinese dominance in the labour market the only party that loses are the namibian workforce. The effects two years down the line is clearly visible, yet the swapo party led government remains to <sup>stand</sup> ~~stance~~ it put their friends first at the expense of the namibian workers. Trade unions has silently supported this act which should be regarded as shameful. The selling of Rio Tinto to the chinese, the unjust treatment of former Rossing workers with regard to the payouts of the surplus on the rossing pensionfund remains a mystery as government needs to protect it friendship with the chinese exploiting the namibian workers. Hausab mine is a nother example of how the namibian workers are neglected by a government that was suppose to protect them.

**UPM PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDING**

**ROOMS 166/167, 061 288 2596,  
E-mail [j.vanwyk@parliament.na](mailto:j.vanwyk@parliament.na)**

Hon Speaker on Members, whilst government claims progress with regard to rising the living standards of the majority, unemployment remains a serious concern. Statistics does not talk to the situation on the ground. Government should therefore stop claiming progress and rather investigate as to why your statistics are questioned by various groups in the country.

Hon Speakers, hon Members, I am convinced that the establishment of foodbanks has contributed to the increase in the unemployed rate as more healthy citizens now has become spectators and beneficiaries of free food handouts. This programme has created a symptom of let's wait for food instead of us getting out of our comfort zones, grabbing opportunities and create businesses for ourselves. I am of the opinion that the unemployed youth should start involving themselves in network marketing opportunities, making use of technology at their disposal. I have seen a few unemployed graduates from various professions getting a reasonable income through online network marketing.

The UPM welcomes the amount budgeted for drought relieve, I am however of the opinion that the amount would not be sufficient and, considering bureaucracy in our systems I am afraid that the amounts budgetted, would not reach the intended people on time. It is not clear how farmers will benefit as it may become an election campaign strategy of the ruling party as was the case during 2014. Old age pensions should be increased to N\$ 1800.00 seeing that senior citizens are faced with many challenges, especially those who were never part of the formal job market. Senior citizens as property owners in urban areas are exploited by local authorities through sky high municipal accounts, the N\$ 50.00 increase would therefore not change anything. The UPM is further disappointed in the reduction of the allocation to the Ministry of Sport. Namibia should do more to support sports to ensure that our athletes get to best training to compete on international level. Money wasted on non performing parastatals and the supposed to be dismantled Namibia Development Corporation should rather be diverted to the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members, President Geingob said one of the main priorities of 2019 was to commence the implementation of the resolutions taken at the 2nd Land Conference which took place last year. There is no doubt that the issue of dispossession from ancestral land requires concerted efforts for healing and provision of social justice. The commission appointed is due to make recommendations to the President by October 2019. Apart from concerns regarding the criteria used to select members of the committee, lack of clear terms of reference, and the question of expertise of the commission regarding ancestral land issues, it is not clear how the said commissions operations will be funded. The Hon Minister needs to ascertain the affected communities that the operations of the commission would not be compromised due to a lack of funds as was the case with the second land conference.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members the issue of urban land to the poor has been raised several times, yet nothing has been done. Government has failed on a promise to service 200 000 plots country wide. During Regional consultations for the second land conference the UPM recommended the allocation of free urban land to the urban poor. The said recommendation



was properly motivated, indicating that each person reaching the age of 18 years should be provided with free land in order to construct proper houses and to eliminate the continue rising of shacks across the country. The UPM will continue this plea and will implement the said recommendation as it has worked effectively in Rehoboth prior to independence. Government 29 years after independence still deny beneficiaries of the Rukoro Report excess to land because of poor planning, corruption and mismanagement.

The Hon Minister, indicated that contributions to the Government Medical Aid fund will increase as from the 01 April 2019, yet no solutions or measures are in place to stop the misuse of the fund. It is also not clear how retired pensioners who are members of the fund will be assisted as they already struggle to survive on their pension.

To conclude, Hon Speaker Namibia as a "Christian" nation has signed various agreements with countries such as China. We are all aware the suffering Christians endure in China, churches have been burned down and bibles destroyed. The Namibian Government has turned a blind eye on these evil deeds of its friends. The silence from the government side is an act that forsakes our claims as a Christian nation. The Chinese ambassador recently condemned complaints from Namibians who question Chinese involvement in Namibia, and the government remains mum out of fear for disturbing their relationship with China. I challenge church leaders to prove me wrong when I am saying that Namibia undergoes hardship because of the relationship the country's leadership has with a country that does not recognize the Supremacy of God Almighty. Therefore stop blaming the ordinary citizens for being a nation out of control, but rather take the blame yourselves as this government is responsible for selling out a nation that claims to be Christians.

I thank you.



Jan J. van Wyk (MP)

Vice President: United People's Movement

081 213 7339

