



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**Response to the Budget Discussion and the third Reading of the 2018/2019  
Budget**

**Presented by Hon. Calle H-G Schlettwein**

**Minister of Finance**

**April 25, 2018**

**Honourable Speaker,  
Honourable Deputy Speaker,  
Honourable Members of the National Assembly,**

## **Introduction**

1. I have the honour to rise here today to express my gratitude to the Honourable members who actively participated in the discussion of the 2018/2019 Budget. The debate and questions raised during the discussion are valuable and enlighten the budgeting and implementation process going forward.
2. During the last seven weeks of deliberations, the Honourable members have had the opportunity to interrogate the budget and they did this with vigor. I am therefore grateful to all the Honourable members for their support and guidance.
3. Significant emphasis was placed on the need for effective implementation of the budget, policy reforms to amplify the impact of the budget on development outcomes and innovative reforms to improve internal efficiency. This cannot be further re-emphasized.
4. In this fiscal consolidation framework, we are called upon to work collaboratively for sustainable development results and to do more with less.
5. **Honourable Speaker**, allow me to reflect briefly on the core principles underpinning the 2018/19 Budget. The 2018/19 Budget underscores Government's commitment to uphold the principles of macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability, while addressing socio-economic challenges facing our country, in the short-term, medium-term and the long-term horizon.
6. In the short-term, the fiscal policy is aligned to other macroeconomic policies, namely monetary policy, by creating enabling environment for stable growth, inflation and healthy balance of payment. It is for this reason that budgetary provision is made to boosting production and

investing in growth-enhancing infrastructure. Our focus is to support growth on priority sectors of the economy in which growth and job-creation potential is the greatest. At the same time, Government forges ahead with commitments to implement fiscal and real-sector reforms aimed at improving state revenue, skills development and overall investment climate.

7. **Honourable Speaker**, fiscal policy has increasingly become critical tool to address domestic socio-economic and developmental challenges and competitiveness. Government therefore remains committed to confront challenges of poverty, inequality, unemployment, economic growth and infrastructure deficit, among others, now and in the future. Consistent with this notion, the 2018/19 budget is a demonstration of our consistent policy commitment towards investment in human capital development and provision of health and other social services.
8. Over the long-term, our investment and reform agenda will pay dividends. As the economy assumes a positive growth trajectory, we have to rein in expenditure in order to introduce the fiscal space again, in favour of long-term sustainability of fiscal outcomes.
9. I should emphasis yet again that during the current MTEF, fiscal prudence remains a principal policy objective of Government. We will remain firm on course to align expenditure to the levels of revenue and economic growth in order to be sustainable.

### **Discharging our Mandate**

10. The Ministry of Finance continues to implement reform initiatives to further strengthen the public finance management; these include the Programme-budgeting, the measure aimed at managing and tracking budgetary outcomes on a programme basis as well as resource mobilization.
11. **Concluding Remarks**
12. In conclusion, *Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members*, I tabled a budget that takes into account the current economic difficulties facing

*fiscal sovereignty  
future of the youth.*

our country, and introduce a package of policy measures, consistent with the need to support the economy and protect the essential social spending.

13. I therefore take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support of the 2018/2019 Budget.

I thank you.

Vote 09.

2017/18

N\$ 4 298 477 000

2018/18

N\$ 9 828 352 000

- ~~N\$~~ 5 782 788 000

interest  
payments.

4 045 554 000