



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

02nd JULY 2024

Maiden Speech for Hon. Kamati Kamati Theofelus.

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,**

1. My name is Kamati Kamati Theofelus. I hail from the humble village of Otshima in the Oshikuku Constituency of the Omusati region, though I currently reside in the bustling town of Oshakati. It is with great pride and humility that I stand before you today as a Member of this August House.
2. My journey in Namibian politics began in 2017, inspired by the visionary leadership of Hon. McHenry Venaani and the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM). Witnessing the rebranding of PDM from DTA, I was moved by Hon. Venaani's unwavering commitment to genuine leadership and national development. This inspiration fueled my decision to join him in the fight of a brighter future for Namibia. I hope my journey to this August House inspires all political foot soldiers currently on the ground. With commitment, dedication and hard work nothing is impossible. Today it is me and tomorrow will be you.

3. Starting as a dedicated foot soldier, my political path has seen me rise to the position of Branch Coordinator at Okatayikembako in Oneshila, Oshakati East. I later assumed the role of Constituency Coordinator and subsequently, Regional Coordinator of the Oshana Region. Today, I continue to serve as Regional Coordinator and am deeply honored to join this esteemed Assembly.
4. Honourable Speaker, the privilege to serve in the National Assembly comes with immense responsibility. I am determined to champion the cause of my constituency, my region, and our nation at large. One of the most pressing issues we face is high unemployment rate among our youth. It is unacceptable that so many young, suitably qualified Namibians remain jobless. We must ensure that every capable young person is given the opportunity to contribute to our economy and drive our country forward.
5. To address this, I propose that we consider lowering the retirement age to 55 accompanied by full benefits. This policy would enable our youth to enter the workforce more rapidly. Many employees over the age of 55 wish to retire and rest, yet they remain in their positions, often uninspired, only to secure their full benefits. By facilitating earlier retirement, we can create space for the meaningful employment of our young people, injecting fresh energy and ideas into our economy.
6. Honourable Members, the narrative of "we fought for this country" must evolve. We deeply respect and honor the sacrifices made by our parents and forebears in the struggle for independence, but we must not let this history hold us hostage. Our focus must shift to developing our human resources, particularly our youth, to propel Namibia into a prosperous future.

7. Moreover, we must address the issue of political silence and stagnation. It is disappointing to witness some politicians holding on to power for decades, delivering poor service while remaining blind to the aspirations and potential of our youth. It is time for us to foster an environment where new leaders with innovative ideas and fresh perspectives are given the opportunity to lead. The continuous rise in youth unemployment is a clear indicator that current strategies are failing. We cannot ignore this any longer.
8. The youth of Namibia are eager and ready to contribute to our nation's development. They possess the creativity and drive needed to address contemporary challenges. It is our duty to empower them, to trust them, and to provide them with the opportunities they deserve. Let us learn to step aside gracefully and support the next generation in their quest to build a better Namibia.
9. In conclusion, I stand here committed to advocating for policies that focus youth employment, support early retirement, and encourage the infusion of new leadership into our political landscape. Together, let us work towards a Namibia where every young person can realize their potential and where our nation thrives on the energy and innovation of its youth.
10. Thank you, Honourable Speaker, and esteemed members, for the opportunity to address this Assembly. I am ready to serve with dedication and passion, and I look forward to working with all of you to create a brighter future for our beloved country.
11. God bless Namibia. Thank you. I so submit.