

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,

As I have said earlier on, this budget is aimed at taking us out of the current economic situation. But I have to emphasise that the result will depend on how we as a nation will conduct ourselves to move in the same direction in the spirit of Harambee.

I support the budget Bill.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Following the criminal/xenophobic attacks in South Africa there has been queries from the public if there has been any Namibian who became a victim. As we have informed the nation through the media recently, I want to reiterate that no Namibian became victim. We also want to once again inform the Namibians that it is safe for one to travel to South Africa.

I can also inform that yes the South African Government has addressed the African diplomats in South Africa on Monday 1st April and they will also meet on Friday the 5 of April. As a Government we have taken the words of the South African Government as communicated to Heads of Mission in South Africa by the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. We also accept that the South African Government does not condone xenophobic attacks and will impress on South Africans and all those living in their country not to expose themselves to such behaviour. I have also to make it clear that the Namibian Government does not in any way condone xenophobia regardless of the perpetrator and victims.

As people we have to live together in harmony and as Africans we have to be proud of ourselves and our continent. That is why the AU has a protocol on the Free Movement of People. It is in the same vain that H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia keeps reminding us that Africans coming to Namibia should not face difficulties. And to start with we should abolished visas for Africans holders of diplomatic and official passports, while those with ordinary passports can get visas on arrival. That is the Africa we want.

Xenophobia can be very ugly. I recall one day in Lusaka, Zambia in the late 70's there was xenophobic attacks against whites. No white person was safe in the streets of Lusaka and in the residential areas on that day. I remember that day we had just received some Comrades from home and as the Chief Representative of SWAPO I have to put them up until arrangements for their accommodation are made. Amongst them there was a Baster-family.

In the course of the day, they came out of the house into the yard and the neighbour saw them. The message went out that there were white people in that house. And the people wanted to get them out. Having realised that the house belongs to SWAPO, the Police came and the family was taken to a safe place until I have to go and clear them.

do it". We therefore have to ensure that we have the ability, highly motivated with the right attitude and all will be in place.

In Namibia, we have to change our approaches to business. We have a tendency once you see one person running a successful business, we all run for the same business. This reaction is more common among SME. The result the business non profitable and in most cases they all die at the same time. Why can't we think out of the box and be unique. Do not always compete with others in the hope of becoming the best we. It is said that, "is better to be unique than the best, because being the best makes you the number one but, being unique makes you the only one".

Another important part of this budget is an increase in the development budget. And this must be a welcome move to the nation. As we all know development budget is mostly an investment in infrastructure such as roads, railways and communication networks which are the engine of any economy. While the government has a responsibility to develop policies and draw up the budget, its execution is a national responsibility. This responsibility must start from the government offices to the private sector and the general public. You are free to argue with me, but I strongly believe that, if all of us who have been interested with the implementation of capital projects have the nation at heart, we will have gone a long way in addressing some of the challenges we are facing today. As a nation, we lost a lot of money on tenders given to people, I do not know if I can say without capacity or simply they have wrong intentions. How do you explain a person given public job for example to construct a school, clinic, and road among others and leave it unfinished while that person is paid? Next time you see the same person is given another job. Unless this type of behaviour comes to an end, no matter how brave we are, we will end up to be a shame among nations. And I am telling you no one will be served even those who feel are well off. We therefore, need to change our thinking and be national as opposed to individualists.

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While I have the floor, let me talk about the recent reported Criminal/xenophobic attacks in South Africa.

of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. I have no doubt that serious young entrepreneurs if given the opportunities to have a share in the running of green scheme programmes, they will make a big difference.

Young people are also beneficiaries to the budget allocation towards youth entrepreneurship projects under the Youth Employment and Self-employment of the National Youth Council. In the same vein, young people can benefit from an amount that is allocated to the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) for SME. I believe the DBN programme targeting SME has answered the question as to what will happen that the SME bank has taken interest itself out of business. At the same time, our young people are to benefit from the projects that are run through the Ministry of Youth and Sports as National Youth Service. I am convinced that, once the youth are empowered through education and training as well as given the necessary tools to enter the main activities of the economy, the realisation of Vision 2030 will be brought closer.

