

## **Commentary on the Budget Speech for the Fiscal Year of 2025/26**

**By**

**Honourable Vetaruhe Kandorozi**

**NUDO Party**

**Windhoek**

**Namibia**

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**Hon. Speaker Sara Nandjila Kukongelwa Amathila.**

I am Vetaruhe Kandorozi, elected by the Namibian people to represent them at this August house via the NUDO party of Namibia. Born and raised by two great grandparents one who participated in the war of Genocide and another one who is a child of direct Genocide survivor who was born in Keetmanshoop by a mother who fled the war of Genocide. I still remember vividly how my Great grandfather Johannes Ngaipite Uazuu, who participated in the war between Germans and Ovaherero at the age of 18 ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> war that resulted Ovaherero and Nama genocide the way he was traumatized at the age of 80, as he always used to sing poetically (Okuimba) how they were encouraging their fellow soldiers to fight and kill the Germans. Every morning, during wee hours at around 03h00 to 04h00 AM, if you wake up early during that time you will hear him singing the song of war of Ovaherero and Nama Genocide. I rise today with humility and a deep sense of responsibility to deliver my maiden speech in this Honourable House. I carry with me the voices of rural Namibia, voices that have been echoing in the wilderness for far too long, unheard and unattended with my parent's bones scatted all over Namibia waiting for proper burial and some of my parents who were throned in shark Island still singing under the deep sea of our Atlantic Ocean yearning to get a proper burial but this Government is very def to hear that voice. I am here to represent the last class of the society to be the first to be served. **"The Last must be the First"**.

To my parents especially my Mum Jacobine Kandorozi, thanks for being my biological mother I am proud of you. To my late father Cleophas Siririka you remain my friend and a companion. I am sure your spirit will always be protecting me, and I always wish you were around up to today but unfortunately, we can't control our Life expectancy. My mentor, my grandmother who brought me up since I was a baby, Mrs. Clara Uasetu Uazuu, if it were not for you, I wouldn't have been here today, Mamaa wandje. I love you. Rest in internal peace, my mother. To my friends, siblings, my Wife, Children and comrades, you remain the pillar of my home to always lean on. I am indebted to the people of Okakarara Constituency who groomed me politically and made me who I am today.

I started to show my leadership ability at the very young age. I was expelled from Hostel of Dr. Lemmer High School in 1994-1995, because I was challenging the injustices that was done against some students at the school with my fellow learners than Mr. Puje Makari, Tyle

Ngaihape Kavara, Java Kahiha, Tanis Mizeze and Theo Kahiha we were all expelled from Hostel and managed to get accommodation at Rehoboth famous Blue House of Mr. Dax with the assistance of Mr. Ngetujame Sack Makari. Those from Rehoboth will know the significance of that Blue House. This character never stopped there until I was elected as the SRC President at Windhoek College of Education in 2002 of which I was very instrumental in fighting for the calibration of Basic Education Teachers Diploma and Education Degree at Unam that brought about the abolishment of a Basic Education Teaching Diploma in Namibia (BETD). I joined National politics at the tender age of 30 as the Regional Councillor for Otjozondjupa Regional Council from Okakarara Constituency. I served this community for 15 consecutive years with humility, passion and dedication to bring meaningful changes to the lives of Okakarara Constituency residents. I serve this community as a servant with no sign of favouritism, nepotism and partyism and I was never pushed out until I decided not to continue for another 5 years, as I intended to move to the next level being a Namibian legislator during the 7th parliament to give chance to other Namibians to serve too. Unfortunately, I did not make it. After I left the Regional Council politics, I was faced with many challenges such as suspension up to expulsion from the party due to internal party policies. After my expulsion I remained a committed, dedicated party member as I did not join any other political party despite numerous attempts by other political parties to join their political home, but I said I am what I am today because of NUDO and my agreement with NUDO is not over. However, let me say thanks to the current NUDO leadership for reconciling with me and other party members by implementing a reconciliation policy and bring us back to the party and here am I today. If it is not for them, I wouldn't been here reading my maiden Speech and contribute meaningfully to the house deliberation. Let me thank the NUDO party members for their trust in me and for allowing me to serve the Namibian people at this level. Changing political homes is not a solution to show your leadership quality, let's always be perseverance as both good times and bad times are not permanent, they come and go.

