



MAIDEN SPEECH

BY

HONORABLE. AINA HANGANENI KODI

Hon. Speaker of Parliament,

Hon. Members of Parliament,

1. I rise with honor in this August house that as of 13 June 2024, the revolutionary and vanguard movement of the left, under the capable leadership of the Hon. Bernadus Swartbooi has achieved to filled 75% of women representation this August House. A milestone to be celebrated. As Thomas Sankara once expressed, "There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women." *and quote*
Indeed, we are a testament to that.
2. Growing up in a highly political environment and around my late Father, His Worship Daniel Kambe former Mayor of the Swakopmund Municipality who served for two (2) terms, has taught me that political consciousness brings about positive change in the lives of people, thus it's important that we inculcate the spirit of political consciousness in society.
3. As I stand before you, I bring with me a wealth of technical expertise and a deep-seated commitment to addressing the pressing challenges our society faces. My experiences in the healthcare and mining sectors have provided me with invaluable insights into the critical issues that demand our immediate attention.

Health Sector

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

4. In the healthcare sector, I have witnessed, the dire state of technical maintenance in our hospitals. Essential equipment often lies in disrepair, and this neglect compromises the quality of care our citizens receive. The failure of

cancer treatment machines is a particularly stark example, leaving countless patients without critical care.

5. It is unacceptable that in 2024, Namibian citizens still suffer due to neglected healthcare facilities. This Parliament must take immediate action to address these deficiencies. The responsibility for this dire situation rests with those in power who have failed to prioritize healthcare.
6. The Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, must be held accountable for the state of our hospitals. It is not enough to merely acknowledge the problem; we need decisive action to rectify it.
7. The establishment of the Presidential Commission on Health was a step in the right direction, but its recommendations must be implemented with urgency and rigor. We must allocate sufficient resources towards the maintenance and modernization of our hospital infrastructure. This is not merely a matter of improving physical facilities but a commitment to ensuring that every Namibian, regardless of economic status, receives the high-quality care they deserve. Health is a fundamental human right, and it is our duty to safeguard it.
8. As a left-wing politician who believes in federalism, I propose that healthcare management should be decentralized to empower local governments. Local authorities are more attuned to the specific needs of their communities and can manage resources more effectively. By giving them the autonomy and funding they need, we can ensure that healthcare services are responsive and tailored to the unique challenges faced by different regions.

Mining Sector

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

9. Turning to the mining sector, the conditions faced by both men and women are nothing short of deplorable. As a former miner in zinc and uranium extraction, I have witnessed firsthand the grave risks posed by exposure to hazardous

- materials. These risks are particularly severe for pregnant women but extend to all workers, exacerbated by the long commutes to and from mining sites. It is our moral and ethical obligation to confront these harsh realities with honesty and urgency.
10. This Parliament must enact robust legislation to ensure the safety and welfare of all miners, including mandatory regular health screenings, comprehensive medical care, and rigorous safety regulations. Additionally, we must provide transportation or temporary accommodations for pregnant women to mitigate the strain of long commutes and ensure their health and safety are not compromised.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

11. The mining sector is plagued by the ruthless exploitation of Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPLs), which often result in the displacement of people from their homes and lands. This brutal practice must be stopped immediately. We must hold those in power accountable for allowing such injustices to persist. The livelihood and dignity of our people should never be sacrificed for profit. The voice of the community must be heard and respected in all mining operations, ensuring that the benefits of our natural resources are equitably shared.
12. It is high time that we prioritize the welfare of our citizens over the interests of a few powerful entities who are politically connected and serve the political elites of this country. We need to demand a fairer and more just mining industry that seeks to transform the material conditions of our miners.

State Equity in Mineral Resources

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

13. The issue of ownership and state equity of our mineral resources is one that needs utmost intervention. It is utterly disgraceful that the state equity in our