

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



BUDGET SPEECH FOR VOTE 26: NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

BY

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MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY

Allow me to highlight some of the Agency's major developmental planning status, and implementation progress during the 2023/24 Financial Year.

- 1 The NDP5 Terminal Review and Mid Term Review of Vision 2030 reports were produced. The Terminal Review of NDP5 provides insight on the extent to which the NDP5 targets were achieved, challenges experienced and possible remedial measures to address those challenges. On the other hand, the mid-term review of Vision 2030 provides insight on progress towards the achievement of the country's long-term objectives as reflected in Vision 2030.

Both the reports revealed mixed results, as they indicate that overall good progress was registered in certain areas while more must be done in some, where results are far from the anticipated. The reports also highlight various factors that impeded swift implementation and provide remedial recommendations to address those impediments, with the overall objective of improving performance and hence service delivery.

- 2 The National Planning Commission, through the Namibian Statistics Agency has successfully conducted the **2023 Population and Housing Census** and the preliminary results were released on 13 March 2024. The results have indicated an increase in our population to just over 3 (three) million. This new data will require us to revisit and realign our planning modalities.
- 3 The NPC launched the White Paper on National Development Plan 6 and had, for the past two months embarked on regional and all 121 constituencies consultations of the sixth national development plan

(NDP6) formulation process under the theme “Fostering Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Resilience for Quality and Sustainable Development. NDP6 is the last national development plan that will usher the nation into Vision 2030, hence the broad consultations to obtain the views of all stakeholders.

- 4 The 2021 the Economic Development Report, and the draft Report on Namibia’s Optimal Public Debt Threshold and Possible Pathways to Recovery were produced, while the Impact Assessment on Russia Ukraine Conflict on the economy was also conducted.
- 5 NPC formulated the **National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and the National Evaluation Guidelines** that aim to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs, and projects and this was done in consultation with all stakeholders. Furthermore, 240 (two hundred and forty) officials in various institutions were trained in Monitoring and Evaluation.
- 6 The Agency mobilized **The Official Development Assistance (ODA)** in the form of grants and technical assistance from both Multilateral and Bilateral Development Partners during the financial year 2023/2024 amounting to **three billion and one hundred million Namibia dollars (NS3.1 billion)** disbursement against the National budget of **eighty-four billion and six hundred million (NS84.6 billion)**, equating to 3.67% of the National Budget.
- 7 Namibia, as a member of the African Union and Signatory to the **Africa Union Agenda 2063**, produced the country report for the first ten-year implementation plan executed during the period 2013 – 2023. NPC also coordinated Namibia’s participation in the formulation of the second ten-year implementation plan for the period 2024-2033.

- 8 The NPC together with the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprise successfully conducted the 2023/2024 Mid- Year budget review and the Preparation of the Development Budget for 2024/2025-2026/2027 MTEF period.
- 9 Furthermore, the National Planning Commission held an Annual Regional Planning and Reporting Workshop from 17-19 October 2023. The purpose was to encourage dialogue and innovative thinking among stakeholders on how to promote integrated planning as a viable vehicle to achieve the set national goals. The meeting was attended by all Regional Councils and O/M/A's planning units. The key outcome of the workshop was to agree that there is a need to revert to preparation of the Regional Development Plans that are informed by Constituency Development proposals.
- 10 NPC has coordinated and provided advisory services during the development and revision of various Government socio-economic policies such as the Namibian Diaspora Policy, the National Health Research Strategy, the Performance Management System Policy, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the Asset Management Policy, the Namibia National Work Integrated Learning Policy Framework, the National Gender Policy of 2010-2020, and the National Health Policy Framework 2010-2020, among others.
- 11 The African Peer Review Secretariat launched the Country Review Report of Namibia on 8 March 2024, and has also completed the National Governance Report of Namibia, and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Strategic Plan for 2023-2028. Furthermore, APRM National Structures conducted experience sharing and best practices benchmarking visits to Egypt, Senegal, Ghana,

Uganda, and Rwanda to establish APRM Permanent National Secretariat.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

Allow me now to motivate the budget allocation of Vote 26.

The Agency has received an overall budget allocation of **two hundred and thirty-two million, four hundred and eighty-eight thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 232,488,000)**.

An amount of **two hundred and twenty-two million, four hundred and eighty-eight thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 222,488,000)** is to cater for operational activities of which **one hundred and six million, one hundred and ninety-nine thousand Namibian dollars (N\$106,199,000)** is a subsidy transfer to Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). The **ten million Namibia Dollars (N\$10,000,000)** is allocated to cater for development activities.

