

REMARKS BY HONOURABLE MARINA KANDUMBU ON THE OCCASION OF THE MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW POLICY STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE.

^{deputy}
Honorable Speaker,

I rise to make a contribution to the Mid-Year Budget Review and Policy Statement speech of Honorable Minister of Finance. As

my first time to deliver a speech in this assembly.

~~MULTIPLYING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF ALL NAMIBIANS.~~

Let me hasten, to agree with the Minister that Article 126 of the Constitution empowers him "at least once every year and thereafter at such interim stages as may be necessary, ...to present for the consideration of the National Assembly estimates of revenue, expenditure and income for the prospective financial year" and for the National Assembly "...to consider such estimates and pass pursuant thereto such Appropriation Acts to meet the financial requirements of the State from time to time."

Therefore Honorable ^{deputy} Speaker, in his Mid-Year Budget Review Policy Statement Speech, "a first for Namibia", it should be seen as a proposal for approval by the National Assembly with the flexibility of input by Members of the Legislature. Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution is clear and states that "All Ministers shall be accountable individually for the administration of their own Ministries and collectively for the administration of the work of the Cabinet, both to the President and to Parliament." In other words, the Honourable Minister is here as per that provision. I therefore applaud the Minister of Finance for tabling this Mid-Term review which informs the National Assembly and the public at large on how the government intends to disperse and re-allocate funds.

It is encouraging to note that these funds are being reallocated to exceptional projects especially in the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Works and transport, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture ^{to mention a few} which also happen to be important vehicles for service delivery. We should always remember that Article 95 (e) behoves us as lawmakers to ensure "that every citizen has a right to fair and reasonable access to public facilities and services in accordance with the law." I want to submit, in this respect, that the priorities of the Namibian people especially those in the majority who live in rural areas **remain access to water, sanitation, shelter, food, education, health care, rural feeder roads, electricity and telecommunications.**

Therefore, as much as I appreciate the reallocation, I feel it is important to add my voice on these priority areas. I would have liked to see the reallocation to reflect budgetary reinforcement on **funding water infrastructure** to ensure that every rural household has clean running water. I would have liked to see a sizeable allocation to the **Agriculture Ministry** to ensure that rural households are supported to produce their own food. For instance, Honourable Speaker, an investment to upgrade the Agricultural project at Mashare could have contributed significantly to food security for Namibia at large and specifically for Kavango East, Kavango West and Ohangwena respectively. It is common knowledge that these ^{two} three regions are the poorest of the poor. On the FMD, which is devastating these regions I should appreciate the re-allocation to combat this disease, however, my strongest argument is for the ministry of Agriculture to revive Mashare Agricultural College that will instil the required skills amongst our people to have the abilities to mitigate the eruptions and spread of FMD.

Furthermore, I welcome and support the re-allocation to the Ministry of Health and Social Services of N\$500 million for the purchasing of Anti-Retroviral drugs and other pharmaceuticals to supplement current budgetary provision, but the overall reduction in the appropriated amount need to be relooked. I would have liked to see an emphasis being placed on **upgrading the Windhoek Central and Katutura State Hospitals to world class health facilities in line with the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry** which was instituted by the then President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Honourable Speaker, I strongly believe that the public health system needs more support in this re-allocation. Such support must be across the board and should improve the working conditions of nurses and doctors as well as the overall rehabilitation of the dilapidated infrastructure. In addition we must strive to support the Honourable Minister of Health in ensuring that every health facility across the country is resourced with ample medicines and state of the art technology as well as adequate human and financial resources aimed at providing the best service to the Namibian people.

Honourable Speaker, I applaud the Minister of Finance for considering a slight improvement in Vote 6 (Police). Honourable Speaker, honourable Members crime rate in our country is a matter of concern. The Namibian Police Force is rendering an important ^{leave} service that of ensuring the safety of citizens. At this present moment all of us live in fear. Our lives are not safe, especially the lives of women and children. Therefore, Vote 6 (Police) needs adequate funding in order for the police officers to be able to improve on the current situation

they are operating in. Namibia population is small but the crime rate is worrisome. There is a need Honourable Minister to ensure that adequate funds are allocated for police accommodation.

Finally, let me congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Government of the Republic of Namibia under the leadership of the Mighty SWAPO Party for allocating an amount of N\$121.0 million for the servicing of land. This demonstrates the government commitment in providing essential services to the people. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, water, housing and food are essential basic human needs. I therefore appeal to the beneficiary Ministries of this internal re-allocation to spend these funds prudently and in the interest of the nation.

With these few remarks, I support the Mid-Year Budget Review Appropriation Amendment Bill.

I thank you

