

GENERAL BUDGET SPEECH ON
APPROPRIATION BILL 2014

Hon. Priscilla Beukes

Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

I rise this afternoon to make my humble contribution on the Appropriation Bill in response to the Budget Statement by Hon. Sara Kuukongelva-Amathila, our capable Minister of Finance.

By way of preface, I want to comment the Minister of Finance for the firm yet gentle manner in which she has been handling this important and sensitive fiscal portfolio for the past number of years. She pays due diligence, is hardworking and succeeds every year to deliver a balanced budget. Well done Cde. Saara Kukongelva-Amathila, and your Deputy and staff of the Ministry of Finance for the excellent job.

The Founders of our Republic has given us a sound and safe Constitution. The foundation has been laid, the vineyard has been planted and we find ourselves, as a nation, in good places. We are to enter this year in yet another set of General and Presidential Elections for the 3rd smooth political transition under the SWAPO Party. As we walk in the park, in this journey of nation building, we walk in the shade of trees planted by the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, comrade Dr. Sam Nujoma. We are not in the sun.

Came our sitting President comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, he has moved forward and planted some fruit trees in our orchards. We are not hungry. Relief aid has been placed on the front burner reaching all parts of this country.

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

I am personally concerned by the division, enmity and hatred in our formally respected but now divided royal houses and tribes caused by the lack of well-defined succession plans in many cases. The Government of the Republic of Namibia is a sovereign, secular state not bound by religion and/ethnic preferences. Thus, we do not interfere in local clan and traditional matters and disputes trusting that internal processes will sort our differences amongst our people everywhere. In this unfortunate power struggles, the biggest loser is nation building as our people are fragmented and divided in their tribes and/or sub tribes.

I am also concerned about the increasing gender-based and domestic violence in our nation, especially the so-called passion killings. Coming out of the struggle against colonialism and out of the Liberation Struggle I agree that our communities still carry the scars of our national pain and hurt. Reading our newspapers, the impression is left that we are a violent nation. Without being a psychologist, I want to risk by saying that we deal with lot of anger and angry persons. The million dollar question is how education and relationship experts can help us, possibly including anger management to be made part of school curriculum. I know parents have a role to play; traditional and church leaders have a role to play in creating role models and to mentor today's young men and young women.

