



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL**  
**RELATIONS AND COOPERATION**

**BUDGET SPEECH**  
**VOTE 07**  
**FOR THE 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**BY**  
**HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP**  
**MINISTER**

**04 APRIL 2024**  
**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PARLIAMENT**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members

I rise to present to this August House and motivate as well as seek your support for Vote 07 of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation for the 2024-2025 Financial Year. I wish to thank His Excellency President Nangolo Mbumba, for the trust and confidence that he has placed in me, appointing me as Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. I pledge to discharge this mandate with professionalism and diligence in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, and Namibia's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation.

Honourable Chairperson, I wish to thank my predecessor, Her Excellency Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Minister, Honourable Jennelly Matundu, the Executive Director and the entire staff of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) for their endeavours to raise the profile our country internationally.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR**

During the previous financial year, the Ministry advanced Namibia's foreign policy objectives, by promoting Namibia's interests on a global stage, strengthen diplomatic relations with other countries, and protected the rights of Namibian citizens abroad.

The Ministry facilitated high level personal diplomacy engagements with other countries in the region and elsewhere, underscoring the principle of mutually beneficial bilateral relations, as enshrined in the Namibian Constitution. Our

Embassies abroad worked hand-in-hand with relevant Offices, Ministries and Agencies, to attract foreign direct investment, strengthen existing diplomatic relations and safeguard the welfare of Namibians abroad. We encourage all Offices, Ministries and Agencies, to regularly engage and sensitise the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation about their strategic interests and priorities, so that Namibia's national positions are promoted and defended at various fora.

During the period under review, Namibia was and continues to be engaged in various responsibilities, such as chairing the Commonwealth Board of Governors, overseeing the Pan-African University, participating as a Board Member of both the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the African World Heritage Fund, maintaining a position on the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a Troika Member of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation, serving as a Member of the AU Peace and Security Council, and participating in peacekeeping missions led by the UN and SADC, respectively, thus actively contributing to the maintenance of global and regional peace for the mutual benefit of all nations and their people.

In the region, Namibia has been strengthening alliances with other SADC Member States to enhance regional integration in various sectors such as transport, infrastructure, agriculture, water security, disaster risk management, trade, economic development, good governance, rule of law, and democratic processes. Namibia passed on her Chairmanship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation to Zambia in August 2023. Under the late President Dr. Hage G. Geingob's leadership, Namibia made significant strides in conflict resolution and will thus, remain involved as the Outgoing Chair of the Organ Troika until August 2024, supporting Zambia in enhancing peace and security in the region.

During her Chairmanship, Namibia presided over **eleven (11)** Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) Meetings, and seven (7) Organ Summits related to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the SADC Region. One such Organ Summit recommended to the SADC Summit, the deployment of SADC Troops to the Eastern DRC to provide further stability. The SADC Summit approved, in principle, the SADC Mission in DRC (SAMIDRC), and its full deployment is expected in 2024, for which financial contributions will be required. Namibia's assessed contribution for the 2023/2024 is US\$4,807,285.00, as per the assessment approved during the November 2023 Extraordinary SADC Summit, held in Luanda.

Furthermore, during Namibia's tenure as Chair, two engagements were held with the Secretary General of the United Nations towards the implementation of relevant SADC and UN Decisions regarding the security situation in Eastern DRC. Another engagement was held with His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini in the context of encouraging further consultations in the area of peace and security in the Region.

On the continent, Namibia has contributed towards the de-escalation of tensions, through her membership of the AU Peace and Security Council, which Namibia chaired in March 2024. As Chair of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the month of March 2024, Namibia hosted the AU PSC High-Level Ministerial Seminar on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), on 23 March 2024, in Swakopmund, Namibia. The high-level Ministerial Seminar was held under the theme: *“Commemorating 20 years of the PSC by taking stock of women's participation and leadership in peace processes in Africa,”* and was attended by Foreign Ministers who are members of the Peace and Security Council, as well as

the AU Commissioner (AUC) for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; the Special Envoy of the AUC Chairperson on WPS, and other Very Important Persons (VIPs) who are Members of the AU Panel of the Wise and its Affiliate Bodies. The Ministers were joined by their Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives at the AU, as well as their Experts and Defence Attaches.

The High-level Seminar was followed by an Orientation Workshop for Outgoing and Incoming PSC Members from 25-27 March 2024, in Swakopmund. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) is the standing decision-making organ of the AU for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the continent. It is a collective security and early warning arrangement intended to facilitate timely and efficient responses to conflict and crisis situations in Africa.

Namibia has military, police and civilian personnel assisting the Head of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), as our contribution to maintaining peace and security within our Region. Although our officials have not been deployed in the area of operation, they have been providing critical support to the functioning of the Mission. We need to continue showing them our support, as they do their best to protect the territorial integrity of our sisterly country, Mozambique. Namibia has also made a total financial contribution of about US\$6 million towards SAMIM since July 2021.

