

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCUSSION ON THE
2018/2019 APPROPRIATION BILL AS TABLED BY THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

BY

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Honorable Speaker

Honorable Members

It is indeed a privilege for me to stand up and give my overall view on the budget as was tabled.

This budget is pro poor. What struck me most was that the Honorable Minister Calle Schlettwein confronted the most feared topic of corruption head on, without fear or favor, that's the way to go. Let all ministers defray their budget submissions follow this marvelous example. If there are ministers who have been involved in corruption let them be locked up and feel the full wrath of the law. We as parliamentarians must live by example. Tax evaders must also be dealt with, tax is the source of revenue.

May I commend the honorable minister for his efforts to cut down on the public servant personel bill that takes almost half of our budget.

My deep concern is that the state drives the economy of the country. When the state experiences economic hardships, the economy will collapse.

My question is “what is the role of private sector and state owned enterprises”? When will they stimulate and drive the economy of the country? When will they join the state to create employment? When will they start to introduce manufacturing industries and employ more people. Till when will we export our raw materials without adding value. Until when will we be dependent on South African import. It is time for the private sector to take charge of our economy and create more tax for our government. When government tenders stop ^{tenders} entrepreneurs are angry but when are they going to invest their money in expansion of our economy, build private hospitals, universities, manufacture add value and export to neighbouring countries and generate more tax.

Education is closer to my heart since I am a teacher by profession but I want to see that the money we budget for education has positive results and that we don't send 50 percent of grade 10 and 12 to the street. Drastic measures

must be taken to turn around that situation that prevail at schools. I propose and support more vocational training centers in all regions where all mines will be named and managed by Namibian sons and daughters. Allocation to health is good.

State owned enterprises and parastatals are like struggle kids, they don't outgrow their infant stages and remain dependent from government for bail outs. They must become independent and generate income for the state. Let these institutions be run by properly qualified people with knowledge skills and technical know how.

Let defense force help with national programs like laying water canals, construction of erven times of disaster add skills to build houses for masses during times of piece. because their budget tops the top 3 list after Education. Those that are properly qualified let them volunteer in fold as nurses and community workers.

My sincere appreciation goes to our President Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob that despite the economic hardship and big winds we face he still keeps his promise with the pensioners, my further humble request is that the money for orphans and vulnerable children be considered in increment of this nature.

The only wrong is the spending of our money. It rise with years to come although it will drop this year. The tendering that we balance our budget with debt and loans is a concern, rising debt and drop of our reserve capital is not a good sign. We must find ways and means to grow our capital and move out of this debts and take hands as citizens to be more focus^{ed} on saving and avoid unnecessary projects that are not properly planned for.

In conclusion it is a pro poor budget aimed at job creation and positive outlook for hope to take us out of big waves of economic troubles. I

urge all Namibians to save the country and resources for the future generations.

“Lawmakers must work very hard and take their role as overseers more seriously”.

“If you don’t exercise your oversight function over the executive, they are not going to implement”

Why do you pass budget? You pass budget to let them do their functions.

Why do you pass laws? You pass laws so that those laws can be implemented.

I support the bill 2018/2019
I thank you.