



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MOTIVATION SPEECH**

**BY**

**ERASTUS UUTONI, MP  
MINISTER**

**2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET ALLOCATION**

**VOTE 17**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The remainder of the allocation will be used to carry out the following governance and development enhancing activities:

- The finalization of the revisions and amendments of legal instruments notably the Local Authorities Act, 1992 as amended, the Council of Traditional Leaders Act, 1997 (Act No. 13 of 1997) and its Amendment Act No. 31 of 2000, and the Traditional Authorities Act, 2000 (Act No. 25 of 2000), with a view to address identified gaps have been hampering the effective application and administration of the two (2) legislations by both the Government and concerned Authorities;
- Finalisation of the development of an Urban Land Reform Policy and Strategy;
- The revision of the Local Economic Development White Paper into a more comprehensive National Regional and Local Economic Development Policy with a detailed Implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan. The Policy and Implementation Plan will serve as a useful tool for regional and local authority councils in their effort to profile and unlock economic potential and development opportunities in their localities; and
- The upgrading and construction of ten (10) open markets in various localities such as Bukalo, Eenhana, Keetmanshoop, Okakarara, Omaruru Omuthiya, Opuwo, Oshivelo Settlement and Outjo.
- Amount of N\$56 million of the total allocation to this Programme is earmarked to re-imburse NamWater, regional councils and local authorities for water supplied during the COVID-19 lockdown period
- An amount of N\$113 million is to assist local authorities to pay compensation for land that was allocated and occupied under customary land rights, but has since become part of townlands under the administration of local authorities; and
- An amount of N\$ 10 million for support to the fire brigade and emergency services by local authorities

During the 2023/24 financial year the Ministry recorded the following achievements under this programme:

❖ **Ministry of Works and Transport:**

- The handing over of the maintenance functions from Ministry of Works and Transport to the Regional Councils of Kavango East and Kavango West Regions;
- The two Ministries (MURD and Works and Transport) also conducted consultations with regional councils in preparation for the planned decentralisation of Government Garages to regional councils.
- Furthermore, the two Ministries conducted an assessment on the incorporation and effective execution of the decentralised (delegated) Maintenance functions by Regional Councils, The exercise has so far covered the Zambezi, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshikoto Regional Councils. The remaining Regional Councils will be covered during the 2024/2025 financial year.

I wish to thank and commend the Hon Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport and his team as well as the two regional Councils for this collaborative effort.

❖ **Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture**

MURD together with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture conducted readiness assessments of decentralised (delegated) functions covering the Khomas, //Kharas, Hardap, Omaheke, Erongo, Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regional Councils. The Ministry plans to assess the remaining Regional Councils during the next financial year. These assessments are conducted periodically to ensure adherence to set standards.

- ❖ The MURD enlisted the services of a consulting firm to conduct an assessment study on the overall status of implementation of our Decentralisation Policy with a view to assess the impact, challenges as

The budgetary allocation for 2024/2025 will go towards reinforcing the ongoing initiatives as well as to carry out the new activities. Some of these are:

1. Facilitation of the handing over of the following functions, which have already been approved by Cabinet and gazetted for decentralisation:
  - **Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service** - The functions of Youth empowerment and development; Sports promotion and support; Planning and development
  - **Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform** – The Functions of Extension Services, Plant/Crop Production Advisory Services, Plant Health, Engineering Services and Project Support, among others
  - **Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation** – The Functions of Case management System, Employment services such as Job Seekers Registration and Placement, Workplace Inspections, Career Counselling, Psychometric Testing and Stakeholder Assistance (Affirmative Action Monitoring), among others; and
  - **Ministry of Health and Social Services** – The function of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Disease control, Curative Services, Pharmaceutical Services, Efficient and effective implementation of Hospitals and Health Facilities Act, and Resource Management.
  
2. We will finalise the assessment of the status of implementation of the Decentralisation Policy and Enabling Act as well as the development of a Decentralisation Implementation Action Plan as per the Harambee Prosperity Plan II;

An amount of **One Billion, Seventy-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-four Thousand Namibia Dollar** (N\$ 1, 074,994,000) is earmarked for this Programme in the next financial year. The allocation to this Programme forms a large part of our total Development Budget of One Billion, Two Hundred and Three Million and Fifty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ **1,203,056,000,000**).

The budgetary allocation to this Programme will be deployed to sustain and scale up our existing and new policy initiatives that are aimed creating increased and inclusive access to and opportunities for land tenure security and decent housing for our citizens in general and with a special focus on the section of our population that fall in the ultra-low income groups as well as those who reside in informal settlement areas with no access to basic municipal services.

As a re-affirmation of its unwavering commitment towards urban land and housing delivery as a developmental priority, the Government through the Cabinet approved the new Housing Policy and its Implementation Action Plan in November 2023. The Policy and Action Plan emphasise and provide for increased State budgetary support as well as targeted yet integrated and coordinated interventions and development approach as critical cornerstones for accelerated, inclusive and impactful land and housing delivery.

In light of the above, the Housing Policy and our strategy provide for support and interventions along the entire land and housing development process and value chain. This entails and starts from the planning and proclamation of townships, the surveying and sub-division of land into plots to the designing and installation municipal services up to the design and construction dwelling units that take into account the affordability levels of the intended beneficiaries.

## PROGRAMME FOUR: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The last Programme is Rural Development, which has a budget allocation of **One Hundred and Twenty Million, and Eighty-Nine Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 120,089,000)**.

The specific interventions to be funded with the allocation are:

- N\$ 31 million towards rural sanitation initiatives in rural areas that are implemented through Regional Councils. During the 2023/24 financial year, a total of 600 ventilated toilets were constructed.
- An allocation of N\$8, 8 million to support self-help income and employment-generating projects by rural communities, including food or cash-for-work projects. During the 2023/24 financial year, some 134 income-generating activities were supported in various regions.
- An amount of N\$9, 5 million is earmarked to support operations of and community-outreach advisory services by existing Rural Development Centers.
- An amount of N\$35, 5 million will go towards financing the on-going construction work at eight (8) Rural Development Centres (Rupara in Kavango West Region, Masokotwane in Zambezi Region, Eembaxu in Ohangwena Region, Ogongo in Omusati Region, Snyfontein in //Kharas Region, Gibeon in Hardap Region, Ben Hur in Omaheke Region, and Okashana in Oshikoto Region).

**Hon. Chairperson of the whole House Committee**

**Hon. Members**