



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MID – YEAR BUDGET

FOR THE FY 2023/2024

BY

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**DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION**

16 NOVEMBER 2023

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I raise to add my voice to those who have contributed to the general Mid-Year budget review for the FY 2023/2024 debate as tabled by the Finance and Public Enterprises Minister Hon. Iipumbu Shiimi under the theme: ***“ECONOMIC REVIVAL AND CARING FOR THE POOR”***.

His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob – President of the Republic of Namibia has declared the year 2023 **quote and unquote** **“THE YEAR OF REVIVAL”**, with a call to all Namibians to look deep into the future with renewed hope and optimism. Indeed, the budget theme **“Economic Revival and Caring for the poor”** is fitting well within the declared theme by the Head of State.

From the onset, Honourable Speaker of the August House, allow me to congratulate Hon. Iipumbu Shiimi – Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises and his entire team for presenting a forward-looking Mid-Year budget review during this time of the year where the Country is recovering from Covid-19 post pandemic.

In the same vein, Honourable Speaker allow me also to congratulate the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia – Her Excellency Madam Monica Geingos, who celebrated her birthday recently. I wish her good health and years of prosperity ahead.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

Begging of the year under review, Honourable Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation motivated the budget allocated to the Office of the Prime Minister with the Slogan; **“Do more with Less”**.

By reviewing the Mid – Year budget we’re simply monitoring on how much was spend thus far and to evaluate whether the remaining amount will cater for remaining period of the year under review. Beginning of the year, the Finance and Public Enterprises Minister - Hon. Iipumbu Shiimi –tabled a budget of 7.3 percent of the budget allocations for the Financial Year 2023/2024 to the Administration Sector, with its share steadily rising over the MTEF. An amount of N\$5.3 billion over the MTEF have been allocated to support effective governance and efficient

administration of public services and we're seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. The Administration Sector is the heart of any Government with one of its responsibilities being the Disaster Risk Management among others.

My general debate contribution this afternoon is focusing on the Office of the Prime Minister because this Office deals with unforeseen circumstances and unplanned circumstances for that matter to be specific, the drought situation across the Country amongst others.

The drought relief food should be equally distributed to all the needy. Rt Honourable Prime Minister, I will no longer tell you about the drought situation in the Kunene Region because Rt Honourable Prime Minister you already know the situation.

Allow me to wish Hon. Dienda a happy birthday.

At this juncture, Hon. Dienda yesterday or a day before yesterday cautioned that "the drought relief food should not be used for political gains by political parties" of which the Honourable Member was directing her points more on the SWAPO Party. Forgetting that my Region, Kunene Region and which is one of the Regions who has been severely affected by the drought situation consecutively and that the food is not equally distributed to the people in the Constituencies led by PDM and UDF Councillors.

The PDM Councillors are telling the people that the drought relief food is sent to them by PDM President Hon. Mchenry Venaani and to hear that message coming from you, Honourable member, I hope that you will convey your message officially to your Concillors to stop doing that and instruct them to distribute the food equally to all as sent by the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister.

Rt. Honourable Prime Minister, the issue of dropping-off points for the drought relief food due to lack of vehicles is another thorn in the flesh in the sense that the food is dropped at some point or at the Traditional leader's homestead, meaning that those that does not fall under that certain leader finds it difficult to receive their drought relief food. This again happens in the villages with more than one Traditional leader.

Honourable Speaker, Credit must be given where it's due and with that I would like to thank the Prime Minister and her entire team of our beloved Republic Rt. Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila who is working around the clock to aid the affected families timeously.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

In conclusion, our Tourism Industry is heavily relying on the Tourists visiting Namibia. The Tourism Industry is in the process of recovering from the post COVID-19 pandemic, and the Sector is contributing significantly to the country's gross domestic product. **Honourable Speaker**, when we go out there, we use the opportunity to invite Visitors to visit Namibia for our economic gains.

Therefore, the violent attacks on our Tourists ranging from robberies and assaults involving weapons should be condemned in its strongest terms because the attacks will have a negative impact on the image of the Country, the Tourism Industry and the Country's Economy at large.

Honourable Deputy Speaker

Honourable Members

With these few remarks, I whole heartedly support the bill.

I Thank you.