This man is a grandchild of the victims of Genocide perpetrated by the Germans in 1904-1908 and is part of landless and land dispossessed group in the independent Namibia that are being denied the right to returned to their ancestral land by the current administration. Born from Hoveka Royal dynasty, I am here in the footstep of my uncle Chief Nicanor

Hoveka who signed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition to the United Nations together with Chief Hosea Kutako and also those of my father Jariretundu Kozonguizi one of our petitioners to the United Nations with Prof. Mburumba Kerina and Dr. Sam Nujoma may they continue to rest in peace. As I am delivering my maiden speech today there is no law neither policy to guide the Government to address the injustices done to Ovaherero and Nama people by the German murderer. The current administration is in cahoots with German Government to victimise the victims of Genocide. There is no redress policy to give back what was taken from us illegally by the colonizer.

Since independence there was no empathy from the Namibia Government towards the victims of Genocide until in 2006 when the motion was tabled by the President of NUDO Chief Dr. Kuaima Riruako. Today this motion is another thorn in the flesh of the victims because those in the executive don't feel the pain and they are doing as they wish at the expenses of the victims of genocide by excluding them from the negotiations underway that have agreed to a peanuts because they don't know how does it fill to be a victim of Genocide. I am a child of the nation that started with nothing after my grandparents were released from the concentration camps in 1908 on the 28 MAY. When my parents arrived at Otjituezu currently known as Voigs land, it was already demarcated and became a property of Voigs family, and my parents started to be farm workers herding their own cattle that are now under the ownership of Voigs family. I am coming from that background and the current regime is deliberately ignoring this historical part of Namibia that brought the independence that we are enjoying today. Today the inexperience Government team that claim to negotiate on behalf of the victims only settle for a small amount of N\$23.93 billion which is 22.5 % of our budget and almost as equal as our education budget for one <sup>year</sup> but it has been given to the victims for a period of 25- 30 years for 7 regions for a population of over 1.5 million Namibians. "What a joke" Today our government is talking about the Germans to apologise to the victims, which victims? Those you did not recognise during the negotiations? Who will take and accept an apology from a Murderer in cahoots with our very own Government, if the following Traditional Leaders are not present during that day; Chief Hoveka, Paramount Chief Nguvauva, Chief Zeraeua, Chief Mureti, Paramount Chief Katjiua, Chief Maharero Paramount Chief Riruako, Chief Kukuri and all the Nama Chiefs it will be a futile exercise, and don't dare to do that because it will be a big embarrassment to the Government. Do the

**right thing and swallow your pride and engage those leaders beforehand and start all over in a very inclusive manner.**

Today, I am here in the August house coming from the most underdeveloped regions by the current administration that purposefully not allocating national budget to Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Erongo, Kunene, Kavango, Zambezi, Haradap and Karas and some parts of Oshikoto. I am coming from those who stay in informal settlement in all the parts of Namibia such as Twalolaka, 7de and 8st Laan, Hakahana, Okahandja park, Ombwa yatoola o 10, the domestic workers, Taxi drivers, Farm worker, those in contract work system supported by the current regime and all the blue collar workers. Not forgetting the Generational Farm workers of whose land has been taken from their parents are in the hands of Germans, South Africans, and foreign absentees' landlord. The Government through Willing buyer and Willing seller policy bought some of this land through the resettlement programme and distribute the land that was taken from our parents and give to those who did not lose any land, to the Ministers, Directors, Eds, and other elites that are closer to power. As the result the Generational Farm workers their home is now call informal settlement and when are they going to settle formally? They are today in informal settlement in all the towns as they are landless with no roof on top of their head, no sanitation and they have nobody to look up to them to restore their dignity. Today there is no single monument, heritage sites symbolising the war of Genocide in comparison to the war that followed later because of the survivor of Genocide. The report of ancestral land commission has been shelves and is collecting dust because those in power who supposed to implement the commission report, they still have their ancestral land therefore they don't care about us who need to be at our ancestral land like others.

I am sure many Namibians are looking forward how I will tackle the issues of Education, Health, Rural Development, Women's Empowerment, Agriculture, Transport, Land distribution from the hands of the white to the rightful owners and effective decentralization that will address the issue of urbanisation in a robust way.

