



**THE RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)**



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Remarks on the Budget Submission for 2014/2015 by Honorable Minister of Finance, Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila

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By Honorable Kandy Nehova

5<sup>th</sup> March 2014

***Hon Speaker  
Hon Members of this August  
House,***

***At the onset permit me to express my sadness and sympathy to the families and relatives of the victims of the so called "passion killings". As a man brought to life by a woman, a mother, I am disgusted at imagining and witnessing the agony of fellow compatriot women at the hands of heartless and***

**barbaric men-folk. Secondly, many citizens of our nation are being robbed of their relatives, properties and productive time due to road accidents caused mainly by reckless and irresponsible driving. In this regard too, I wish to express my grave concern and sympathy to all affected families and communities. It is my hope that both Parliament and the Executive will soon adopt measures aiming at putting a stop to this type of sadistic savagery and recklessness.** *Hon. Speaker*

**I must emphasize the point that the opposition parties, as usual, were not offered the opportunity to make any input in the formulation**

of this budget. Needless to state that in most effective parliaments systems, money bills are normally submitted to parliamentary budget committees for preliminary scrutiny before they are tabled in the chamber for final discussion and adoption.

*Hon Speaker,*

to expect a back-bencher of parliament whose parliament office has no staff at, all to scrutinize, within a week, five (5) huge volumes containing all budgetary information including figures is to expect the Hon member to perform miracles. This is unfair, unjust and

*indeed unnecessary. As representatives of the people we ought to be given ample time to deal with the National Budget through proper and adequate consultations with the electorate country-wide.*

*Having made these few remarks allow me now to address myself to the budget before us.*

*The first impression that I drew when I read these budget books is that there is more than enough money in the country that can enable us to successfully tackle the socio-economic problems that confronts the nation in the Land of the Brave.*

**According to the financial statement by the Minister of Finance, Hon Saara Kuugogelwa Amadhila, we will be expecting estimated revenue of N\$52.47 billion. However, the total amount required is N\$60.28 billion.**

**The deficit will be covered through funds borrowed from local market. And I always like to praise the government for deliberately avoiding borrowing money from external financial sources like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, African Development Bank, etc. We should continue doing business this way and steer away from financial troubles.**

on Speaker,

our major socio-economic problems continue to be unemployment, poor education, inadequate provision of health, subject poverty, and most importantly hunger and lack of decent shelter for the ordinary members of our society.

In 2012 the government introduced a programme well known as Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) in an attempt to address some of the above problems, particularly unemployment. At face value the idea looked noble. As, such some, if not all Hon Members

***this August House thought it prudent to give the government the benefit of the doubt. Honorable Speaker, I shall revert to this issue during this presentation.***

***In this year's budget the government came up with another economic development programme titled "Mass Housing Initiative." This programme, we are told, is intended to provide housing to Namibian citizens, mainly the poor.***

***It is important to mention that we arrived at this situation of a huge housing back log due to the trend called urban-pull/rural-push under which citizens leave rural areas for towns and cities hoping to secure***

**employment, better education, housing and other social amenities. However, this trend is not confined to Namibia but it is more prominent in some other parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, where above 80% of urban dwellers live in slums. In Madagascar, for example the slum bound urban population is estimated to be 99%. This is shocking.**

**Honorable Speaker, we are supportive of the Mass Housing Initiative because it is the most practical way to date of providing shelter to our impoverished citizens in both urban and rural areas. In this connection the RDP**



***in 2009 stipulated in election manifesto, that we shall construct annually (30,000 ) thirty thousand housing units in order to clear the housing deficit over a few years and reduce the demand for houses considerably.***

***Our main concern is that an undertaking of this magnitude has not been preceded by a meticulous planning, clear identification of beneficiaries and allocation of suitable land, the establishment of a competent management agency to supervise and control the implementation of the programme. Ideally, a comprehensive plan would have included the mobilization of communities and***

***local industries to supply the construction materials and ensure that more opportunities are created indirectly in the building materials supply chain. As of now, we know that apart from cement, sand and concrete aggregates, the rest of the materials like tiles, zinc sheets, window and door frames, planks, door handles and locks, nails, window glasses, paint and ceiling materials will come mainly from across the Orange river. This means that Namibia has failed over the past 24 years to plan and build local capacity to provide basic building materials, thus, losing a huge opportunity to fight unemployment and lack of housing at one go.***

*It is our considered view that the billions allocated to Mass Housing Initiative would have also covered mainly the provision of serviced land, standard specifications and building plans to enable hundreds of thousands of beneficiary families to build their own houses instead of giving construction tenders to certain individuals and companies whose main objective is to maximize their profits at the expense of intended beneficiaries, the majority of which are now bound to remain homeless for many years to come.*

*The same billions that are largely going into the pockets of the “lucky few” tenderpreneurs would*

*have further been utilized to subsidize quality building materials for the beneficiary families to be able to build decent houses for themselves.*

*Honorable Speaker,*

*I am saying all this to emphasize the importance of planning when dealing with major national socio-economic development undertakings. Not long ago, this nation was promised one hundred and four thousand (104,000) jobs under TIPEEG programme. This program will be concluded at the end of March 2014. We know now that TIPEEG has failed to create the promised one hundred and four thousand (104,000) jobs. The*

***fifteen thousand 15,000 permanent and the sixty four (64,000) temporary jobs reportedly achieved through TIPEEG is not only far below the target but there is no evidence that these jobs are any different from jobs created under the normal activities of the national economy. What we are sure of 100% is that TIPEEG has created and or reinforced the few instant millionaires and billionaires. This state of affairs amounts to day light robbery and shameless raiding of state coffers.***

***The Mass Housing Initiative is at its initial stage of implementation but already we are inundated with media reports that companies and***

***firms who popped up in recent months, weeks and even days have been awarded tenders to construct houses. We are informed that some of these firms have not even been fully registered with the Registrar of Companies.***

***Honorable Speaker,***

***in conclusion, I wish to remind all Namibians that this country attained its freedom and independence through a protracted and bitter struggle that spilled the blood of men and women in order for every Namibian to enjoy peace and economic prosperity. Therefore, all of us in this Chamber should endeavor to ensure that every Namibian is afforded that***

***fundamental right, which is included in our Supreme Law, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. With this understanding, we should make it unanimously clear that public funds are used for the benefit of all citizens irrespective of our political, cultural, religious and gender differences, and that any attempt to embezzling, swindling and maximizing profits at the expenses of the masses should be exposed and vigorously condemned and discouraged.***

***Finally, Honorable Speaker, allow me again to register my profound disappointment and dismay that this budget has not provided for***

*any improvement with regard to the social welfare of the senior citizens.*

**I rest my case for now.**