



NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION (HEAD OFFICE)

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One People, One Aim, One Destiny.



Speech by Hon. Asser Mbai (MP) NUDO Party on the 2019/20 National Budget

Hon. Dep. Speaker

I thank you so much, I rise to contribute briefly to the appropriation bill.

As a part time farmer no matter the absence of rain so far, I know that in order for the people to possess best produce from the soil, We have to plant a knew. It is time for us to sow the seed of renewal and growth.

But for the seed to be prosperous, we must first activate the soil. Once we have planted the seed, we must nurture it, water it, add fertilizers, and protect it from the extremes, the elements of time.

This year budget a watershed in years; Regular bailout of messed up SOE'S, unstable GDP-growth, constrained revenues, runaway state spending, high jobless rate, fiscal cliff, rating threats. Oh!! Hon Kalle Schettwein this are all on you to give hope.

But fortunate you are Honest and Accountable when you said in your statement and I quote" I table this budget knowing that the current economic situation in

our country has caused hardship for many citizens and I thank you all for bearance during this difficult times”

Hon. Dep. Speaker;

According to me this budget is built on six fundamental principles.

1. Achieving a higher rate of Economic growth.
2. Improving Tax Collection
3. Reasonable ,Affordable expenditure
4. Continue stabilizing and reduced debt
5. Reconfiguring state-owned enterprises
6. Managing the public sector wage bill

There are no quick fixes to achieve the above-mentioned but our national unconditional demand **is a turn-around strategy and we are ready**. We are at cross –roads, and that we could go either left or right. There is no more room for, friendship, comradeship and solidarity. Our focus and interest must be to uplift the standard of living of all Namibians.

- Achieving a high rate of economic growth.

We expected to have highly economic growth in 2018. This is still our desire and estimate but many of the risks that we warned about materialised .I believe we now expect a slower but still steady recovery after the 2018 technical recession.

I agree with you Hon. Minister that at this rate^{DF} economic ~~of~~ recovery, the imperative is to speed –up implementation capacity and eliminate bureaucratic delays for the outlook to translate into per capita income.

Our economic growth for the past 29 years of our independence was disturbed by the absence of proper administrative measures of enhancing the functioning of the public procurement structure, I therefore complement your intervention in the current operations of the procurement Board.

We are a relatively small, peaceful responsible nation, with so many resources the Diamonds, Fish, Uranium, Zink, Copper, Agriculture and our perennial rivers the Kunene and Kavango. Namibia is currently experiencing a drought situation but we struggled for Weeks and Months to get lucern and grass from our green scheme irrigation projects. I there would like to ^{urg} ~~etc~~ the Minister to ^{re} consider the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture in order to modernise Agriculture as a stimulant of economic growth.

- **Improving Tax Collection**

Tax policy, Revenue enhancement and Tax administration reforms is very much vital.

Fiscal prudence requires some tax changes the ordinary taxpayer is fully taxed compliant and ready to pay their fair share, provided there guidelines and tax proposals to achieve equity and fairness in the tax regime.

- **Reasonable ,Affordable Expenditure**

It is important to implement effective expenditure containment. The significant reduction in non-core expenditure has been achieved, total spending on subsistence and traveling allowances has reduced tremendously.

I believe is high time for the Minister and GRN to start and introduce without delay government's spending priorities.

- **The Public Wage Bill**

Hon. Dep. Speaker the public wage bill is unsustainable. We must shift expenditure to investment. The first step to reduce spending on the public wage bill is to allow older public servants who opted to retire early and gracefully to do so provided that the GIPF and other insurance companies are also ready to assist in the retirement of their clients.

Hon. Dep. Speaker

I think the system of staffing our diplomatic missions is unjustified and should be looked at and reviewed.

- **Continue ,Stabilizing debt**

The slowness in the public debt to an annual average of 11.2% in the past two years, compared to an average of 30.1% the previous three years is complementable and encouraging, we cannot afford our liabilities to exceed our income.

- **State Owned –Enterprises**

WE are anticipating and rely on the public enterprises Governance Bill .Its passing will in fact enable a wholesale review of many of the current public enterprises. Currently the SOE's pose very serious risks to the Fiscal framework. Is it not about time ~~the~~ for the country^{to} ask itself this question; Do we still need some of this enterprises? If we do, can we manage them better.

RESTORING OUR FINANCES AND FIXING OUR STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES, will TAKE GREAT COURAGE.

BUT IT CAN BE DONE.

Restoring our finances and fixing our state owned enterprises will take great courage. But it can be done.

Hon. Dep. Speaker.

I see no major problem with the allocations made to Defence and Safety and Security respectively, provided that they consult and coordinate the entire security of the nation much better, including Anti-Poachers operation, Gender-based –violence, road-blocks all over the country etc.

During the occasion of the opening of Parliament 2019/20

The Head of State reminded Parliamentarians about the importance of the legislature and how their integrity in the execution of parliament work is equally vital. “Parliament as the legislative body of the state, is the linchpin of our governance architecture, caring out critical functions such as law making, representation of the electorate and oversight of government activities. The execution of these vital functions requires that parliamentarians should be paragons of virtue. As representatives of the people, we should always be mindful of reputations” I therefore support the allocation to both houses.

Finally

As we face the future ,I am reminded of the words of the continent's independence ^{ICDN} leader, Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah: "... the task ahead is great indeed, and heavy is the responsibility; and yet it is a noble and glorious challenge- a challenge which calls for the courage to dream, the courage to believe, the courage to dare, the courage to do, the courage to envision ,the courage to fight, the courage to work, the courage to achieve- to achieve the highest excellencies and the fullest greatness of (people). Dare we ask for more in life?

~~Restoring our finances and fixing our state owned enterprises will take great courage. But it can be done.~~

I thank you, with this few remarks I support the bill