



## **BUDGET SPEECH**

**BY THE**

**HON. DR. ALBERT KAWANA, MP**

**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION,  
SAFETY AND SECURITY, ON THE OCCASION OF  
MOTIVATING VOTE 39,**

**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION,  
SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**“YEAR OF EXPECTATION”**

**03 APRIL 2024**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
WINDHOEK**

**Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee**  
**Honourable Members of this august House**

I am privileged to motivate Vote 39 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

Allow me to also join other Honourable members of this august House to congratulate and thank Honourable Ipumbu Shiimi, the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises and Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, and their teams for preparing the budget for 2024/2025 financial year. I am also indebted to all Honourable Members of this august House for supporting Vote 39 over the years.

In order to effectively execute its mandate as enshrined in Articles 4, 97, 118 and 121 of the Namibian Constitution, as well as a number of Acts of Parliament, Vote 39 consists of eleven (11) programmes. These programmes have been developed along the country's long and medium-term development goals, namely, Vision 2030, NDP5, and Harambee Prosperity Plan II with a view to ensuring a conducive environment for economic development, internal security, peace and stability in our country.

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

I feel that it is not necessary to give a detailed account of the Ministry's activities because these have been detailed in the budget motivation of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, the State of the Nation Address by His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia, as well as the Development Programmes Medium – Term Expenditure Framework 2024/25-2026/27 from pages 501-550. I now turn to discussing the individual Programmes and are as follows:

**PROGRAMME 01: ESTABLISHMENT AND  
REGULATION OF POPULATION REGISTER**

1.1 This programme is mainly regulated through the Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act, 1963 (Act No. 81 of 1963) to manage the National Population Register. Recently, the population of Namibia was made public. We are now over three (3) million. This means that it is important to establish and maintain an efficient population register.

1.2 Possession of national documents by each and every Namibian citizen is a right not a privilege. Possession of national documents enables citizens to access services which are rendered by the Government to its citizens, such as payment of social pension, provision of health services, and provision of education. In addition, citizens also owe certain obligations to the State, such as military conscription in case of a threat to the survival of the State. The Ministry is currently embarking on two capital projects, namely, the construction of the Zambezi Regional Office and the Kavango West Regional Office to address the lack of office space in these regions.

1.3 The Department continues to experience low numbers for birth registration in some hard-to-reach areas. It is for this reason that we embarked on mass registration that will cover all the one hundred and twenty-one (121) constituencies in all fourteen (14) political regions of our country. As part of ensuring total registration coverage of vital events such as births, marriages and deaths, the Department will continue, among other activities, connecting health facilities and State mortuaries to e-notification of such events. The Ministry has a team of e-trainers who do assessments, set up facilities and train the users of the system.

1.4 In August 2023, Cabinet approved the introduction of Contactless Microchip Identity Documents, commonly known as electronic IDs (eIDs). I am pleased to inform this august House that work is under way towards the realization of the Cabinet decision and will in due course update our nation regarding the progress made. During the period under review, forty-five thousand, eight hundred and eighty (45 880) under one (1) year babies were registered, while one hundred and fifty-five thousand, two hundred and thirty-two (155 232) IDs were issued.

1.5 An amount of **One hundred and forty-two million, nine hundred and three thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 142,903,000)** is requested under this programme.

## **PROGRAMME 02: IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND CITIZENSHIP**

2.1 This programme is charged with the facilitation of lawful migration, removal of illegal immigrants from Namibia, consideration of applications for various types of citizenship and issuing of travel documents. The programme is divided into two sub-programmes as follows:

- The Directorate of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship; and
- The Directorate of Immigration and Border Control.

2.2 The Sub-programme of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship is responsible for receiving and processing of applications for visas, permits, passports and citizenship. On 15 March last year, I launched the online applications for passports and short-term employment permits or work visas with a duration of up to six months. In addition, online holiday visa service has now been added. Such addition has insured that applicants can from the comfort of their homes apply for these services without having to queue up at our offices.

2.3 The Sub-programme of Immigration and Border Control is responsible for the administration and processing of movement of persons entering and exiting Namibia. Other responsibilities of the sub-programme include surveillance on suspected illegal immigrants, the facilitation of deportations of illegal immigrants, the provision of secretarial services to the Immigration Tribunals, and conducting joint operations with other Law Enforcement Agencies.

On 24 February 2023, the Department successfully implemented the use of national Identity cards as travel documents. The programme was successfully launched at Trans-kalahari/Mamuno Border Posts benefiting Namibian and Batswana citizens. The programme has since been rolled out to all border crossing points between Namibia and Botswana.

2.4 The Department continues to improve services in order to better the lives of our people and visitors alike. In this regard, Namibia has introduced visas on arrival for tourists and visitors, the latest addition being Katima Mulilo, Impalila Island, Ngoma, Oshikango, Mohembo, Ariamsvlei, Noordoewer and Oranjemund Border Posts. During 2023, Trans-kalahari and Katima Mulilo Border Posts were designated to operate on a twenty-four hour basis. A similar service will be operational at Oshikango/Santa Clara Border Posts soon once agreement is reached with the Angolan Government. The Ministry has continued to train our immigration officers in the area of customer care and investigation techniques. Training on the immigration manual also took place and will continue during this financial year.

