



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CONTRIBUTION BY DIEDERIK VRIES, MP, (PDM) ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 2024/2025

18 MARCH 2024

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

Despite the financial allocations to improve the operations of the Green Scheme Projects, little to no progress has been realised from these Green Scheme Projects. These projects have a great potential to provide food for a large number of people in our country.

The Green Schemes Projects are underutilised and faced with challenges such as bureaucratic processes that delay the procurement of farming inputs for production and this negatively affects the productivity levels. While allocating financial resources to the Green Scheme Projects, strict oversight functions accompanied by strategies of monitoring and evaluation must be implemented to remedy the situation.

Honourable Members

According to the Development Programmes Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for 2024/2025, 65 million Namibian Dollars has been allocated in total estimated project funding. This includes Green Schemes Programmes in the //Karas, Omusati, Zambezi, Kavango East and West, including phase II of the Neckartal Irrigation Project. This allocation should ensure that significant progress is made to reduce the challenges experienced by the Green Scheme Programmes so that productivity is increased. Furthermore, we need to prioritise the success of all the irrigation projects in Namibia and constantly improve their operations so that they achieve their intended goals.

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

It is important that we appreciate the necessary assistance through various programmes and initiatives. Many at times donations are made to improve the situation of our farmers but no due diligence is practiced. One such example is the Namibia Agriculture Mechanisation and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP), where farmers received machinery and equipment. However, some of the machinery and equipment are not properly cared for such as the Walking Tractors in the //Karas Region that are not functioning and are left in the exposure of the sun. Proper maintenance should be observed at all times.

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

As I conclude, I urge for a more hands-on approach when dealing with agricultural projects such as the Green Schemes. I further call for constant monitoring and evaluation practices to ensure that all projects serve their intended purposes.

I Thank You.