Namibia firmly believes that embracing multilateralism and fostering international cooperation are paramount for promoting global welfare and, therefore continue to actively participate in United Nations meetings, programmes and activities. As members of the global community, we understand the importance of international

peace and security, promoting human rights and respect for the law, and advancing principles of justice.

Namibia and Germany are co-facilitators for the Summit of the Future, scheduled to take place in September 2024, at the level of Heads of State and Government. The aim of the Conference is to reinforce the work of the United Nations and global governance structures to better address old and new challenges. The Summit will serve as a watershed moment and a reminder to the international community of the need to fulfil the promise of current international development obligations, in particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In preparation for the Summit of the Future, countries are expected to examine how they have implemented the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), determine whether tangible progress has been made particularly in the critical areas of eradicating poverty, ending hunger, ensuring good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, among others.

At the level of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, extensive consultations have already taken place, and a concept note and draft decision proposing the structure and priority areas of the Pact for the Future were shared. The Pact for the Future comprises of a Chapeau and five chapters:

1. Sustainable Development and Financing for Development;
2. International Peace and Security;
3. Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation;
4. Youth and Future Generations; and
5. Transforming Global Governance.

Honourable Chairperson,

MIRCO has proposed a total budget allocation of *Nine Hundred and sixty-four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars* (N\$ 964,895,000) from the 2024/2025 National Budget to carry out its mandate of formulating, promoting and executing Namibia's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation.

Within this budget, **7.25%** equivalent to **Seventy Million Namibia Dollars** (N\$70,000,000) is dedicated to the development budget. This allocation will fund crucial capital projects both at diplomatic missions abroad and at headquarters, as well as the completion of the Namibia International Women Peace Centre. The Ministry's primary emphasis will be on renovation of properties to enhance efficiency and functionality. Furthermore, it is worth noting that 80% of our budget is susceptible to the impacts of exchange rate fluctuations.

The remaining 93% of the budget, equivalent to *Eight Hundred and Ninety-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Namibian Dollars* (N\$ 894,895,000) is dedicated to operational expenses, driving the five (5) programmes of the Ministry: A summary budget breakdown per key programmes are as follows.

### **Programme 1: Regional and Bilateral Relations and Cooperation**

*A sum totalling Nineteen Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven Namibia Dollars* (N\$ 19,930,967) has been earmarked for this program.

The funds set aside for this program are aimed at advancing economic diplomacy by way of promoting investment, trade and tourism between Namibia and other countries on bilateral level through the mechanisms previously deliberated. Furthermore, a notable focus is placed on development cooperation partners, particularly on the enhancement of traditional South-South alliances, emphasising the importance of expanding collaboration in various areas such as industrialisation, trade, human resource development, technology sharing, cultural exchanges, and tourism. An essential function of this Ministry, officials are required to accompany H.E. the President, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, and Ministers on missions abroad, and such activities are within the scope of this programme.

### **Programme 2: Multilateral Policy Co-ordination**

An amount of *One Hundred and Fifty-Three Million Eight Hundred and Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Six Namibia Dollars (N\$ 153,814,886)* is allocated to this programme, of which 78% is dedicated to Regional and International Organization membership fees. The remaining amount is set aside to facilitate Namibia's active engagement in multilateral fora, to ensure that Namibia's voice is heard and influences the international discourse to the benefit of Namibia.

### **Programme 3: Protocol and Consular**

A total amount of *Seventeen Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand and Twenty-Three Namibia Dollars (N\$17,223,023)* has been allocated to this programme. These funds will be utilised to provide protocol service to the Government, as appropriate, deliver adequate services to the diplomatic corps and to provide consular and welfare services to Namibian citizens abroad.



#### **Programme 4: Missions abroad**

This program receives the largest portion of the Ministry's budget, 67% which is equivalent to *Six Hundred and Forty-Six Million, Six Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty-Seven Namibia Dollars (N\$ 646,644,627)*.

The amount allocated under this programme continues to be affected by the volatility of the international financial market, and fluctuations in the exchange rate.

The resources allocated for this program will be used to improve the operations of the thirty-one Namibian Diplomatic Missions and four Consular Posts abroad, enabling them to contribute significantly to the country's development.

#### **Programme 5: Coordination and Support Services**

An amount totalling *One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million and Two Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Seven Namibian Dollars (N\$127,281,497,000)* is been allocated to this programme. Administration serves as the driving force behind every institution. The financial resources deployed towards this programme will be utilised to the effective rendering and coordination of support services at both the Headquarters, and the advancement of Namibia's interest at its Missions abroad. This programme encompasses, Coordination, Administration and Finance, Human Resource Management, ICT and Auxiliary services.

The Ministry's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation focuses on improving professionalism and efficiency to reduce operational costs. The Ministry is therefore, committed to working within its budget and has successfully reduced operational expenses by implementing cost-cutting measures at Headquarters and at

Missions. This has allowed for effective financial management in all sectors as per the Government's directive.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I submit Vote 7 to this august House for favourable consideration and subsequent endorsement.

I thank you.