



# DTA OF NAMIBIA

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Budget 2011 to 2012

Speech by Hon K. Kaura 06/04/2011

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## **It is time to rubber stamp what has been decided by the Executive.**

Honorable Speaker, Honorable members of parliament. It is time for the members of the legislature to rubber stamp what has been decided by the Executive.

We have been operating in a nebulous situation over the last 21 years which contradicts the separation of power between the legislature and the executive. The legislature is loaded top heavy with members of the executive thus deminishing the independence of the legislature as provided for, by the constitution. Members of the legislature are thus puppets of the Executive because bills are drafted by the Executive including the appropriation bill and the non executive members of the legislature are only there to rubber stamp what has been decided by the Executive gurus. In other developed democracies like the United Kingdom or the United States of America ministers are not part of the legislature as it is the situation in Namibia. Therefore I shall execute my legislative responsibilities by addressing burning issues in the Namibian economy.

The honorable Minister of Finance Saara Kuugongelwa-Amathila stated the following in her budget statement.

*“ We are in the fortunate situation to have the fiscal space within wish we can give attention to these pressing issues of the day and hence I shall table an expansionary budget”*

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Honorable speaker it is this expansionary budget we are going to interrogate. The honorable minister states that N\$ 14.7 billion has been allocated for job creation; she further states that the implementation of targeted intervention for empowerment and economic growth (TIPEEG) will create 104,000 jobs. This sounds positive but would this be realized or is it a pie in the sky. How can this be achieved while the ranks of the unemployed are swollen by thousands of unemployable youngsters that fail grade 10 and 12 that are discarded to streets of our great cities of Namibia?

How can unemployment be addressed while the construction industry is handed over on a silver platter to the Chinese? In the SWAPO party government news paper the New Era of Friday, April 01, 2011 the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and industry & the Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union are raising strong objections to the way the Chinese business people are allowed to literally do as they please in Namibia. They stand accused of not paying taxes in Namibia. They are accused of showing disrespect for Namibian labour laws. They are accused of dealing in foreign currency and the illegal siphoning of funds out of the country. The new era states the following

*“ Construction industry insiders told New Era this week of the specific Chinese construction company offering bribes to architects, quantity surveyors and project engineers to overlook the low standard at a construction site instead of using prescribe standard materials”*

The Chinese construction companies bring in their own labourers to do menial labour that can be done by Namibians. In that prevailing anomaly how are 104,000 Namibians going to be employed? It is stated further in the New era that Chinese construction companies which are state owned entities import everything from doorframes, to steel nails used at construction sites. In view of this unfair competition how are the 104,000 jobs going to be created?

Honorable speaker there was a huge debate, over a motion tabled by Hon. Moongo in parliament concerning the disproportionate fines meted out against

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taxi drivers. The SWAPO secretary general Hon. Ivula Ithana gave a brilliant expose in parliament but there is divine justice under heaven. In the Namibian of March 31,2011 we read the following

*“Councilor can’t afford to pay speeding fine”*

Keetmanshoop SWAPO town councilor Finna Elago was fined N\$ 2,000-00 in the local magistrate’s court yesterday for speeding. In mitigation of sentence Elago said she was a single mother of five children and could only afford N\$ 1,000-00. There is divine justice under heaven and that is why we were saying that these draconian fines must be reviewed in all earnest.

Honorable speaker, under total debt stock the minister states that in 2010 the total debt stock increased slightly reaching 16.9 percent of GDP in December 2010 compared to 15.1% of GDP in December 2009. I nevertheless congratulate the Minister when she states that domestic debts constitute 77%. Domestic debt is more acceptable to me than foreign debt which has strings attached such as the settlement of 5000 Chinese families in Namibia to compensate for debt incurred with China. We cannot mortgage our country to foreigners thus bringing back colonialism through the backdoor.

Honorable Speaker, under article 51 of the budget speech the minister states the following

*“A comprehensive programme of upgrading of schools buildings and related infrastructure, teachers housing, provision of additional classrooms and the delivery of teaching materials has been started”*

Honorable Minister of finance the school Hall of Okakarara Secondary School was burned down by swapo operatives as part of the swapo independence struggle. That hall remains as it was in 1988, 21 years after independence during the reign of the SWAPO party government. When is that hall going to be repaired or destroyed to replace it with the new one? For how long will the students of

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Okakarara Secondary School be denied a space where they can carry out extra mural activities?

