

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR VOTE 31:
VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25
BY
HONOURABLE FRANS KAPOFI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

04 APRIL 2024

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

1. It is my distinct honour and privilege to present to this August House, the budget allocation for Vote 31: Veterans Affairs for the 2024/25 financial year. This budget motivation highlights the projects and programs that are to be implemented to deliver the Ministry's key mandate which is to address the plight of veterans of the struggle for national liberation through initiating and promoting projects and programs, including keeping the history of the national liberation struggle alive.

2. I would like to commence by expressing my profound gratitude to Hon. Iipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, and Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, the Director General of the National Planning Commission as well as their respective teams for their dedication and laudable effort in ensuring budgetary provisions for activities towards veterans' welfare.

3. As we present this motivation under the theme: **“Continuing the Legacy of His Excellency, President Hage G. Geingob by Caring for the Namibian Child”** as introduced by Hon. Iipumbu Shiimi during the National Budget Speech, I want us all to reflect on the prevalence of peace and unity in our country, which we are enjoying as a result of the freedom and independence attained through immense contributions made by the gallant sons and daughters of the soil during the liberation struggle of our motherland. Most of these veterans are also currently the ones taking care of their grandchildren like all other elderly people in our country.

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4. As we introduce our budget vote for consideration, discussion, and approval, it is imperative that we take cognisance of the socio-economic conditions faced by

the veterans. These include; post-traumatic disorders, the increasing need for medical services particularly for the aging veteran population, the yearning for decent housing for veterans living in deplorable conditions, requests for resettlement, and the anticipations for cash payment to all veterans awaiting their outstanding projects just to mention a few.

5. Having mentioned the above, allow me to highlight the main achievements for Vote 31 during the 2023/24 Financial Year. In total, Vote 31 - Veterans Affairs was allocated an amount of **One Billion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,253,777,000)** to carry out programs and projects, of which **95%** of the allocated budget was utilized on activities mainly aimed at veterans' welfare programs and projects and keeping the history of the liberation struggle alive.

6. The highest cost driver in the budget was the payment of the monthly grants to the veterans. A total of **Nine Hundred forty-one million, seven hundred thirteen thousand, eight hundred and twenty-six Namibian Dollars (N\$941,713,826)** was spent on monthly financial assistance to eligible veterans and dependants of deceased veterans, benefiting **Twenty-one thousand, four hundred and twenty-eight (21,428)** beneficiaries. This represents 75% of the total annual allocation.

It is important to further note that the expenditure on monthly grants constantly increases every month due to retirements, medical boarding, and retrenchment amongst other factors that lead to more veterans falling below the approved income threshold for this benefit.

7. The remainder of the allocated funds serviced the following activities:

a. Once-off Gratuity was paid to sixty-three (63) beneficiaries for **One Million Four Hundred and Two Thousand Five Hundred Namibia Dollars (N\$ 1, 402,500)**.

b. Construction of four (04) Veterans' Houses for **Two Million Three Hundred and Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-Two Namibia Dollars (N\$ 2, 314, 722)**.

c. Funeral Assistance for **One Hundred and four (104)** deceased veterans was provided at the cost of **Two Million, Three Hundred Thirty-Nine, and Nine Hundred Namibia Dollars (N\$ 2,339.900)**.

d. **Five Hundred and Three (503)** tombstones were erected for an amount of **Eight Million, Fifty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Ten Namibia Dollars (N\$ 8, 054,510)**.

e. Medical Assistance and Psychosocial Support were provided to **One Hundred and Two (102)** veterans at the cost of **One Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Two Namibia Dollars (N\$ 1,133,3632)**.

8. Projects that are meant to support and supplement the Veterans Fund are being revived. The Etaka Recreation Project plan was revised from a recreational facility to an agricultural project and activities such as the setting up of an irrigation system, and planting of citrus fruit trees have commenced. Additionally, the Okatope Poultry farm was revamped for the same purpose, and egg production, which is currently standing at a daily output of **three thousand (3,000)** eggs, is taking place.

9. As the Ministry continues to implement the Cabinet decision on cash payment for Individual Veterans' Projects, **Six Hundred and Nineteen (619)** IVPs were funded at a total cost of **One hundred and Five million, Two hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$105,230,000)**. The cash payment has notably brought about a positive change in the lives of the beneficiaries who have used the money to improve their livelihood.

