



# *National Assembly*

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## Remarks in the National Assembly by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP, on the National Budget 2014/2015

25<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to briefly remark on the National Budget recently presented by the Minister of Finance, Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

Indeed, a keen look at the National Budget 2014/2015 reveals that it is aimed at consolidating inclusive growth and establishing fiscal sustainability in our country.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

I do congratulate the Hon. Minister and her team for presenting this comprehensive budget. This budget is especially aimed at addressing identified priorities including the empowerment of rural communities.

In the Agricultural sector; measures have been placed to cater for drought, business sense and food security.

Related to this; let me take the opportunity to especially thank and commend the AgriBank for having adjusted the repayment period so as to cater for the effects of the protracted drought.

In the Transport sector; the road and railway networks are being upgraded. It is essential that the upgrading of roads in the country is essential particularly where these roads connect one community to the other.

In the Energy sector, further consolidation has been made to cater for domestic and industrial energy needs.

In the area of Land Reform; the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement has received additional funding for rehabilitation and resettlement.

In the sector of Infrastructure Development; port infrastructure is being upgraded to ensure that it adequately serves the socio-economic needs and is commercially viable.

Under Housing; residential housing back-log has received particular attention. We welcome the bold initiative by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia to tackle this challenge.

In the area of Gender and Child Welfare; special efforts have been placed on gender mainstreaming, women empowerment and child development.

Related to this Hon. Members, we should especially all unite to welcome the Government's efforts of addressing the vice of

gender-based violence (GBV) through the creation of the recently unveiled Task-Force to handle this burning issue.

Health and Education have also been adequately catered for within the limits of our financial means.

Furthermore, I welcome the fact that, with the frequent re-occurrence of disasters such as droughts and floods in Namibia, the government has placed a special emphasis on financial preparedness to cater for this. As the Chairperson of the Namibia Red Cross Society, I find this to be a very positive strategy. And as may all note, problems of floods for example are accompanied by other complications like cholera which is now looming in our midst.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

To undertake an overall conclusive reflection on this year's budget; if we are to recall one of the famous questions of Comrade Lenin: "..., what is to be done?" loosely coined in our everyday scenarios as, what next?

The Government of Namibia as part of the overall response to our most pressing socio-economic challenges has come up with a budget aimed at targeted intervention to the root causes of almost each of the above highlighted challenges.

I thank you!