2.5 Hon Members are fully aware that Immigration officers are the first point of contact with visitors to Namibia. The impression they create is usually taken to portray the level of service delivery in the country. The positive impression can have an impact on the growth of tourism in Namibia. Last year, we dedicated efforts to ensure that on the job training is intensified. In this regard, the Ministry trained one hundred and eight (108) immigration officers in several areas, including customer care.

2.6 In order for this programme to continue fulfilling its core functions, an amount of **two hundred and forty million, five hundred and forty-eight thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 240 548 000)** is requested under this programme.

### **PROGRAMME 03: REFUGEES MANAGEMENT**

3.1 The programme is tasked with the responsibility to provide protection and support to refugees and asylum seekers in Namibia. This is done in terms of the Refugee (Recognition and Control) Act of 1999 (Act 2 of 1999). In addition, there is an obligation placed upon Namibia by international conventions relating to the treatment and protection of refugees and displaced persons.



It further coordinates, facilitates and promotes the three durable solutions for refugees, namely, local integration, voluntary repatriation, and resettlement.

- 3.2 In promoting durable solutions for refugees in Namibia, the Ministry together with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United Nation High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) held tripartite meetings to promote voluntary repatriation for Congolese asylum seekers and refugees in Namibia. These tripartite meetings resulted in the voluntary repatriation of one hundred and eighty-two (182) Congolese nationals back to their country in safety and dignity during the months of August and November 2023.
- 3.3 Namibia joined other UN Member States on the #I belong Campaign, aimed at ending statelessness by 2024. Namibia commenced with the identification and registration of stateless and undocumented persons. To date, one hundred and forty-one thousand and forty-eight (141,048) individuals have been identified and registered as stateless and undocumented persons.

This number is currently being validated against the National Population Registration System (NPRS). A new law will be enacted to regularize the status of the affected individuals.

- 3.4 In order for this programme to continue fulfilling its core functions, an amount of **Thirteen million and five thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 13 005 000)** is requested under this programme.

#### **PROGRAMME 04: COMBATING OF CRIME**

- 4.1 The main purpose of this programme is to combat crime in the country, and to create a safe environment conducive for economic and social development. Furthermore, under this programme, the Namibian Police Force enhances cooperation with other stakeholders in the fight against crime, that include government institutions, non-governmental and civic organisations, business entities, neighbouring and other countries of the world, as well as regional and international organisations.

- 4.2 The programme also facilitates and sustains our commitment to international, continental, regional and bilateral policing obligations, through the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-INTERPOL), the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) and enhancing bilateral cooperation with our neighbouring countries. It is also under this programme that the responsibilities of safeguarding Namibia's territorial borders, maritime, key and critical Government infrastructure, and provision of security at the country's ports of entry/exit, are carried out.
- 4.3 In a nutshell, the Combating of Crime Programme represents the main part of the core functions and activities of the Department of Police. Therefore, an amount of **four billion, five hundred and two million, three hundred and sixty-three thousand Namibia dollars (N\$4,502,363,000-00)** is requested for Combating crime. Out of this amount, **two hundred and forty-five million, four hundred and thirty-four thousand Namibia dollars (N\$245,434,000-00)**, is earmarked for thirty six (36) capital projects countrywide.

## **PROGRAMME 05: VIP PROTECTION**

5.1 The main function of this programme is to render protection to the Head of State, visiting Heads of States and Governments, national and visiting foreign dignitaries, and the provision of security at residences. This programme also caters for the provision of security at the offices and residences of diplomatic missions in Namibia.

Therefore, an amount of **three hundred and seventy nine million, nine hundred and eighteen thousand Namibia dollars (N\$379,918,000-00)** is requested under this programme.

## **PROGRAMME 06: TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

6.1 It is always incumbent upon any institution that has a desire to stay upfront in service delivery, to oversee continuous development and academic progression of its staff compliment, in order to build their operational, investigative as well as administrative capacities. In light of the above, a total number of five hundred and forty-three (543) members were trained in the areas of Management, instructional skills, criminal investigation, artificial intelligence, as well as police intelligence.

Furthermore, one thousand one hundred and nineteen (1 119) Cadet Constables were recruited during the last financial year and are currently undergoing training. They are expected to complete their training next month.

6.2 Additionally, I would like to report that the Namibian Police Force is experiencing a very high staff turnover due to a number of reasons, ranging from retirement, resignation, transfer to other Offices, Ministries and Agencies, and death. Hence, in an effort to solve the high rate of staff turnover, the Ministry intends to recruit, at least one thousand, seven hundred (1700) Cadet Constables during the current Financial Year.

6.3 An amount of **three hundred and thirty million, eight hundred and two thousand Namibia dollars (N\$330,802,000.00)** is requested under this Programme.

