



APPROPRIATION BILL 2024/2025 RESPONSE BY HON APIUS AUCHAB

18 March 2024

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members

I rise to add my voice to the current discourse before this August House. But before doing that, let me take this opportunity to thank the Namibian Government, African Head of States and ~~Namibia~~ ^{Governments} citizens for the dignified send off for our beloved late president Dr. Hage Gotfried Geingob

Thank you! Thank you! *very much!*

In the same vein, allow me to congratulate Hon Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Hon Ipumbu Shiimi for the well-crafted and presented budget for the current fiscal year.

- In the global open Budget Survey, Namibia usually scores zero for public participation.

BUT

However honourable Speaker, honourable Members the finance Ministry under honourable Shiimi has been organizing more and more formal consultation meetings with various sectors and in the regions.

Honourable Minister it is a step in right direction that will improve public participation score in the open budget survey.

Honourable Speaker, Hon Members,

A massive budget of N\$100-billion has been proposed as the expenditure outlay for the current financial year,

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members,

The largest in the history of Namibia's democracy.

Honourable Minister

To view the expenditure plan is pro-poor and the plan will stimulate development and ^{boost} ~~boost~~ infrastructure development in the country.

This, Hon Speaker is quite loadable,

However, how this amount is distributed into various sectors of the Namibian economy, should be the determining factor in terms of achieving our national objectives.

I have noted with a deep sense of satisfaction that the largest share of the budget has been allocated to the social sector.

The education sector has been constantly receiving the lion's share of our budget judging from the past budgets estimates. This is an indication of kind of future that we want for our children. We should encourage our children to have abiding faith in the possibilities that this nation, the Namibian nation can offer them. Our children should believe in the tolerant nature of our society and systems and that name should not constitute a barrier for our children to achieve success.

They should imagine to attend the best schools in the country even though they are not rich, because in the generous nature of our Republic, you do not have to be rich to achieve your potential.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I am quite content with budget as presented, however, I am a bit apprehensive about the deficit that we are facing. The amount of 8.9 billion is quite worrisome to me and I shall most certainly appreciate it if the Hon. Minister can assure us that this is not going to worsen our indebtedness, be that from domestic or foreign source.

Hon Speaker

People don't expect government to solve all their problems but they sense, deep in their bones, that with just a slight change in priorities, we can make sure that every child in Namibia has a decent shot at life, and that the doors of opportunity remain open to all.

The inclusivity approach to growth has been on-coming so is poverty reduction. This has, however, largely remain on bookshelves and has not as such enter the realm of our citizens. My only hope is that, this time around, it will also be felt into our kitchens and living rooms.

Hon Speaker

Hon Members,

We as Namibians are faced with a huge dilemma, we seem to be good at producing wonderful documents in the form of laws, policies, regulations etc but there is a general lack of monitoring and implementing these policies which result in failure. This applies to current budget as well.

Because

Of the lack of implementation huge amounts are returned to the treasury at the end of almost every financial year I hope Hon Minister there shall be some improvement in this regards.

Honourable Minister,

I do not intend to go deeper into the individual budget votes at this stage but will ^{do} my contributions during the committee stages of the budget discussions

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members,

I think we have decent documents in front of us that spells out what we as Namibians intend to do for the next twelve months. We should thus focus, once the Appropriation Bill 2024 has been agreed to on the implementation of the projects budgeted for within the said period.

Hon Speaker

Hon Members,

Allow me to say the following in my language

- 1. Som i /kha ma ~~khob~~ ge *daas... am si ma Khoek ge. Some daasa*
- 2. #geburuba xaweb ge a #an

Xuige

Ministertse xami am/nas ja jomsa #a-i /gôana ûi

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members of this August House with this I support the Appropriation Bill.

I thank you