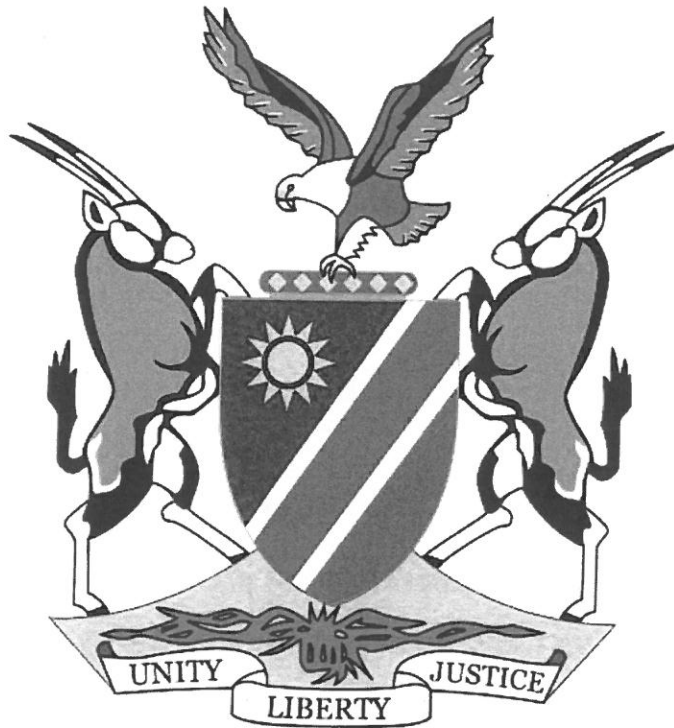


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**BUDGET SPEECH FOR VOTE 26: NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION FOR THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR**

BY

**HON. CHRISTINE //HOEBES
MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY**

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

It is a great honour and privilege to present to this August House the budget for National Planning Commission for the financial year 2023/2024 for the Honourable members' due consideration.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

The National Planning Commission achieved its proposed activities aimed at achieving medium- and long-term development priorities during the financial year 2022/23. National Planning Commission conducted research and produced various documents with the view of ensuring effective implementation, monitoring of current plans and decision making, but also to enable policymakers to better allocate resources and more effectively formulate targeted policies. Specifically, the Agency undertook several research studies whose conclusions and recommendations inform the country's socio-economic developments. A synopsis of some of these reports, activities and achievements for the year are as outlined below:

- The African Peer Review Mechanism National Secretariat completed the Country Review Report of Namibia that aims to promote effective governance architecture in the country.
- The Multi Indicative Program with the European Union to an amount of 627 million Namibian Dollar was launched to support Namibia on the priority area of education, good governance (Anti-Corruption Commission) and gender equality for a period 2021 up to 2027.

- During the current financial year, National Planning Commission successfully coordinated the preparations of Namibia's evaluation of the first 10 years implementation plan of Africa Agenda 2063 and was presented to the African Union Summit. The findings aim to propose priority areas in the development of the next implementation plan which will be formulated in the coming financial year;
- National Planning Commission hosted the annual Development Partners Forum which explored ways on partnership with development partners on current and emerging issues that supports the national priorities. The outcome of the forum were commitments from development partners to align support to our national priorities.
- National Planning Commission successfully concluded the Namibia-German bilateral consultations which reviewed progress and challenges on programs that are jointly implemented, and this will set the stage for the intergovernmental negotiations set for June 2023;
- National Planning Commission continues to oversee and monitor development cooperation programs that are geared towards supporting Namibia's aspirations of becoming a logistics hub. This positions her to cater for emerging opportunities such as green hydrogen and oil discoveries;
- National Planning Commission together with Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprise conducted Mid-Year Budget Review to assess progress on implementation of programs and projects as outlined in NDP5 and HPP11. The report was successfully finalised and presented to Parliament;
- The two institutions, National Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprise finalised the main budget for 2023 – 2024 to 2025 –