**Hon. Speaker, Hon Members of the August House**

**I stood up today to use this opportunity to participate in and deliberate on the budget Presentation for the 2025/2026 budget.** Congratulations, Honourable Minister, on this comprehensive budget after you were thrown into a deep sea to swim. You are still new, and your input was not there, but rather than reading it and making it sound as if is yours. Congratulations on that bravery.

I have listened to this budget presentation, and the message is very vague, as captured by its theme of *“Beyond 35: for a prosperous future.”* It does not tell us where we are heading as a country. Therefore, the proposed theme of this budget puts us in a very unfavourable position regarding rational commendation. However, while the figures are impressive on paper, the soul of this budget appears hollow for the majority who live in rural areas without water, electricity, proper roads, and essential services. Let me be frank, Honourable Members: a budget that does not speak to the daily struggles of communal farmers, unemployed youth, overloaded teachers, and forgotten pensioners is a budget that serves the privileged, not the people. **’The last must be the first’**

**A government budget is a powerful economic tool that influences various aspects of a country's economy.** It is safe to say that the budget is central to fiscal policy, which involves government decisions on taxation, spending, and borrowing. These decisions directly impact economic growth, inflation, and employment.

**In terms of its composition, the Minister alluded to the declining trends in total revenue in the coming financial year.** The two primary revenue sources/streams, SACU revenue and income from the diamond companies, are declining for various reasons, as explained. However, no proper mechanism or strategy is outlined in the budget for how the government intends to close the gap. The Gambling and Rotary business remained untaxed because many of the Governing members owned those machines and they don't want to pay Tax, but Namra is after the poor farmers.

Given the complicated nature of the SACU revenue sharing formula and our contribution to the pool, I won't delve much into it. However, we need to discuss the current situation of local diamond companies. I understand the diamond industry faces headwinds ranging from decreased consumer demand for natural diamonds to competition from lab-grown diamonds, thereby reducing the price for diamonds and affecting our production in the country. Notwithstanding all these developments, **the issue of Namdia cannot be left alone**, even though the government decided not to brief the citizens on what transpired on that day and the way forward. I hope our Deputy Prime Minister will soon come up with a statement to tell us how much we lost at Namdia due to those diamonds stolen on that day, which have affected our budget today.

**Hon. Speaker, Hon Members of the August House**

**Regarding Expenditures**, when revenue declines, you are expected to revise your expenditures because your resource envelope is shrinking.

**Looking at social welfare programme**, this budget has failed to increase this benefit due to poor revenue and wrong allocation of fund at the expenses of the vulnerable community, As we are all aware that the late President Hage Geingob made a promise to our elderly people that he will increase the pension grand to N\$3000.00 but this administration has openly objected to that noble gesture and allocate nothing extra to look after the government social responsibility. {GSR}, neither did they show any interest in promising when they are planning to increase during this MTEF. Therefore, I propose a N\$50.00 increase on all the social grants during this financial year, to keep up with changes in the price level of essential commodities.

**Regarding education**, N\$24.8 billion was allocated for FY2025/26. This allocation is **number one on the priority list**, but it does not speak to reality on the ground. I want to know why the Government is selling education to its citizens. It is the responsibility of the state to make sure that its citizens are well educated and ready to contribute to social welfare and economic development of the country. The Government forces parents to pay for school, hostel, and stationery. At the same time, it is supposed to be the government's responsibility


to ensure that free access to education is implemented and encouraged among all citizens. Primary, secondary, and tertiary education must be free to enable all citizens to complete their studies with no hindrances. Those at Tertiary institutions must receive a monthly fee of N\$1500.00 for the period of studies. No registration and tuition fees must be paid in Namibia. There is not much emphasis on TVET. Again, each region must have a vocational training centre up to the constituency level. TVET programmes must be introduced from primary school up to secondary school as an exit point to the vocational centres. Namibian Government have entered a business of exporting money, they are doing that by paying high interest rate to foreign loans, by buying all importing goods and now all our sport activities are taking place in a foreign land on a fee. This demonstrate that the current regime can not do any single thing within their own country even a toothpick is imported. This Budget does not talk on how to assist the youth and be self-reliant by owning business such as having strict rules to stop people from Bangladesh to own cell phones shop made of containers that are scatted all over Namibia. This type of business can be owned by the Namibians youth. This Government have no programme on how one day, we will do away with China town and call it a Namibians town where Namibian youth owns all those businesses. This a clear testimony that tells the Namibian Youth you are on your own find your own regime where you can design your destiny not this one. Look at Ramatex building, this Government has no idea what to do with those building rather than turning into boxing ring, music arena, and a breeding station for cats, dogs and birds. The issue of Manufacturing, Factory and industrialization is a vocabulary they don't understand that's why we have the world highest unemployment rate.