10. The Ministry continues to face fiscal constraints in funding Individual Veterans Projects (IVPs) with a backlog of **Eleven Thousand Eighty-Five (11,085)** unfunded IVP applications dating back to 2013. The number of IVPs awaiting funding is however not static because veterans who previously did not apply are now applying while the veterans whose applications were approved by the Appeal Board are also eligible for that benefit.

11. I should also mention that I take the pride to inform the House and the nation at large that Vote 31 also got unqualified Audit opinions for the past four years. For this, I sincerely thank our Accounting officer and her staff for performing their responsibilities prudently. The Accountability Report for the 2022/23 Financial Year and the summary of the Veterans Affairs Budget for the Financial Year 2023/24 have been presented during the Mid-Term Budget Review by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises and are hereto attached as **APPENDIX 1**.

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12. Having highlighted the above, allow me to present to you the 2024/25 budget for Vote 31: Veterans Affairs as expressed in its Medium Term Plan and focusing on our key programmes. The overall budget ceiling has been increased by 12% from, **One Billion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,253,777,000)** in the 2023/24 financial year to **One Billion, Four Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,409,516,000)**.

PROGRAMME 1: VETERANS WELFARE PROGRAMME:

13. The main objective of the veterans' welfare programmes is to coordinate the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of activities aimed at improving the welfare of veterans of the liberation struggle. Under this programme, the Ministry will implement the following activities:

- a. **Monthly Subvention.** The Ministry anticipates an increase in the beneficiaries receiving N\$2,200 per month. The increase is attributed to retirement, medical boarding, and successful appellants. In this regard, an amount of **Five Hundred and Eighty-Nine Million, Five Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$589,557,000)** will be required to pay the monthly allowances to eligible veterans this financial year.
- b. **Improvement of Welfare Grant.** The Ministry will require an amount of **Four Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million, Four Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$427,418,000)** to pay the Ex-Plan combatant veterans, Robben Island and Khaikanaxab political prisoners.
- c. **Once of Gratuity (Lump-sum).** An amount of **Sixteen Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Thousand (N\$16,930,000)** will be required to pay the once-off lump sum for the **Three hundred and Thirty-Eight (338)** newly approved veterans who were successful in their appeals.
- d. **Individual Veterans Projects (IVPs).** During the current financial year, an amount of **Two Hundred and Sixty-Three Million One Hundred and Sixty Thousand (N\$263,160,000)** is allocated to this activity to pay **One Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-Eight (1,548)** veterans. With this allocation, a sizeable number of veterans will remain unattended. Resources permit, we would have liked to attend to all of them once and for all.

e. **Medical assistance and Psychosocial support.** Under this activity, veterans apply for financial assistance to cover the costs of medical treatment at private health facilities for health conditions that cannot be treated at public health facilities. In this regard, it is estimated that an amount of **Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$750,000)** will be required this year.

f. **Activities of the Veterans Board, Veterans Appeal Board, Vetting Committee and the National Honours Advisory Committee.** The Veterans Board will continue with its activities of administering the Veterans Fund while the Vetting Committee will continue vetting applicants for veterans' benefits.

In the same vein, the Veterans Appeal Board will continue to hear and adjudicate on appeals from appellants while the National Honours Advisory Committee will continue to advise on the suitability of Namibians and friends of Namibia to be conferred with National Honours. A combined amount of **Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$2,500,000)** will be reserved for the activities of these bodies.

PROGRAMME 2: LIBERATION STRUGGLE HERITAGE

14. The main objective of this programme is to ensure that the history of the liberation struggle is preserved and kept alive. This is done through research and documentation, collection and preservation of materials or artifacts, the identification and marking of sites where acts of the liberation struggle took place, and the erection of monuments. Under this programme, The Ministry will implement the following activities:

a. **Funeral assistance.** This activity entails the provision of financial assistance towards the burial of deceased veterans at the cost of N\$10,000, per veteran. For this activity, an amount of **Five Million Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$5, 300, 000)** is required.

b. **Erection of tombstones.** An amount of **Eight Million Namibian Dollars (N\$8,000,000)** is required to service the erection of tombstones on the graves of departed veterans. The cost of the tombstones is pegged at **Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$16,000)** and is paid directly to the service provider.