2026 Mid-Term Framework which was tabled to the August House by the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprise on the 22 of February 2023;

- National Planning Commission conducted training on Development Budget Planning, Implementation, Evaluation and Monitoring to all Offices/ Ministries and Agencies.
- The Namibia Labour Market Information System (NamLMIS) has been updated to a new version, and this may be used as a monitoring tool for the National unemployment situation in the country. The new version of the Namibia Labour Market Information System allows for data extractions by third parties for own analyses. The enhanced Namibia Labour Market Information System can also be integrated with other Government data systems.
- Following the Multi Poverty Index launch results in June 2021, the Namibia Statistic Agency together with assistance from United Nation agencies has developed regional Multi Poverty Index presentations and pamphlets for regional dissemination in 2022. The findings will be used to inform planning and resource allocation.
- The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) partnered with United Nation Women on a project to assess the gender statistics system in Namibia and capacity gaps in the national gender statistics system and integrate a gender perspective into national strategic planning, statistical production processes as well as the use and dissemination of statistics.
- The Namibia Statistics Agency developed the Namibia Spatial Data Quality and Metadata Handbook to serves as a guide towards the official certification of spatial data in the country. It also serves as a practical implementation of the gazzetted standards on Spatial Data Quality and Metadata.

- National Planning Commission embarked upon the review of the implementation of Vision 2030 and has been in consultation with key stakeholders including some communities to determine the level of implementation. The final report will be issue in the coming financial year.
- The National Planning Commission produced the Economic Development Report (EDR) 2021 which remains one of National Planning Commission's annual flagship publications. The Economic Development Report provides comprehensive analysis on actual economic performance and social developments at the global, regional, and domestic levels for a five-year period (2017 – 2021). Additionally, the report provided medium-term economic projections for the global and regional economies as provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Key findings include the following among others:
 - The global economy experienced one of its worst growth periods during the post-2016 era characterised by economic growth slowdowns by most regions and economies ascribed to lower demand, depressed commodity prices (for commodity exporters), declining investment, among others. These developments were exacerbated further by the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, global commodity prices have risen further and have become more volatile, heightening the risks of food shortages and social unrest well beyond the regions affected by the conflict. These developments exert inflationary pressure which lead to soaring inflation rates globally, a characteristic that affects the low-income earners the most, thereby worsening the poverty situation.

- After recording its worst economic decline ever of 8.0% in 2020, the Namibian economy recovered to 2.7% in 2021 underpinned largely by strong growths by the mining, hotels and restaurants as well as wholesale and retail trade sectors, relative to significant deteriorations posted in 2020.
- The Government of Namibia has launched the process of establishing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to strengthen sources of financing (public and private, national and international) to achieve the SDGs, Agenda 2063, the V2030, among others. Hence the National Planning Commission planned to hold a high-level development policy dialogue. The main objective of the dialogue is to ignite proposals on financing options for any given sector to facilitate the achievement of the national, continental, and global goals. The Preparation to host the Integrated National Financing Framework National Development Dialogue was completed, and the Dialogue to take place during the first quarter of 2023/2024 financial year.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

The allocation to the National Planning Commission for the Financial Year 2023/24 is **Nine Hundred and Twenty-one million, One Hundred and forty-Six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$921,146,000).**

The budget will be utilized to implement the key activities under the following programs:

PROGRAMME 01: MACRO - ECONOMIC PLANNING

Macroeconomic Planning Department will undertake, among others, the following activities during the financial year 2023/2024 in accordance with its mandate of spearheading the course of national development:

- **Development of NDP6:** The Integrated Planning Approach shall be applied during the formulation of the NDP6 underpinned by wider consultation and participation of all sectors throughout the planning phases. It is also worthy to note that NDP6 is the last National Development Plan towards realizing Vision 2030 goals, hence it will cover the years 2025/26 to 2030/31.
- **Economic Development Report 2022:** The Agency will undertake one of its annual flagship publications, the Economic Development Report 2022 to assess the country's socioeconomic developments during the five-year period (2018 – 2022). The report will synthesize issues on economic performance and social developments including the impact of Covid-19, the global economic uncertainties stemming from geo-political conflicts and recommend measures to be undertaken to ensure revival and resilience of the national economy.

