



STATEMENT BY

HONOURABLE PROF. PETER H. KATJAVIVI, MP

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

DURING THE

MOTIVATION OF THE

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(VOTE 3)

FOR THE 2024 - 2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

FRIDAY, 5 APRIL 2024

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WINDHOEK
KHOMAS REGION**

Check Against Delivery

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

I rise to motivate the budgetary allocation for the National Assembly for the 2024/2025 Financial Year. Before delving into the Assembly's needs for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, I will give a brief overview of some of the activities undertaken by the National Assembly during the year under review.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

For the 2023/2024 Financial Year, the National Assembly was allocated a total amount of **One Hundred and Eighty-Two Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 182 761 000)** of which **One Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$167 761 000)**, was for operational activities. While, **Fifteen Million Namibia Dollars (N\$ 15 000 000)**, was earmarked for the capital activities.

In terms of the budget execution, out of the total Operational Budget of **One Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Seven-Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$167 761 000)** that was allocated, an amount of **One Hundred and Forty-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Nineteen Namibia**

Dollars and Twenty-Seven Cents (N\$146 949 719.27) was spent representing **87,59%**.

For Capital Projects, **Fifteen Million Namibia Dollars (N\$15 000 000)**, was allocated for the construction of Parliamentary Security Guardhouses at both entrances of the precincts. However, due to a technical challenges experienced in the process, resulting in a delay in the finalisation of the technical drawings of the envisioned guardhouses. Subsequently, National Assembly has deferred the project to the next MTEF (2024/25-2026/27). To avoid similar situation associated with lack of technical capacity in government, we are busy sourcing the service of a private service provider to complete the project as planned.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

The Operational Budget is clustered under two (2) main Programmes, namely;

1. Programme: Legislative Management (Main Division: 01)

An amount of **Twenty Million, Two Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Thirteen Namibia Dollars (N\$ 20 249 113)** was allocated to this programme. This programme provides political leadership and guidance to the institution in

respect of parliamentary proceedings and procedures, and related administrative services to the Presiding Officers and Members of the National Assembly. The programme's activities include amongst others, the timely and accurate processing of Session Papers, Legislation and production of National Assembly's Hansard.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

During the year under review, the Presiding Officers attended meetings of various multilateral parliamentary organizations. They also had bilateral engagements with Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to the Republic of Namibia. The Speaker also held bilateral meetings with the Speakers of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba and the People's National Assembly of Algeria. The importance of these bilateral and multilateral parliamentary engagements cannot be overlooked in today's geo-political environment. It is at these platforms, that we are required to bring parliamentary diplomacy to some of the pertinent issues around the world, promoting dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes. As members of **SADC-PF, PAP, CPA and IPU** amongst others, the Presiding Officers led delegations to these multilateral parliamentary organizations to

promote parliamentary diplomacy and networking with other parliaments.

As part of our multilateral parliamentary engagement, we signed a cooperation agreement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on capacity building for Members of Parliament (primarily for female MPs) and staff providing support services. As part of this agreement, the National Assembly jointly with the IPU hosted three (3) workshops on public speaking, advocacy and participation of women in the upcoming Presidential and National Assembly elections. All these initiatives were aimed at empowering women MPs to effectively contribute to law making, oversight and representation.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

During the period under review, twenty-three (23) Bills were tabled in this House, of which twelve (12) were passed without amendment and ten (10) with amendments, and one (1) was withdrawn. Additionally, two (2) international instruments were tabled and adopted. Furthermore, six (6) petitions were received from concerned citizens and groups that resulted in extensive public consultations and hearings by relevant standing committees.

However, our timely response to petitions still remains a challenge as feedback is at times delayed. We must continue to explore the speedy expedition of petitions, including transmission of petitions directly to the relevant Standing Committee. Pursuant to the democratic culture of our parliamentary system, Members introduced and extensively debated Forty-One (41) Motions on issues of their particular interest.

Similarly, One Hundred and Six (106) reports of the Auditor-General were tabled and referred to the Public Accounts Committee for further scrutiny, whereas Ten (10) annual and ministerial reports were tabled.

This Main Division is also responsible for the safety and security of all Honourable Members, staff and visitors in and around the precincts of parliament. Therefore, we will continue with the acquisition and installation of security equipment and systems to ensure Members of Parliament and staff members continue to perform their work in a safe and secured environment. The Security Divisions of both National Assembly and National Council during the year under review jointly participated in a Parliamentary security benchmarking exercises to the Parliaments of South Africa and Zimbabwe, to learn from best practices to

perfect the security system and security measures at our Parliament.

2. Programme 2: Policy Coordination and Support Services

This programme provides support to the oversight function of the National Assembly through administrative, secretarial, professional and technical support to the Members of the National Assembly.