**Health: N\$12.3 billion was allocated for FY2025/26.** This Ministry received the second highest allocation, but there is a lot to do, which brings us back to the issue of deliverables when it comes to capital project completion. This ministry's execution rate is one of the worst in the whole Government. It takes up to five years to complete a clinic or a health centre. If you go throughout the country, you will be welcomed by incomplete health facilities.

**Our medical facilities** lack essential resources, such as pharmaceutical products, ambulances, and household equipment. Additionally, our nurses' attitudes leave much to be desired. It is crucial to introduce client service as a dedicated course and implement in-service training nationwide. Many patients have voiced their complaints about the treatment they receive

from nurses while they are unwell, noting that the tone of their language can be quite rude and that they often do not know how to address patients properly. The issue of confidentiality is at stake at that ministry.

**The shortage of nurses and doctors is a significant concern.** Proper coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education must ensure that educational programs align with market needs. Additionally, the market should effectively communicate its requirements so that education can successfully prepare students to meet those demands. As am speaking now there is only one Nurse at Gam Clinic, when she takes the patient to the hospital she closes the clinic. You are gambling with citizens life vakwetu. Hon. Luvindao Visit Gam, I hope you know where it is!



**This budget must address the shortage of health facilities in the country,** such as Omuvero Wakatumba in the Otjombinde Constituency, Otjikango Tjozongarangombe in the Okakarara Constituency, and Ondjora in the Epukiro Constituency, as well as many other areas in Namibia. We should stop purchasing nurse uniforms from China, especially when we have vocational training centers in Namibia and local companies like Dinapama that can manufacture these uniforms.

**Transport: N\$2.7 billion allocated for FY2025/26.** You have allocated more money to transport than to agriculture. If you want more revenue to finance your budget, you must finance Agriculture more than Transport. Food security must be the priority area after Education and Health. Transport infrastructures are dilapidated in Namibia, and they are implemented in some regions, while some regions have only benefited from having one road that has been upgraded to the level of bitumen such as Otjozondjupa, Omaheke and Hardap and Oshikoto. You have roads such as the Du Plessis Plaas Epukiro, which is 48 km away and is being constructed in 6 years, which is equivalent to 8 km per annum. Otjombinde road, which is about 150km away, is being constructed 10 km per year, meaning it will take about 17 years to complete the road. But this Government has denied people of Otjimbingue a Tar Road from Karibib to Otjimbingue, the Same those of Omatjete from Omaruru to Omatjete both roads are about 120km but for the past 35 years this community has been deliberately and politically sidelined as they are not regarded as human beings to benefit from bitumen

standard roads programs. But some regions their roads are completed in short term, and they have less gravel than Tar roads while is not the case in some regions. Rural earth roads that take all of us here to our villages where we come from are not recognised; therefore, they are excluded from this budget. Therefore, I am urging the Minister of Finance and Minister of Works and Transport to realign their road priorities and allocate funds to the regions that have been disadvantage in the past and to rural earth roads across the country.