## **PROGRAMME 07: FORENSIC SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Namibian Police Forensic Science Institute (NPFISI) plays an important role in combatting crime by providing scientific and medical support to criminal investigations and thereby supporting the judiciary. During the last Financial Year, the Institute received a total of two thousand, seven hundred and twenty-nine cases (2 729). Out of this number, only one thousand six hundred and thirty (1 630) were finalized, while the remaining one thousand and ninety-nine (1 099) were pending. These cases were handled by the Questioned Documents and Digital Forensics, Chemistry, Physics and Genetics Divisions.
- 7.2 In addition, a total number of four thousand, three hundred and eighty-nine (4 389) autopsies referred to the Forensics Pathology Division were successfully conducted.
- 7.3 An amount of **sixty-one million, six hundred and forty thousand Namibia dollars (N\$61,640,000-00)** is requested to finalize at least 70% of new cases received as well as to reduce the backlog of cases. In order to achieve this objective, the bulk of the budget will go towards consumables and reagents needed for various scientific analyses.

## **PROGRAMME 08: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 The Namibian Police Force, in line with the Government Policy of E-Governance, has accomplished its digitalization operations by implementing the Systems of Information and Communication Technology geared towards efficiency, effectiveness and most reliable service delivery to the public.
- 8.2 The acquired technology is designed to make the Namibian Police Force effective by improving reporting capabilities between the Police Force and members of the public, improved Crime prevention capabilities, and improved Crime investigation. This programme is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the introduction and continuous deployment of Digital Mobile Radio System to completely move away from the traditional analogue system. To this end, the requested budget allocation of **one hundred and eleven million, three hundred and seventy-eight thousand Namibia dollars required (N\$111,378,000-00)** under this programme is aimed at implementing and expanding various ICT projects including:

- Electronic Policing Eco system;
- NamPol Automated Biometric Identification System (N-ABIS);
- Nampol Digital Mobile Radio System; and
- Overall maintenance of all ICT Systems.

## **PROGRAMME 09: SAFE CUSTODY**

9.1 This programme ensures that the Namibian Correctional Service maintains its mandate of contributing to public safety by providing safe, secure, and humane custody of offenders in accordance with universally acceptable standards. It further compels the Namibian Correctional Service to prevent and avert institutional incidents, boredom, escapes and the smuggling of prohibited articles into correctional facilities through the provision of dynamic, physical and procedural security.

9.2 During the 2023/2024 financial year, the Namibian Correctional Service achieved successes such as decreasing incidents and rolling out the integrated security system to one (1) more correctional facility, the Oluno Correctional Facility, making it six (6) out of sixteen (16) institutions to which the system is now rolled out to.



We were also able to detect and prevent potential incidents before they could take place, as well as arrest potential smugglers of prohibited articles into correctional facilities.

- 9.3 An amount of **Nine hundred and ninety-four million, four hundred and thirty-two thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$994,432,000)** is requested under this programme. Out of this figure, **Seventy-nine million, one hundred and twenty-nine thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$79,129,000)** is earmarked for Capital projects.

## **PROGRAMME 10: REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

- 10.1 This programme's main focus remains strengthening rehabilitation and reintegration activities in order to reduce re-offending. During the period under review, emphasis was placed on enhancing the components of the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy (ORMCS), which is the strategy that guides the way in which we manage and execute rehabilitation services to offenders in line with their individual risk profiles.

10.2 During the last financial year, one hundred and thirty-three (133) correctional officers were trained on the delivery of rehabilitation services, including fifty-seven (57) officers who were trained in report writing. In addition, one thousand, five hundred and ninety-six (1,596) inmates were enrolled in the rehabilitation programmes, while one thousand two hundred and forty-four (1,244) inmates completed these programmes during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

10.3 During the year under review, the Namibian Correctional Service expanded the reach of its reintegration services by rolling out the Community Service Orders programme to a number of magistrate's courts in Hardap and Karas regions. To date the Department has rolled out the Community Service Orders programmes to fifty-four (54) magistrate's courts out of the seventy-one (71) targeted magistrate's courts countrywide, establishing a total coverage of 76%.

10.4 A total of three hundred and nineteen (319) offenders out of a total of three hundred and forty-seven (347) targeted offenders successfully completed their sentences under the Community Service Orders during the last financial year.

Also, a total of eight hundred and forty-four (844) out of eight hundred and sixty (860) targeted offenders successfully completed their sentence under Community Supervision during the last financial year.

10.5 An amount of **fourteen million, six hundred and twenty-seven thousand Namibia dollars (N\$14,627,000)** is requested under this programme.

## **PROGRAMME 99: POLICY COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

This programme includes all administrative aspects and is aimed at supporting the Ministry in order to ensure leadership, supervision and prudent allocation of financial, material and human resources.

In order to achieve the above stated objectives, I humbly request this august House to approve an amount of **six hundred and twenty-two million and thirty-eight thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 622,038,000)** under this programme.

In conclusion, I humbly request this august House to approve a global amount of **Seven billion, four hundred and thirteen million, Six hundred and fifty-four thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 7,413,654, 000)**, inclusive of **three hundred and ninety million Namibia Dollars (N\$ 390,000,000)** earmarked for the Capital projects for Vote 39.

**I THANK YOU!**