The budget will be utilized to implement key activities under the following Programmes:

PROGRAMME 01: MACRO - ECONOMIC PLANNING

Thirteen million, six hundred and forty thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$13,640,000) is allocated to this program. The programme plans to formulate the sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) which is to be implemented with effect from 01 April 2025 to March 2031; produce the 2023 Economic Development Report; analyze the dynamics and drivers of inflation in Namibia; and the National Development Planning Framework.

PROGRAMME 02: REGIONAL & SECTORAL PLANNING AND POLICY COORDINATION

The programme is allocated an amount of **fourteen million, six hundred and eighty- one thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 14,681,000)**. The programme ensures that National Development Plans are implemented and that the development budget programmes and projects are aligned to the national priorities as outlined in NDP's. The programme further aims to strengthen regional planning and coordinate the formulation and review of socio-economic public policies to ensure consistency with national objectives and priorities as well as to evaluate policy effectiveness.

In this coming financial year, the programme will, together with Regional Councils, formulate Regional Development Plans that outline the regional potential and priorities. The Regional Development Plans will help to articulate development strategies of each region and provide for the diversification of regional socio-economic initiatives by promoting

regional uniqueness to reduce disparity between rural and urban areas on one hand and among the different regions on the other. Moreover, the Regional Development Plans will provide mechanisms for integrated and coordinated planning implementation, monitoring and progress reporting on development activities in the regions to create synergy and efficiency.

The programme will continue to coordinate the review of socio-economic policies to assess their relevance and effectiveness and coordinate the development of these policies in line with our developmental frameworks, and to provide guidance during the preparation of the Development budget.

PROGRAMME 03: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS COORDINATION

Thirty-six million, two hundred and eight thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 36,208,000) is allocated to the programme to monitor, evaluate, and report on Government performance at the national and sub-national levels, in line with the national development goals and objectives as stipulated in the NDPs. The programme also involves mobilizing, coordinating, and managing development cooperation with development partners to augment Government efforts for development purposes.

During the coming financial year, the programme will produce the 2024/25 Official Development Assistance Report that records the mobilized resources from the Development Partners; facilitate the 2024 Development Partners Forum; Produce and present the 3rd Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) scheduled in July 2024; Roll-out of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) communication strategy for awareness creation at national level; Develop the annual national report on the second ten-year implementation plan 2024-2033 of the African Union Agenda 2063, and to facilitate the formulation of the Engagement Framework between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and Civil Society Organizations.

Furthermore, the Programme will formulate the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for NDP6 that outlines the monitoring and evaluation tools that will be used to effectively measure implementation towards the achievement of NDP6 goals. A costed National Evaluation Plan will be developed in collaboration with O/M/A's and Regional Councils as guide to conduct Monitoring and Evaluation in the country that gauge effectiveness, efficiency and the impacts of policies and programmes

The Performance Delivery Unit will continue to support the Agency in the preparation, development and roll out of the NDP6, using key project

management structuring, monitoring and evaluation principles as used on HPPII.

Honourable Speakers

Esteemed Members

PROGRAMME 99 : SUPERVISION, COORDINATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

An amount of **one hundred sixty-seven million, nine hundred and fifty-nine thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 167,959,000)** has been allocated to this programme to provide supervision, efficient administrative and support services, provision and maintaining of ICT infrastructure and production of reliable statistics. It is under this Programme that National Planning Commission provides financial support to the Namibia Statistics Agency and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (Namibia) Secretariat to perform their mandates.

The National APRM Secretariat is expected to monitor the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Country Review Report of Namibia, and to prepare the progress report on the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment in Namibia for the African Peer Review Forum Summit in February 2025, and to produce the National Governance Report.

The Namibia Statistics Agency will continue with the finalization of the various Census Thematic reports which will be expected to be completed in October 2024. Meanwhile, various data sets will be provided to various stakeholders such as data on the number of eligible voters, to the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), amongst others. The NSA will continue with the publications of its periodic monthly, quarterly, and annual reports as mandated. Two main projects are planned by the Namibia Statistics Agency during the Financial Year 2024/2025 and they are: the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES); and the Agricultural Census, with the actual data collections for these projects taking place in 2025/2026.

Finally, to ensure conducive working environment, the programme is allocated with an amount of **ten million Namibian dollars (N\$10 million)** for feasibility study and documentation towards the Agency's office building as the current building cannot accommodate the NPC full structure.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

Having narrated the achievements and areas of focus for the 2024/ 2025 financial year, it is evident that NPC remains the center to delivering the national development agenda.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,

I present the Budget for Vote 26, totaling **two hundred and thirty-two million, four hundred and eighty-eight thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$232,488,000)**, for your consideration and approval. I assure this esteemed House that the funds allocated to the National Planning Commission will be used prudently to advance our country's socio-economic development and I urge all Honourable Members to support the budget.

I THANK YOU