



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE MOTION BY HON. NICO SMIT ON THE
INVESTIGATION AND FULL AUDIT OF THE EXPENDITURE OF
N\$14.1 BILLION ALLOCATED FOR THE 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR,
TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE WITH
SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND TEXTBOOK
EXPENDITURE**

BY

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DEPUTY MINISTER

24 APRIL 2023

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

Allow me to make my contribution to the motion by Hon. Smit on the investigation and full audit of the expenditure of N\$14.1 billion allocated for the 2022/23 financial year, to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture with specific reference to infrastructure and textbooks expenditure.

At the dawn of our independence,

A The goals of education access, equity, quality and democracy resulted in high expenditure on education, including teaching and learning materials and infrastructure. The expansion is against the background of limited access to education to especially African learners before independence. According to Dr. K. Salia-Bao in his book: ' *The Namibian education system under the colonialists*', Namibia had 1 154 schools and 12 600 teachers in 1988. The number of prefabricated classrooms were 1 414. The number of learners according to the 2022 Namibia Fifteenth School Day Report is 839 579, and number of schools were 1 966. It is evident that the number of learners are closer to half of the Namibian population.

It is commonsense therefore, considering population growth, rural-urban migration and constrained financial resources that adequate teaching and learning materials as well as conducive teaching and learning infrastructure remain a challenge.

Hon Speaker, Hon members

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has the mandate "*To educate and train for sustainable development and to promote Arts and Culture*" in the country.

The Ministry has a clear vision and mission in its strategic plan. In order to implement the ministry's strategic plan every year funds are needed, therefore the budget is annually presented in this August House.

The Vision of the Ministry is *"To be a Ministry of excellence in providing inclusive, equitable, quality education and promoting arts and culture for the prosperity of the Nation."*

The Mission of the Ministry is *"To provide accessible, equitable and inclusive quality education for a tolerant, skilled, productive and competitive nation, and to promote and preserve arts and culture for nationhood and unity in diversity."*

Hon. Speakers

Hon. Members

"One of the best ways a country can boost shared prosperity, promote inclusive economic growth and expand equitable opportunity, is to invest in education" (High Level Advocacy Strategy 2023, Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare".

It is true that Education and Training is the conduit where the human capital grow and develop towards knowledge-based economy. Despite education being provided with a budget that represent 20% of the National Budget, the needs still call for the Ministry to be supported in its efforts to provide quality education.

The budget of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture is sub-divided among the following six programmes implemented through three departments:

- Finance and administration
- Formal education (Programmes and Quality Assurance)

- Adult and Lifelong Learning, Arts and Culture

The six programmes are:

- The Policy Coordination and Support Service
- Pre-Primary Education
- Primary Education
- Secondary Education
- Information, Adult and Lifelong Learning, Arts and Culture
- HIV/AIDs Management Unit (HAMU)

Primary education account for the largest share of the budget at 64.4%. Secondary 24.7% and Pre-primary 3.5 %. Information, Adult and Lifelong, Arts and Culture 3% and Policy Coordination and Regional Support Programmes 4.4 %.

Of the N\$14.1billion, 84% was spent on personnel expenditures. The Development Budget took up N\$300 million which represents 2% of the overall budget allocation. The Ministry spent N\$ 30 million on text books during the financial year 2022/2023.

The cost drivers covered under operation budget among others are hostel catering, utilities, School Feeding Programme, Universal Primary and Secondary Grants.

In 2022/2023 Financial Year the Ministry spent among others the following:

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|---|-------------------|
| • Hostel catering: | N\$580 438 522.94 |
| • Utilities: | N\$545 247 656.09 |
| • School Feeding Programme | N\$80 640 220.96 |
| • Universal Primary and Secondary Grants: | N\$183 298 000.00 |

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

When it comes to grade 11 and 12 results we should not only concentrate on the pass rate of the learners that qualified for the degree courses at the Institution of Higher Learning only. There are many learners that completed grade 11 and 12 that qualified to do certificates and diploma courses at the different Institutions of Higher Learning. They can proceed with their studies up to a degree level in the future, if they so wish.

It is not fair to pick up one contributing factor to the unsatisfactory results of 2022. Textbooks alone cannot improve the results. It is also not right to blame one stakeholder for the results. The Ministry with all its stakeholders, e.g. State Owned Enterprises, Business communities, learners, teachers, parents, community members should come on board if we want to improve the results. Any support from Hon. Members will make a difference in the performance of the learner and teachers.

As far as infrastructure is concerned, the new facilities built, classrooms or hostel facilities are not maintained and this cost bag locks for the Ministry to do renovations. It cost +- N\$350 000 to build one classroom. To furnish a primary school classroom with chairs and desks No. 5 and teacher's chair and table, a classroom of 35 learners will cost N\$ 47 000 while a secondary classroom will cost N\$45 100 let alone the specialization classroom and workshops, for science and computer labs and technical / vocational subject classrooms respectively.

Members of the National Assembly should therefore, assist in providing adequate resources to improve access to, and quality of the Namibian Education system. A Commission of Enquiry or an Investigation might cost additional resources and or the investigation might find what

everyone knows. The overcrowdings in urban centres might not be an educational issue alone, but a developmental paradigm matter.

What should we do as the legislative arm of the State to create equal opportunities in remote and rural areas, and therefore, decongest urban areas? The books of the Ministry are open for public scrutiny, and therefore, any member of the public is free to access the audited reports, hence no need for an investigation.

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

In conclusion, I want to inform the mover of the motion through the Hon. Speaker that there is no need for the audit on the Ministry expenditure for financial year 2022/2023 because the Office of the Auditor General on an annual basis audits the statements and accounts of the Ministry, and that the Audit engagement for the 2022/23 financial year has commenced.

I thank you.