To enable this programme to execute the afore-mentioned crucial functions, an amount of **One Hundred and Forty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty Seven Namibia Dollars (N\$147 511 887)** was allocated for operational activities.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

Programme 2 is sub-divided into five (5) main divisions namely:

- *Main Division 02: Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services;*
- *Main Division 03: Information Services*
- *Main Division 04: Committee Services*
- *Main Division 05: Legal Services*
- *Main Division 06: Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition*

During the year under review, the following activities were successfully executed:

- ✓ The Parliamentary Standing Committees embarked on public hearings, consultations and workshops focussing on Petitions, Motions, government policies and public service delivery.
- ✓ Parliamentary Standing Committees also embarked on oversight visits to various Offices, Ministries and Agencies and government facilities covering the length and breadth of Namibia;
- ✓ Several capacity building workshops and seminars were held for Members of Parliament and staff;
- ✓ The National Assembly also hosted visiting Members of Parliament from other parliaments across the globe;
- ✓ Public education visits to parliament were undertaken by various schools and institutions as well as tourists and educational tours were given to them about the work of the National Assembly;
- ✓ Live streaming of parliamentary activities has improved, however this is work in progress and we will continue to acquire advanced technology devices and live streaming equipment;

- ✓ An assessment was done on IT infrastructure and recommendations were made for short-term and long-term solutions;
- ✓ Continuous extensive maintenance of the Parliament Building (fixing of the building), this is also work in progress that will continue during the next Financial Year;
- ✓ Completion of vehicle fleet management system (vehicle registration at NATIS, number plates and fuel management);
- ✓ National Assembly now has its own unique number plates (LNA) that stands for “*Legislature National Assembly*” to distinguish it from the rest of the other government vehicles, underscoring our identity as one of the organs of State;
- ✓ Various capacity and benchmarking initiatives were undertaken to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy, the legislative processes and research; and gauge best practices.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

As mentioned in my 2023/2024 budget motivation statement, in 2021 the Namibian Parliament with the support of the World Bank (Southern Africa Regional Office) embarked on the development of a transformational e-Parliament initiative. We are in the first year of implementation of this strategy. Due to funding challenges we are moving at a slow pace. As part of this initiative, we have successfully

installed state of the art IT equipment in our committee rooms. These rooms are now fully equipped with necessary IT equipment to link the Blue Room and Pink Room with the Chamber. This will enable members to remotely join the sessions from those committee rooms when needs arise. As part of this strategy we will also continue to collaborate on the aspects of the development of an interactive website, online Bill tracking and other essentials tools that will enhance the interaction between our two Houses, MPs and the citizenry.

I am happy to report that with the assistance of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), we have finalized the complete review of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly as well as the Rules for the establishment, functioning and procedures of the Standing Committees. This is the first time since the establishment of our institution that we have embarked on a process to review the rules at such an extensive scale. These rules are now before the House for approval.

At this juncture, I would like to express our collective appreciation to our development partners the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Hanns Seidel Stiftung (HSS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Namibia Office, the European Union (EU) Delegation, Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia (EPDN), and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) who always stands ready to assist our institution.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

During the year under review, the National Assembly Strategic Plan 2023-2027 was finalized and launched on the 8th January 2024. This strategic plan will set the strategic direction for the National Assembly.

The establishment of the Parliamentary Service Commission has been an ongoing exercise. It has been on the cards for almost 28 years now, dating back to 1995 with the appointment of the all-party parliamentary groups which culminated in the '*Agenda for Change: Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Namibia Report, July 1995*' adopted in 1997. I am pleased to report that the draft Bill is now in its final stages. Members of the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders have been briefed through the draft Bill and we receive some proposal that have been incorporated. The Chairperson of the National Council and I will brief the Head of State next week and once everything is finalized, I am positive that the draft Bill will be tabled in this House after the May recess.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

Having stated our past performance, allow me to present the 2024/2025 budgetary allocation to this august House for consideration. For the Financial Year 2024/2025, the National Assembly has been allocated an amount of **One Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, and Fifty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$196 050 000)** - of which - **One Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, and Fifty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$186 050 000)** is for Operational Budget, while, **Ten Million Namibia Dollars (N\$10 000 000)** is for Development Budget.

With regard to the Operational Budget, as I indicated earlier, the National Assembly has clustered its activities under two (2) main programmes.

Programme 1: Legislative Management

An amount of **Twenty-One Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$21 757 000)** representing 12% of the total budget has been allocated to this programme. As indicated above, this programme is the one that drives the legislative agenda of National Assembly as well as providing administrative, technical and professional support to the Presiding Officers.

Programme 2: Policy Coordination and Support Services

An amount of **One Hundred and Sixty-Four Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$164 293 000)** representing 88%, has been allocated to this programme. As indicated earlier, this programme is sub-divided into five (5) Main Divisions, namely:

- **Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services** will receive 28.19% which is **Fifty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$52 449 000)**;
- Information and Computer Services 9%, which is **Thirteen Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$13 994 000)**;
- Committee Services 55%, which is **Eighty-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$89 824 000)**;
- Legal Services 2%, which is **Four Million, One Hundred and Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$4 103 000)** and,
- Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition 2%, which is **Three Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$3 923 000)**.

As mentioned above, the budgetary allocation will be used for conditions of service for Members and Staff, oversight functions, continuous upgrading of the required parliamentary systems to

enhance democracy through e-parliament, provision of administrative and legal services to institution and continuous maintenance of the aging parliamentary infrastructure. We will convene the 7th Session of the Children's Parliament during the second half of this year. It is important to note that the fleet of vehicles under the National Assembly are of age and has become extremely expensive to maintain. The ongoing moratorium on purchasing of new vehicles has greatly impacted our ability to purchase new vehicles over the years. It is vital that this issue is revisited in order to avoid compromising the work of the National Assembly.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

To conclude, I now present to this august House the request of the amount of **One Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, Fifty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 196 050 000)** for Vote 03, National Assembly to perform its constitutional responsibilities and mandate.

I thank you.