

GENERAL BUDGET SPEECH CONTRIBUTION ON

APPROPRIATION BILL 2014

HON. LUCIA WITBOOI

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

I rise today to give support and high commendations to the Minister of Finance, Hon. Saara Kuukongelva-Amathila ^{o her team} for a job well done, in presenting the 2014/2015 National Budget with the overriding theme of “fiscal sustainability and job-creating growth – doing more with less.” In simple language, the nation is asked to tighten the belt, with clearly stated macro-economic policies, and continued interventions by our Government.

I am happy for the continued support given to education; the ~~with~~ Thirteen thousand and sixty eight billion Namibian dollar. The Grade 10 and Grade 12 results, however, remain a serious source of concern, especially when half of the candidates are not gaining points to either enter the job market, or continue higher education. Education is a three-way alliance made up of teachers, parents and the learner. It is my humble view that the State continues to appropriate much needed resources, but that teachers and parents ^{learners} do not form a strong alliance

*of Quality
Education*

in the interest of the learners. Now that corporal punishment has been outlawed, ill-discipline is our biggest worry.

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

In the time and age we live in, education and training remains the biggest equaliser for all formerly disadvantaged Namibians. Education is the only tool which can empower present and future generations to live prosperous. It is, however, disappointing to read in newspapers, that some teachers and some schools do not create and provide conducive environments. Our learners from formerly disadvantaged societies need all the help they can get, and this include provision of afternoon and evening studies supervised voluntarily by parents and students. The lack of discipline, as well as the lack of resources at our family homes also contribute thereto that learners simply do not pay attention to their studies.

Hon Members

The never-ending domestic and gender-based violence is a cause of concern. We thank His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia, for calling a National Day of Prayer, for us to go on our knees tomorrow invoking divine blessings of healing and of forgiveness. This is a step in the right direction.

