



Maiden Speech

By

Hon Sirkka Ausiku

SWAPO Party Member of Parliament

15 April 2025

Hon Deputy Speaker
Hon Members

I rise today in this August House with humility to give my Maiden Speech. Standing here is Sirkka Ausiku, representing the SWAPO Party from the great Kavango West Region. I am a teacher by profession, an administrator and here I am now. Firstly, I would like to thank God for protecting me throughout my life. I would also like to thank SWAPO Party members and supporters and Namibians at large, for giving our Party another mandate for the next five (5) years. As a member of the Party, I don't take this trust for granted.

Additionally, I would also like to thank H.E Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, our 2nd President for appointing me as the Regional Governor for the newly created Kavango West Region in 2014, and late H.E Dr. Hage G. Geingob, our 3rd President may his soul continue to rest in eternal peace, for reappointing me in the same position.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate H.E Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah for her election as the 1st Female President of our Republic. I also want to congratulate our Hon. Speaker through you Hon. Deputy Speaker on her election as the First Female Speaker of the National Assembly and in the same vein congratulate the Rt. Hon Prime Minister, Munona, Cde. Ndjikiti Dr. Elijah Ngurare and the entire Cabinet on their appointments.

Hon Deputy Speaker
Hon Members,

I will dedicate my time in this August House to advocate for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of our people. During my time here, I would like to focus on the following areas namely; Rural development, Education, Health, Agriculture, Youth empowerment, Gender equality, focusing on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Equal

distribution of our resources to all Namibians. I will also advocate for Parliament as collective to strengthen our oversight functions to monitor the implementation of the budget. This is necessary because the Regional visits of some of the Standing Committees do not give hope to our people, there are capital projects in some Regions that are budgeted for, year in and year out but not implemented, a case in point are two (2) projects in Kavango West Region, namely Nkurenkuru District Hospital & Bravel Primary school for the San Community in Mpungu Constituency.

Hon. Deputy Speaker

Hon. Members

Poverty and unemployment is a reality we are facing as a nation, and is affecting our people, especially in the rural areas where 60% of our population resides, as well as in the Informal Settlements of our towns. This is evident in the Multidimensional Poverty Index Report of 2021, by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), indicating that incidences of multidimensional poverty are the highest in Kavango West at 79.6%, Kavango East at 70.0% and Kunene at 64.1 %, and unemployment especially among the youth is equally as high in these Regions.

Our communities in rural areas and in the Informal Settlements lack basic infrastructure like water, electricity, roads, houses, communication networks, sanitation, health and education facilities, to mention but a few. I will therefore advocate for equal distribution of resources to all Regions to address these challenges. Budget allocation must be informed by the available statistics on the development need of each Region e.g. we have some Constituencies with no gravel roads, no electricity, learners being taught under trees, no sport facilities and we have also some Constituencies where community members and learners walk more than 30km to the nearest clinic or nearest school.

Our Small and Medium Enterprises in the Regions are not empowered financially; there are no markets for our Small Scale Farmers involved in

livestock and Horticulture production in the Regions to help create employment and to stimulate local economy. I believe that rural development and creating the necessary developmental opportunities, is the only effective strategy to address rural-urban migration. These are bread and butter issues that I would advocate for, to be addressed during my time in Parliament. I will also advocate for the passing of the Regional and Constituency Development Fund Bill to fast track development in the 14 Regions.

Hon. Deputy Speaker

Hon. Members

As I conclude I want to thank all my teachers and my lecturers, who shaped my life through education, my late Father, Ou Kefas may his soul continue to rest in peace, for supporting my education by sending me to Oshigambo High School during the difficult period in the history of our country, that of the war of our liberation struggle, my dear Mom and my children, my family for their unwavering support throughout my education and career journey. I want also to thank my family at Oshigambo and Oniipa who opened their homes for me during my study period at Oshigambo High School.

Finally, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for tabling a well balanced budget and I am looking forward for the 3rd reading, when individual votes will be motivated, and I support the Appropriation Bill.

I thank you Deputy Speaker and I submit!