c. **Identification and marking of heritage sites.** This activity involves the identification and marking of war memorial sites where war and or liberation struggle activities took place and are declared and registered as heritage sites as per National Heritage Act (Act. No. 27 of 2004). An amount of **Two Million Namibian Dollars (N\$2,000,000)** is required for this activity.

d. **Research and Documentation.** This activity is aimed at researching and documenting the history of the liberation struggle. The University of Namibian has been contracted to assist in research and documenting the liberation struggle history. An amount of **One Million Five Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1,500,000)** is required for the finalization of this project.

e. **Exhumation and Reinternment.** The Ministry has identified graves of combatants who died in action during the liberation struggle in the regions of Oshana, Oshana, Kunene, and Omusati. Some of the graves are located close to cuca shops, in the middle of mahangu fields, or at inaccessible terrains. An amount of **One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1,500,000)** is required to be utilised towards the cost of exhumation of those mortal remains to be reinterred at the designated shrines.

PROGRAMME 3: POLICY COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

15. Under this programme, the Ministry requires an amount of **Seventy-Eight Million, One Hundred and Eight One Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$78,181,000)** for personnel and administrative expenditure for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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16. The estimates of Expenditure for 2024/25 - 2026/27 Medium Term Expenditure Framework which presents the financial breakdown of estimates per programme is also hereto attached as **APPENDIX 2** for the Honorable Members' scrutiny and consideration.

17. The Ministry will strive to optimally utilize the available resources in improving the socio-economic status of the veterans and to preserve and keep the history of the national liberation struggle alive for the present and future generations. To ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the veterans, the Ministry will conduct continuous monitoring and evaluation of the socio-economic services provided to veterans and strive to improve organizational performance.

18. In conclusion, it will be remiss of me if I once again do not sincerely thank my deputy, Hon. Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor, Dr Wilhelmine Iyaloo Shivute, the Executive Director, Air Marshall Martin Kambulu Pinehas, the Chief of Defence Force, and the entire staff of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for their all-round support, all year through, and their commitment to delivering on our mandate.

19. It is therefore my honour to request you, Honourable Members, to support and approve the budget allocation of **One Billion, Four Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,409,516,000)** for Vote 31: Veterans Affairs.

I thank you Honourable Chairperson and Honourable members for your attention!

