

GENERAL BUDGET SPEECH CONTRIBUTIONS

APPROPRIATION BILL 2014

HON. EVELINE INAWASES-TAEYELE

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

I rise today to give my support to the Appropriation Bill tabled in this august House by Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance.

Allow me to quote His Excellency President Pohamba on the Occasion of the Annual Reception for Parliamentarians during June 2012; and I quote "Equally important, our Legislature should endeavour to promote a law making process that is accessible and participatory in nature. In this context, before Bills are tabled in Parliament, they should be subjected to public consultations so that citizens of our Republic can make their input and that their suggestions are heard with regard to the content of such laws"

Our President also stated and I quote "I would like to emphasise the point that the work of Parliamentarians should not only be restricted to the Houses of Parliament. Members should from time

to time, go out to interact with the voters in different parts of the country. Parliamentarians must interact with communities in order to hear the challenges they face.

^{As Members of}
As an active ^{Member} Member of Parliament, I make my humble contributions mostly in the Committee work of Parliament. ^I I can proudly say that ~~I~~ ^{we} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~an~~ ~~one~~ of the foot soldiers of this respected House, who takes our Parliament closer to the people with Public Hearings and Consultations. One issue close to my heart is service delivery, or the lack and/or slow pace thereof in our communities.

During the past year under review, I was fortunate to lead a delegation of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on our oversight inspection visits on the development projects of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development earmarked and identified for the MTEF 2013 to 2016 Financial Years - we visited some towns, villages and settlements in the two regions. What pains me here is the lack of capacity at Regional and Local Government levels, for our officials on these levels to fully implement our national development plans and the development programmes. The reports are there for Honourable Members to read, and we must look at ways and means how to expedite much needed training. I believe the National

Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and the line Ministry should play an important role in training, capacity building and introducing systems to monitor the implementation of development programmes of Government.

In some sectors, for example, provision of potable water, sanitation, and servicing of land just to take a few practical examples, people are denied these basic services because of delays and sometimes non-implementation of development programmes. There are too many bureaucratic bottlenecks and in some areas our government officials act way too important to high up there for our people. *not to access*

~~We have not yet seen service delivery protests like it is in happening in South Africa, our neighbours,~~ but I get the feeling from all our "taking parliament to people" interventions that bread and butter issues are not fully addressed. One is the return of unused funds to our national treasury. The other is the *verimentation* of funds, whereby some accounting officers and some officials divert funds earmarked for clearly identified development programmes - also provision of goods and services is redirected to new priorities, which this august House is neither consulted, nor is such re-direction of funds approved by this august House.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

Our buildings, facilities and infrastructures are dilapidated in many areas. This calls for review of the maintenance policy and personnel in many Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies. We should not wait for someone from the Ministry of Works to come to an office just to replace a fused electrical bulb or repair a blocked drain. Every ministry, every building for that matter, ought to have the tools, equipment and skills to maintain our properties. We do not need to obtain approval from the Economising Committee at Head Office in Windhoek to purchase a bulb, a fuse or chemicals normally used to unblock drains. We should decentralise the economizing committees.

This is worsened by some new and recently erected buildings with low quality products by our tenderpreneurs. This leads to the rhetorical question of the whereabouts of quality controllers. Construction of poor quality government buildings is not only a

It is my profound hope and wish that the much publicised, genuine and noble public housing programme referred to as Mass Housing Project, will be a proud platform of excellence. As elected representatives, we should guard against any trend in which the Mass Housing Project will become another scheme where some service providers want to get rich overnight at the expense of the lower income, the poor and the vulnerable. This calls for close cooperation between the Ministry of Works with all other Government Offices, Ministries, and Agencies.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

Reflecting on the recent gender-based violence, especially what is referred to as so-called passion killings, it has gone through my mind that we really live in a sick society. Our grandpa's and fathers, and brothers and nephews are no to be entrusted with the soul care of our babies and children. Mothers are stressed every day they leave their children at home, because it may be just your next door neighbour who rapes your daughter. We are and feel unsafe in this country, not because we fear external threats and strangers but it is the people close to our hearts, who are ripping our hearts apart and slaughtering us like sheep.

So-called passion killings alone are proof that our national ethics and morals are in need of complete overhaul. Ethics and morals are the compass of every society. When men act in such barbaric fashion in responses to choices women are making, I am afraid every new generation is not going to be different from the preceding generation if no major drastic steps are taken. One such intervention can be making the National Youth Service compulsory for every school leaver, prior to going to higher education. This way, we can form characters and solidify personalities in ethics and morality training.

Finally Hon. Speaker, youth unemployment, no doubt, has become a worrisome social and economic state of affairs that warrants further investigation. I am very much concerned about the state of youth.

May I stop here for the General Debate, as I am intending to speak up again during the different Budget Votes on specific issues I have experienced in the committee work of Parliament. Well done, Hon. Minister of Finance with your entire team and I support the budget.

I THANK YOU.