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## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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### MAIDEN SPEECH OF HONOURABLE KATRINA BENZ, MP, (PDM)

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**18 MARCH 2024**

**Honourable Speaker**  
**Honourable Members**

The Late Nelson Mandela once said, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that we will find out the importance of the life we lead".

As elected representatives of all Namibian people in this August House, we must strive to make a difference in the lives of every Namibian citizen, regardless of their gender, race, tribe, skin colour, or social status. We need to be deliberate about making a meaningful difference in the lives of our people. We need to be driven by a sense of purpose in our everyday lives. We need to embrace the culture of Ubuntu and care for one another. We need to realise that we are here in Parliament to represent our people and to make laws in the best interest of every Namibian citizen.

**Honourable Speaker**  
**Honourable Members**

I am Katrina Benz, originally from Rehoboth also known as //Anes in the Hardap Region. A town full of friendly, beautiful, smart, hardworking and proud people. Rehoboth is a town where we embrace one another and appreciate the little things in life. I stand here today as a very proud citizen of Rehoboth, and a committed representative of the Official Opposition Party in Namibia, which is the PDM. I am here to represent the interests of all Namibian people. I will fearlessly speak on their behalf, and lobby for positive change in their communities while fully carrying out the values and aspirations of the PDM.

**Honourable Speaker**  
**Honourable Members**

My journey in politics started at a very young age, as I got my inspiration and interest from my late brother-in-law Mr. P.W Benz, who was the Regional Councillor of the Rehoboth Urban West Constituency at the time. He encouraged me to take up space in politics and represent the interests of the people. I was further groomed by the PDM where I was taught to be selfless, hardworking, focused, fearless and result-driven. I was a Local Authority Councillor at the Rehoboth Town Council representing my party from 2006 to 2010. I therefore wholeheartedly extend my sincere gratitude to my Leaders from the PDM for bestowing their trust in me.

**Honourable Members**

Having women in politics and more broadly, having representation across all identities of race, marginalised communities, physically challenged people, differently coloured people and people with different socioeconomic status has real effects on the health and the well-functioning of a democracy.

Representation is important and it matters because it allows minorities to feel validated and allows them to express their opinions confidently and comfortably.

Furthermore, when representation is prioritised in a political environment such as the Parliament, it creates an environment where ideas are diverse, opinions are respected, perspectives are different, and everyone feels valued and appreciated. This is the kind of representation we all should strive for.

**Honourable Speaker**  
**Honourable Members**

Allow me to speak on something that has been bothering me and many Namibians for such a long time and that is Service Delivery in the Public Sector. People experience terrible service delivery at public institutions in Namibia. Service delivery at public hospitals and clinics in Namibia is poor. Service delivery at government institutions is poor. Service delivery at police stations is poor. Service delivery at Local and Regional Authorities in Namibia is poor.

**Honourable Members**

The absence of streetlights in many areas of Rehoboth, makes women prone to crimes such as rape and assault. The conditions of the roads in Rehoboth are not in a good state as they need to be upgraded. People continue to suffer because they do not have access to housing and land. The majority of the youth are unemployed and there are no opportunities for the youth in Rehoboth which is also a national crisis. To make matters worse, there is no Institution of Higher Learning in Rehoboth.

**Honourable Speaker**  
**Honourable Members**

The level of Drug Abuse in Rehoboth is beyond our comprehension. This is made worse by the situation at the Police Station in Rehoboth which is at a critical stage. Little to no progress is made during investigations and the police officers seem to be working hand in hand with the drug lords in the town. I therefore urgently call on the Namibian Police to give special attention to the Drug Abuse situation in Rehoboth and capacitate the police officers at the Rehoboth Police Station.

**Honourable Speaker**  
**Honourable Members**

In conclusion, I call on the government to ensure that service delivery at all public institutions is improved. I also call on all Namibians to hold the government accountable and engage themselves in National discourse.

It is my sincere wish to see a developed Namibia where no Namibian will go to bed on an empty stomach.

**I Thank You**

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