The finance minister further talks of allocation to the provision of water and so on. My question is. A motion was tabled by honorable Venaani on the issue of debts owed to NAMWATER along the eastern water carrier. He requested the debt to be written off. A committee of parliament went and investigated that matter but a report was never tabled in parliament. The debt to NAMWATER amounted to N\$69 million at that point in time but nothing is done about it while 600 million at GIPF was written off as bad debt. How do we justify this hypocrisy and double standards?

Honorable speaker the finance minister states that AgriBank advanced loans for the acquisition of farm land. Honorable speaker is there any more land in Namibia? Commercial farms are registered as close corporations and buyers, no longer buy land they buy shares. The prohibition of foreigners from buying land in Namibia is no longer relevant. Even an Eskimo from Alaska can buy land in Namibia by way of buying shares. Who is fooling who honorable speaker? There is maybe land in communal areas but in the contentious commercial farming sector there is no more land just shares like any other business listed of the stock exchange.

The honorable Minister states that NHE constructed housing units in rural locations for low income groups. The question is where? Not in Havana, 7de laan or 8ste laan etc. Unless the municipalities are given allocations to built houses for the poor, the problem of the lack of housing for the poor will go beyond vision 2030.

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## External Grants

Under article 74 the minister states the following

*“Grant support from development partners in 2011/12 will amount to N\$ 1.6 billion outside the state revenue fund and N\$ 230 million through the state revenue fund”*

Honorable speaker, what happened to the special initiative money from Germany? We heard of a few goats bought in Omatjete that died because of adaptation problems. We also heard of the goats bought in the south and that is the end of the story. The other areas such as Khorixas, Opowo, Gham, Okakarara, Otjituuu, Ovitoto, Otjimbingue, Okamatapati, Okondjatu and Eiseb are still waiting in vain.

Under article 81 the Minister states that during the MTEF period of 2011/12, - 2013/14 N\$ 23 billion or 19% of the total expenditures are allocated to the development budget. I say congratulations and right on sister, we want to see the results.

Under article 86 the Minister states, despite all the government efforts unemployment remains high among the youth. I say shut down NAMCOL, keep the children in schools let them repeat until they finish grade 10 and 12. Thousands of our children are leaving Namibia to look for work in the U.K and Canada. How painful? During our time we left Namibia because we were denied educational opportunities and human rights under the South African apartheid regime but today's youngsters are denied educational opportunities and employment under the SWAPO party government.

Under article 99 the Minister states the following

*“It is recognized that mining is one of key industries for the Namibian economy”*

While I agree with the statement I want to find out from the minister why prospecting licenses are given to Russians to monopolize the whole Kunene region yet after 21 years of independence not a single mine is opened by Russian business men or women? The prospecting licenses are being renewed keeping out competitors yet they are doing absolutely nothing. Is that fair Honorable Minister?

Under article 119 the Minister states

*“Furthermore, the men and women who fought to secure independence will also receive the recognition and support they deserve”*

We support that whole heartedly but how about Reverent Assaria Kamburona who took President Nujoma out of Namibia? How about Duivel Tjiteere who fought with rocks against bullets in the 1959 uprising? His pointing finger remains a clear evidence of the night of December 10, 1959. It was damaged by a bullet from a sten gun, are these people and many others going to benefit from this allocation or is it for SWAPOs only?

Under article 123 the Minister states

*“In order to improve living standards in rural areas, the government is significantly expanding its budget allocation to this sector”*

When is this allocation going to reach Gebion without flushing toilets and shamefully stings to high heaven? When is this allocation going to reach Tses, Berseba, Bethanie, Koes, Khorixas, Kongola, Linjanti and many other rural communities?

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Under article 130 the Minister states

*“In relative terms, total debt is estimated to increase to 27.4 % of GDP in 2011-2012 and going up to 33.9% of GDP in 2013/14”*

That is very dangerous and unacceptable. The total debt should not exceed 25% of the GDP in any normal economic situation. That increase will move us closer to bankruptcy.

In conclusion old age pension must be increased to N\$1,000-00 per month without any further delays.

I thank you.