The Programme is allocated with an amount of **Twelve Million, Four Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$12,418,000)**

PROGRAMME 02: REGIONAL & SECTORAL PLANNING AND POLICY COORDINATION

The National Planning Commission will pursue regional and sectoral planning by coordinating the development of Regional Profiles, Regional and Sectoral Plans to ensure effective implementation of National Development Plans.

The Programme aims to ensure that NDPs are implemented and that the development budget programs and projects are aligned to the national priorities as outlined in national development plans.

Further, the programme will continue to coordinate the development of government socio-economic policies to ensure consistency as well as to evaluate their effectiveness.

The allocation for this Programme is **Thirteen million, Eight Hundred and Seventeen Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$13,817,000).**

PROGRAMME 03: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS COORDINATION

The objective of this Programme is to mobilize, coordinate and manage external development resources and to develop and maintain a national integrated monitoring and evaluation system for the whole of government.

The Programme will finalize the review of the Vision 2030 which will also inform the formulation of NDP6, but also will facilitate corrective measures in the implementation of policies programmes and projects.

Further, the programme will develop the National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, and will also develop National Evaluation Guidelines, as well capacitate staff members from O/M/As in monitoring and evaluation. Further, in tandem with the development of NDP6, the National Planning Commission through this Programme will also start the process of developing Monitoring Evaluation Plan for NDP6.

Moreover, the Programme will continue to mobilize external resources to augment the government's efforts in the implementation of the National Development Plans, Harambee Prosperity Plans, Vision 2030 and other international development frameworks like the global Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063, which Namibia committed to implement. The Programme will also undertake project visits and partake and co-hosting the Development partners meetings and conferences.

The Performance Delivery Unit (PDU) will continue to develop, monitor and guide the implementation of projects and activities under HPPII, while providing capacity to NPC officials.

The Programme is allocated with an amount of **Twenty-Four Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$24,458,000).**

PROGRAMME 99: SUPERVISION, COORDINATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

The Programme aims to provide supervision, efficient administrative and support services, provision and maintaining of ICT infrastructure and production of reliable statistics. It is under this Programme that National Planning Commission provides financial support to Namibia Statistics Agency and Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) National Secretariat to perform their mandates.

The National APRM Secretariat is planning to launch the Country Review Report and its National Plan of Action (NPoA) on recommendations from the review report for implementation early this financial year and is expected to produce the National

Governance Report of Namibia as a tool for fast-tracking the implementation of National Plan of Action.

Further, the Programme through the Namibia Statistic Agency, will conduct the National Population and Housing Census. The main objective of the 2023 Population & Housing Census is to provide demographic and socio-economic statistical information pertaining to the population and its living quarters necessary for evidence-based planning, decision-making and policy formulation in Namibia. The 2023 Census will provide indicators to evaluate progress against National, continental and international goals such as the National Development Plans (NDPs), Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), Vision 2030, Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Programme will also undertake preparatory activities for the Namibia Household Income & Expenditure Survey (NHIES) and the Census of Agriculture. The allocation to this Programme is **Eight Hundred and Seventy Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$870,453,000)** of which an amount of **Seven Hundred and Six Million Namibian Dollar (N\$706,000,000)** is earmarked for the Namibia National Population and Housing Census.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

Having narrated the achievement and focus areas for the 2023/ 2024 financial year, The National Planning Commission commits to direct and deliver national development agenda.

Honourable Speaker, I now have the honour to submit to this August House, a total amount of **Nine Hundred and Twenty-one million, One Hundred and forty-Six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$921,146,000)** for Vote 26 and I plead with all Honourable Members to support the budget.

I thank you.