APPENDIX 1

Accounting Officer : The Executive Director
Vote 31 Veterans Affairs



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

| EXPENDITURE | | SUBDIVISIONS | | Actual | Rev. Estimate | Estimate | Estimate | Estimate |
|-------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| No | Title | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 | 2026/2027 | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | |
| 001 | Remuneration | 32,248,476.25 | 38,486,000 | 39,648,508 | 41,641,000 | 43,461,200 | | |
| 002 | Employers Contribution to the G.I.P.F. and M.P.O.O.B.P.F. | 3,951,641.05 | 4,755,000 | 4,769,665 | 5,496,000 | 5,695,030 | | |
| 003 | Other Conditions of Service | - | 550,000 | 2,200,000 | 514,000 | 800,000 | | |
| 004 | Improvement of Remuneration Structure | | | 3,015,000 | 3,106,000 | 3,199,000 | | |
| 005 | Employers Contribution to the Social Security | 107,465.40 | 122,000 | 122,700 | 132,000 | 141,000 | | |
| 010 | PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE-SUBTOTAL | 36,307,583 | 43,913,000 | 49,755,873 | 50,889,000 | 53,296,230 | | |
| 021 | Travel and Subsistence Allowance | 982,264.09 | 1,920,000 | 2,550,000 | 1,440,000 | 1,550,000 | | |
| 022 | Materials and Supplies | 898,392.90 | 1,200,000 | 1,250,000 | 1,402,000 | 1,500,000 | | |
| 023 | Transport | 7,590,380.33 | 4,804,000 | 5,621,000 | 2,303,000 | 2,123,770 | | |
| 024 | Utilities | 4,436,648.64 | 5,201,000 | 5,405,000 | 5,650,000 | 5,800,000 | | |
| 025 | Maintenance Expenses | 432,599.59 | 815,000 | 1,850,000 | 860,000 | 850,000 | | |
| 026 | Property Rental and Related Charges | 521,447.07 | 580,000 | 600,000 | 620,000 | 650,000 | | |
| 027 | Other Services and Expenses | 4,155,344.75 | 5,590,000 | 5,449,000 | 5,375,000 | 5,280,000 | | |
| 030 | GOODS AND OTHER SERVICES-SUBTOTAL | 19,017,077 | 20,110,000 | 22,725,000 | 17,650,000 | 17,753,770 | | |
| 043 | Government Organizations * | 973,560,905 | 1,185,554,000 | 1,330,335,127 | 1,365,111,000 | 1,381,617,000 | | |
| 044 | Individuals and Non-Profit Organizations | | | | | | | |
| 045 | Public and Departmental Enterprises and Private Industries | | | | | | | |
| 080 | SUBSIDIES & OTHER CURRENT TRANSFERS-SUBTOTAL | 973,560,905 | 1,185,554,000 | 1,330,335,127 | 1,365,111,000 | 1,381,617,000 | | |
| 100 | TOTAL CURRENT EXPENDITURE [010+030+080+090] | 1,028,885,565 | 1,249,577,000 | 1,402,816,000 | 1,433,650,000 | 1,452,667,000 | | |
| 101 | Furniture and Office Equipment | 854,605 | 700,000 | 700,000 | 850,000 | 600,000 | | |
| 102 | Vehicles | | | | 4,000,000 | 5,500,000 | | |
| 103 | Operational Equipment, Machinery and Plants | | | | | | | |
| 110 | ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSETS-SUBTOTAL | 854,605 | 700,000 | 700,000 | 4,850,000 | 6,100,000 | | |
| 160 | TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE [110+130] | 854,605 | 700,000 | 700,000 | 4,850,000 | 6,100,000 | | |
| 300 | GRAND TOTAL-OPERATIONAL [100+160+180+210+220] | 1,029,740,170 | 1,250,277,000 | 1,403,516,000 | 1,438,500,000 | 1,458,767,000 | | |
| 115 | Feasibility Studies, Design and Supervision | | | 800,000 | 1,000,000 | 2,400,000 | | |
| 116 | Purchase of Land and Intangible Assets | | | | | | | |
| 117 | Construction, Renovation and Improvement | 2,122,613 | 3,500,000 | 5,200,000 | 7,500,000 | 8,100,000 | | |
| 120 | ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSETS - SUBTOTAL | 2,122,613 | 3,500,000 | 6,000,000 | 8,500,000 | 10,500,000 | | |
| 170 | TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE [120+150] | 2,122,613 | 3,500,000 | 6,000,000 | 8,500,000 | 10,500,000 | | |
| 200 | TOTAL - DEVELOPMENT [020+040+170+190] | 2,122,613 | 3,500,000 | 6,000,000 | 8,500,000 | 10,500,000 | | |
| 400 | GRAND TOTAL [200+300] | 1,031,862,783 | 1,253,777,000 | 1,409,516,000 | 1,447,000,000 | 1,469,267,000 | | |

*D.Note

APPENDIX 2

*D Note

Government Organizations (043): Budget Allocation for veteran's activities during the 2024/25 financial year

| 043 - Government Organizations | 2024/2025 (N\$) |
|--|----------------------------|
| Annual Grant to Veterans Association | 1,000,000 |
| Veterans Appeal Board | 1,000,000 |
| Conferment of National Honors | 500,000 |
| Construction of veterans Houses | 3,000,000 |
| Heritage and Exhumation | 1,500,000 |
| Erection of tombstones | 8,000,000 |
| Funeral assistance of deceased veterans | 5,300,000 |
| Identification and marking of heritage sites | 1,000,000 |
| Identification and Registration of veterans | 500,000 |
| Improvement of Welfare for Ex-Plan Combatant | 427,418,000 |
| Individual Veterans Projects (IVPs) | 263,160,000 |
| Medical Assistance & Counselling | 750,000 |
| Payment of Once-Off gratuity (Lumpsum) | 16,930,000 |
| Research and Documentation | 1,500,000 |
| Subvention Grant (monthly allowance) | 589,557,000 |
| Veterans Board Activities | 1,000,000 |
| Okatope Poultry Farm | 5,000,000 |
| Veterans Resettlement Programme | 1,000,000 |
| Administrative Expenses | 2,220,000 |
| Government Organizations Total | 1,330,335,127 |