NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Contribution by Hon. Hamata, MP (PDM) to the Appropriation Amendment Bill $[B.\ 21-2023]$

November 15, 2023

Hon. Speaker,

Esteemed Members,

- 1. Yesterday, Honorable Karupu passionately addressed this Chamber, criticizing Honorable Nico Smit for his bold intervention on the Appropriation Amendment Bill presented by the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises. However, in expressing his views, Honorable Karupu overlooked acknowledging Honorable Nico Smit's consistent efforts in advising and cautioning the Finance Minister on various matters. I must assert that Honorable Smit's persistent calls and pleas have not fallen on deaf ears, and we are now on a promising trajectory.
- 2. Honorable members, if we steadfastly continue in this direction, I hold firm belief that Namibia will, one day, emerge as a beacon of financial prudence and accountability. Yet, I must highlight that, despite the positive strides, this budget should not be applied as a political tool to manipulate the sentiments of our distressed and hungry citizens for electoral gains.
- 3. Turning our attention to the heart of the matter, I am concerned about the allocation of funds to the crucial Ministry of Labor and Employment

Creation. Despite its significance, the budget earmarked for this vital ministry appears strangely modest. I call upon Hon. Nujoma to shed light on his plans for the allocated funds, particularly as regards the appointment of more arbitrators. Will they be utilized promptly to generate much-needed employment opportunities, or are we to witness a delay until the cyclical return of funds?

- 4. Behind all of the words and numbers in this budget speech are decisions that must reflect directions set and commitments made, and commitments yet to be made. And taken together they must help shape the course of our national journey.
- 5. Today, we build on what has gone before—and for those who will come after—not by making promises, but by making good on promises. By delivering on commitments. And by having a sense of the future, of where we want to go and the country we want to build. An inclusive and caring society in which fairness and equality of opportunity are the measures of our progress. Our people deserve it!
- 6. Honorable Speaker, as custodians of the people's trust, it is our duty to ensure that every penny allocated serves the greater good and contributes to the advancement of our beloved Namibia.

Thank you, and I so submit.

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