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**Contribution budget speech by:**

**Honourable Ambrosius Kumbwa, President of the All People's Party (APP),**

**On the Appropriation Bill 2025/2026 Financial Year, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

I rise to make a contribution on behalf of my party, the All People's Party (APP).

Allow me to begin by congratulating our fifth President and Mother of the Nation, Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia. I also extend my congratulations to Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia; Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Speaker of the National Assembly; the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Elijah Ngurare, and to all Cabinet Ministers and distinguished Members of the 8th Parliament. I wish you all strength and success as you steer our nation toward prosperity

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Finance and Social Grants, Honourable Ericah Shafudah, and her team for crafting a feasible budget under immense time pressure, under the theme: **“Beyond 35 for a Prosperous Future.”**

Furthermore, I wish to honour the memory of my predecessor and the founder of the All People's Party (APP), the late Ignatius Nkotonogo Shixwameni. May his soul continue to rest in peace.

As per our party's Manifesto, themed "**Narrowing the Gap Between the Rich and the Poor,**" the All People's Party (APP) prioritizes:

- Better education,
- Improved health facilities,
- Provision of potable water and food security,
- Revival of our Green Scheme projects, and
- Strengthening the capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission, among other urgent priorities.

As a nation, we must adopt policies that promote self-sustainability and domestic food security. A country that heavily relies on food imports cannot claim to be truly self-reliant and independent. This is the time to ensure a more inclusive, fair, and equitable economy—one that benefits all citizens. Only the equitable distribution of our scarce resources can effectively address poverty in this country.

**Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Thirty-five years after independence, we must do more to build a future of shared prosperity. We must create jobs and improve the living conditions of all Namibians. Tangible action is needed to address the housing crisis, especially in regions such as Erongo, Walvis Bay, and Aussenkehr (Noordoewer) grape farm in the ||Karas Region.

I propose that the allocation of **Two billion, six hundred ninety-seven million, eight hundred seventeen thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 2,697,817,000)** to Vote 17—Ministry of Urban and Rural Development—be reasonably increased. This would allow us to better serve historically deprived rural and urban areas, especially in regions that continue to be underrepresented in development opportunities.

It is unjust for the most deprived regions, based on current data, to receive the least allocations. This is inequitable, and it echoes a colonial mindset that must be addressed by the current governing authorities.

It is commendable that this bill prioritizes economic development through investment in infrastructure, housing, informal settlement upgrading, education, water, power generation, and health facilities. The inclusion of youth empowerment under capital expenditure is also a positive step, especially the allocation of **Twelve billion eight hundred million Namibian dollars (N\$ 12.8 billion)** toward capital investment for potential economic growth.

**Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,**

I must emphasize that corruption in the allocation of tenders severely undermines our efforts to fight unemployment and build trust. I align myself with the powerful words of Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, during her inauguration on 21 March 2025, when she stated: "*Corruption is treason.*" I therefore propose that the allocation to Vote 30—Anti-Corruption Commission—be reasonably increased for the following reasons:

1. The commission suffers from insufficient staffing.
2. It has a limited regional presence and requires expansion.
3. Specialized training is needed to increase public engagement and address the evolving nature of corruption.
4. Resources are inadequate to support operations across all 14 regions and a population of over 3 million.

The budget allocation of **Four hundred seventy-three million, three hundred thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 473.3 million)** for child welfare and social protection programmes must prioritize the most vulnerable in our society. Although we had hoped that the social grant for the elderly would be increased to **Three Thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 3000.00)**, as wished by the late President Dr. Hage Gottfried

Geingob, we are content with the current provisions under the circumstances.

**Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Government must urgently close the infrastructure gap in the education sector, particularly in rural areas and low-income communities. There is a need to expand primary healthcare services, clinics, and referral hospitals, and to recruit more medical personnel. Adequate resources must also be allocated for the acquisition of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment in previously underserved regions, such as the Kavango East, Kunene, Ohangwena and Zambezi Regions.

I am pleased to note the total allocation of **four hundred and fifty million Namibian dollars (N\$ 450 million)** to the Vote for Sports, broken down as follows:

- **Two hundred million Namibian dollars (N\$ 200 million)** for the construction of Category 2 stadiums nationwide,
- **Two hundred million Namibian dollars (N\$ 200 million)** for basic sports infrastructure, and
- **Fifty million Namibian dollars (N\$ 50 million)** for sports leagues.

I urge the responsible ministry to ensure that these stadiums are properly maintained and that income-generating activities are developed to keep them self-sustainable and in good condition.

With the blessing of good rainfall this year, we must revive our food systems and Green Scheme programmes. Let us return to full agricultural production and processing to reduce dependence on food imports through the revival of green scheme projects and encourages agro processing initiatives through local manufacturing and local value additions.

Sufficient funds must also be allocated to land acquisition to address the plight of generational farm workers. Additionally, investments must be

directed toward agricultural marketing in communal areas and improving processing and management capabilities within the agricultural sector.

**Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Namibia can afford this.

How?

The fish in our oceans are God-given resources. We do not feed them—they grow and multiply naturally. Yet, we continue to allocate fishing quotas to a select few through political affiliations and favoritism.

I propose that fish quotas be allocated to regional authorities through dedicated trust funds. This will empower regions to fund their local socio-economic activities based on their specific needs and priorities.

**Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,**

This budget must be directed toward addressing poverty and stimulating economic growth. Our goal should be to reduce, if not eradicate, poverty in Namibia.

The question of poverty is board. Poverty includes lack of access to portable drinking water, better education and health care as well as facilities. Better education does not only mean going to school every day or meeting the universal education goal, but the school should be within the reach, and not to walk a long distance. Not only that, but the learning and teaching environment should be conducive, the teaching and learning should not take place under the trees or in a temporal structure such as a thatched roof with a mad walls or a tent. Not attending a classes in a classroom without teaching and learning materials like textbooks, exercise books, computers, WIFI network and many more other modern learning and teaching too many school dropouts due to teenage pregnancy and not making it to tertiary institutions as a result of the unfavorable conditions in our country.

In conclusion, I would like to revisit the **Fifty million Namibian dollars (N\$50 million)** previously allocated by this august House for the renovation of the Independence Stadium. To date, no work has been done, and our national team continues to play home matches outside the country—at great inconvenience and cost.

As a nation, we must move beyond theoretical discussions and prioritize **implementation**. We must be efficient and prudent in how we utilize our scarce resources.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, for your kind attention.

**I support the Appropriation Bill.**