**Agriculture: N\$2.6 billion allocated for FY2025/26.** Hon. Minister of Finance, Agriculture is one of Namibia's most important sectors and a significant source of economic growth and industrial transformation. Denying this sector's money is a joke of the century. Most Namibians, if not all, depend directly or indirectly on the agricultural sector for their livelihood. This sector has been hard hit by drought for more than 5 seasons, followed by an outbreak of Lumpy skin disease and now a Locust outbreak in the Northern part of Namibia. As I am talking now, most of Namibia doesn't have access to auctions to market their animals, as the animal movement permit has been suspended since last month, and it may last up to the end of May. Your budget says nothing about the restocking programme, compensation to those who lost their animals and assistance to those who won't harvest due to the Locust outbreak. Your budget clearly denies past land distribution injustices, and it shows no empathy to the landless and dispossessed during and after the war of Genocide between 1904 and 1908. You prefer to buy more ammunition than to give people their land back and to start producing Onions and potatoes that we are importing from South Africa. You give more money to Ministry of Defence than Agriculture so that they transfer to the August 26, and to individual bank accounts. so that they can transfer to individual bank accounts. Children in Omaheke Region are dying of malnutrition, and your budget reflects nothing to that effect. In essence, it says let them continue dying. Very pathetic indeed. The persistent underfunding of land reform and resettlement programmes is deeply troubling. We speak of economic equity, yet land continues to be concentrated in the hands of a few. Our farmers lack access to basic veterinary services, markets, and infrastructure. Drought relief has become a seasonal promise with minimal impact. I call for increased allocations toward rural agricultural development, including drought-resistant seeds, water infrastructure, and mobile veterinary clinics.

Let's look at our operational expenditures, which happen to be the biggest component of the total budget allocation. I understand that this specific category consists of salaries, contributions to GIPF, Medical Aid, and subsistence and travel allowances (S&T).

**On the Medical Aid contributions:** The Government medical aid scheme is one of the worst options available. It often runs out of funds for consultation fees and over-the-counter expenses, and it does not adequately cover more serious illnesses that could require a month-long hospital stay. Additionally, many services from medical practitioners are not covered, requiring patients to pay upfront and seek reimbursement later, which can be a frustrating process. Therefore, the government should offer individuals more options so they can choose the category of contributions that best suits their needs.

**Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members,** there is one farmer who, when he retired, had over 300 cattle. After he got out of the office, he got sick. He have to cover most of his medical bills personally due to the fact that the Government Medical Aid scheme cannot cover some treatment, he sold most of his cattle to pay the bills and as I am speaking now he owns less than 30 cattle in the time frame of 5 years only due to the fact that he must cover his own medical treatment personally. This can happen to you, me and anyone in the Government medical aid.

**On the issue of subsistence and travel allowances (S&T):** It's pathetic to learn that as of 1<sup>ST</sup> April 2025, your S&T allowance doubled and, in some cases, quadrupled. The ministries and agencies that have already spent more on S&T should cut their spending and allocate that money to more pressing issues. Even general meetings tend to take place in another locality rather than the own boardroom to ensure that S&T is paid. The Prime Minister should issue a directive as a matter of urgency to all Government Ministries and Agencies to use their own boardrooms for meetings.

**On capital expenditure allocation,** you allocate a lot of money for infrastructure development, just to boost and brag about it, while our execution rate is very low due to red

tape and unnecessary bureaucracy of the Government Procurement System. It's a very disappointing practice, as government investment should promote economic growth and job creation in the country. We look forward to the President intervening in this regard to ensure 95%-100 % projection implementation within a clear stipulated timeframe.

#### **Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members**

As the country continues to run an expanded budget with a high deficit above 3 percent of GDP, which exceeds the SADC convergence target, it requires borrowing and debt buildup. A burden, surely, which will be passed to the future generation. With the increased stock of debt, our **statutory obligations become high**. The current interest payment stands at 13.7 billion, which is the second-highest allocation within the budget. This interest payment can run a fully fleshed ministry, but now we are paying interest on debts, which is an indication of a bad and poor governance system you have adopted.

**Hon. Minister, you have allocated 14,6 billion to the Ministry of Finance, of which 13,7 billion is interest payment on debts.** This is higher than the allocation to the Ministry of Health and Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Land Reform.

**It is worth noting that the GDP figure used in the budget appears to be overly optimistic.** This seems to contradict the data released by the Namibia Statistics Agency, which often shows lower GDP figures later (every year). It seems that tactics are being employed to make the fiscal indicators look better than they are.

#### **Conclusion:**

The 2025-26 Budget Statement reflects a balanced approach to managing economic growth, fiscal constraints, and social priorities. While the projections are optimistic, the budget's success will depend on effectively implementing and managing the outlined strategies.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including effective debt management, economic diversification, targeted social spending, and administrative reforms. The budget's success will depend on the government's ability to navigate these complexities and implement the outlined strategies efficiently. **“ I propose this budget to be referred and be corrected. Thus, is not approved.**

**The Last must be the First”.**