We have also to know that Namibia is part of SADC, AU and UN. The 38th Summit of SADC that took place in Windhoek, August 2018 was held under the theme “Invest on Infrastructure Development for Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Development”. Also the AU has declared 2018-2028 a decade for the youth, at the same time the UN sustainable goals or agenda 2030 pays special attention to the youth. Therefore, our national programmes targeting the youth have a direct impact on our international obligation. To mention, when it comes to the AU, the focus on our youth is informed by the fact that unless collectively and individual Member States invest on our youth, the AU Agenda 2063 will not be realised. That is to say, the full realisation of AU Agenda 2063 depends on what Member States are doing in their respective countries.

With all those interventions, the government would like to see visionary young entrepreneurs who are planning for the future. We must know that some of the big brand names are names of individuals’ business people. But because they had a vision and were looking at the future, today their businesses are dominating the world market to the best interest of their countries. For us as a nation to move forward, when one has access to the resources with the aim to contribute to the national development agenda, please do not use it to meet your immediate individual needs. Use the resources for the intended goals. I am fully aware that for us as a nation to succeed, three things are important, ability, motivation and attitude. As Lou Holtz said, “ability is what you are capable of doing, motivation determines what you do and attitude determines how well you

The impact of climate change is increasingly viewed as a national and world security threat. When people are not able to grow their own food to feed themselves and their animals, the immediate reaction is that governments are not taking care of them and that can create tension among nation. Countries that are sharing scarce resources such as water start arguing over water, to the extent that if not very well managed can end up in wars. It is against this background that the situation should be averted not to get out of hand. It is important to have international discussions on climate change and security. It is important to note that such discussions have started at the political level and on 24 April this year, there will be a meeting of Ministers of International Relations / Foreign on climate change and world security, to take place in German.

Hon Speaker

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The budget before us is a forward-looking budget and it gives us hope and confidence that we are on the right direction. Among others it is based on the fact that the domestic economy is projected to emerge from recession. The Minister of Finance went further to say the pace and quality of the recovery is depended on the speed and scale of implementation of pro-growth policy interventions, but may also be influenced by external factors.

While as a country we may not have much influence on the external factors, the internal factors are in our hands individually and collectively. And I strongly believe that if we all have national interest at heart, we will be able to achieve the main goal of our budget that is to grow our economy, create necessary jobs and take our people out of poverty. The good thing of this budget, it is presented in a language that is easily to understand to the extent that anyone who can read will be able to fit him/herself on it.

Take the youth and young entrepreneurs including young women; no doubt, they are one of the targets to benefit from the budget we are discussing. And if they compose themselves individually and as business partners they can make meaningful impact into the country's economy. One thing I am happy of is that I have seen many young people who have shown interest in agriculture. As agriculture is identified as one of the national priority, those young people stand a chance to be taken on board. History also tells us that most industrialised countries agriculture was the base. Therefore, for our young people if only they can organise themselves, with a clear vision they can benefit from the allocation

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUDGET DEBATE 2019/2020 BY
NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION,
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At the onset, I thank Hon Calle Schelttwein, Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister and Staff of the Ministry, not only for the manner this budget was tabled and its subsistence, but also for the information and advice that have been provided to Cabinet on the status of the economy and how best it can be managed.

It is such information and advice that enables the government to take the right decision and thus enable our small economy to survive the world economic slowdown experienced in the past years. In the same vein, I thank Hon. Obert Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and Director of the National Planning Commission and his staff for providing technical advice in the identification of national development projects.

Namibia is not an island, we are part of the global international system both politically and economically. Therefore, it is a fact that, currently, there is trade war between the big economies of the world namely USA, China and the European Union as well as the impending exit of United Kingdom from the European Union all this factors creates uncertainty in the world economy including that of Namibia. Similarly, the impact of climate change continues to be felt in our country, the SADC region and beyond. We have seen on our TV screens how our sisters and brothers suffered in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe from cyclone Idai. They will continue to suffer from the aftermath of this climatic catastrophe. Already it is reported that 1000 people in Mozambique are suffering from cholera. At the same time the country has not gone back to normalcy as some parts are still submerged and covered by water.

In Namibia, the late and non-rainfall in different parts of the country will have a negative impact on our food security both for human and livestock. This will impact negatively on our National Development Plans. Therefore, the budget before us is developed against the backdrop of the status of trade relations in the world and the impact of climate change.