

**Intervention by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi in the General  
Debate on the Namibia National Budget 2012-13**

06-03-2012

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

---

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

I wish to make the following remarks by way of reflecting on the Budget. First of all, I wish to compliment the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission and all those who are involved in the preparation of the Budget. This is not limited to the well-researched information therein but also the presentation of the documentation.

The Budget has been crafted to navigate the country through the unpredictable terrain of global financial uncertainty. It must also be stated that we as a country, we have also maintained a reasonable macro-economic stability, fiscal prudence and external financial viability. In other words, this budget is intended to keep Namibia steady on the right path.

As we can all appreciate, it is off-course a major challenge to maintain this status quo, in view of the current global melt-down.

Most observers who have kept pace with the trend of events in our country do compliment us for prioritizing our spending on key sectors of national building, particularly education and health.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

**Targeted Intervention in Programme for Employment and Economic Growth  
(TIPEEG)**

With regard to the fight against poverty and unemployment; we have noted that the Budget is rightly committed to addressing these challenges. Off-course, there is no

doubt that there is a need to up the tempo and to better operationalize the TIPEEG Programme.

There was so much expectation at the time when this programme started, by the fact that it is supposed to target our national economic challenge. Ideally, that is what the programme is intended to do but because of the associated problems related to its design, the bureaucratic delays in disbursing the facilitation and the lack of technical capacity for the project planning and execution by offices, ministries and agencies (*see page 28 of the Minister's Budget Speech on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012*), it is facing hurdles in fulfilling its intention of creating mass job opportunities. These are the constraints that we hope will be overcome to enable the programme to fully achieve its intended objectives.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

**Road Rehabilitation, Maintenance, Management of the Road Network and Road Safety (*see pages 552 - 555*)**

On the question of Road rehabilitation, maintenance, management of the road network and road safety; I wish to bring to the attention of this house the hardship challenges being experienced by road users travelling on the Okahandja -Hochfeld - Otjozonde Road. Because of the mining operation taking place at Otjozonde Mine and the extensive use of heavy trucks travelling from that mine to Okahandja coupled with the current heavy rains in the area, that road is becoming unsafe in some parts.

Furthermore, the mine owners are also contemplating increasing the number of trucks needed for the transportation of manganese ore. You can imagine what this will mean for the road that is already in a terrible state.

In view of this, there is urgent need to encourage dialogue involving public-private-partnership that will involve the mine owners as well as the farming community to engage in consultation with the view to find an amicable solution.

From my initial consultation in this regard, the mine owners are willing to attend such a consultation that will involve public-private-partnership.

I gather from today's media report (see New Era 6<sup>th</sup> march 2012), that the leadership of Otjozondu Mine is in touch with the Minister of Transport and Works over the matter. I will also certainly liaise with the Honourable Minister over the same subject.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

**Ovitoto Bridges** (*see pages 554, 616 and 749 in the MTEF Book*)

The construction of 3 major bridges and 7 smaller storm water structures along the road linking Okahandja to Ovitoto Communal Area and the surrounding commercial farms is very much welcome.

The Ovitoto community is anxiously looking forward to the commencement of this important project. We will like to move from the protracted planning phase to the actual implementation of the project during the course of the first half of this year.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

**Workshop by Standing Committee - Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration Reflection on the Namibia National Budget 2012-13**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration held a workshop in Windhoek, to reflect on the National Budget 2012/13.

For this purpose, we had a panel of distinguished contributors and assessors drawn from the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission, experts from the Private Sector and Academic Institutions.

Some of the issues touched upon during the workshop included amongst others, the following:

- The reflection by Mr. Leonard Kamwi, an independent economist, highlighted the need to have an inclusive budget. By this, he elaborated on the urgent

participation by the regional setup in designing project conceived through participatory rural appraisal and related mechanisms so that these projects can be owned by the communities they are mean to serve.

- Participants at the workshop stressed the need for evaluation of programmes and projects to ensure that the necessary impact is realized. However, it was emphasized that the criteria used in project development and implementation must be understood by all stakeholders involved in such an exercise.
- As the Hon. Minister states clearly in her statement to the House while presenting the budget, where there are shortcomings, there is room for improvements so that we can do better now and in the future.

This very successful workshop was organized by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration and, supported by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Namibia Office.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

### **The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust**

I have the pleasure and honour to inform the House that following the Commonwealth Summit (CHOGM), held in Australia in October last year, during which Heads of Governments agreed to setup the 'QUEEN ELIZABETH DIAMOND JUBILEE TRUST' under the Chairmanship of Sir John Major, the former British Prime Minister.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust has been formed as a lasting testament to honour Queen Elizabeth's legacy as head of the Commonwealth family for sixty years. What has made her legacy to significantly stand out is that not only is HM Queen Elizabeth II one of our longest serving monarchs, but she has also dedicated her entire adult life to public duty and throughout the last sixty years, demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment as Head of the Commonwealth.

The objective of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust is to focus on areas such as tackling curable diseases, the promotion of all forms of education and culture, and other Commonwealth priorities.

As per the agreement, every Commonwealth country is being represented on the said Trust by an eminent person. In this connection, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba has appointed me to represent Namibia as one of those eminent persons chosen from each Commonwealth country to serve as a focal point for the local fundraising from industrial, commercial and private sources.

Naturally, I am greatly honoured to serve as our country's representative. In executing this responsibility, I hope I can count on the support of this Honourable House.

I thank you!