

MAIDEN SPEECH BY HONOURABLE LINDA MBALE

*Member of Parliament & Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare
Republic of Namibia*

**Honourable Speaker,
Esteemed Members of Parliament,**

It is both an honour and a privilege to rise before this esteemed House today to deliver my maiden speech as a newly elected Member of Parliament and as the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

My name is Linda Mbwale serving in this august house under the SWAPO Party ticket.

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my family for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout my journey. In particular, I would like to thank my husband Mr. Mbwale, for his love, strength, and for allowing me the space and freedom to participate fully in the political life of our country. His support has been a foundation of my commitment to serve.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members

My journey began in the classrooms of Omusati Region, where I served as a teacher, nurturing young minds and witnessing first-hand transformative power of education. Later, as the Mayor of Ruacana Town, I learned the importance of grassroots leadership and the need to bridge the gap between policy and the people it serves. These experiences have shaped my unwavering commitment to rural development and education.

As a proud daughter of Namibia, I carry the legacy of our independence struggle—a legacy that reminds us of the resilience and unity that brought us freedom. But freedom is not enough; we must ensure that every Namibian, regardless of their background, has access to equal opportunities that uplift and empower livelihoods.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members

I extend my deepest appreciation to Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, for her confidence in me. I am humbled by her decision to include me on the parliamentary list and to entrust me with the responsibility of serving as Deputy Minister. I pledge to honour this appointment with dedication, humility, and a strong sense of duty to our people.

Honourable Speaker

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Her Excellency the President, the Vice-President, Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi, the Speaker of the National Assembly, ^{Kaaitamekw} hon Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Prime Minister Hon Elijah Ngurare, the Deputy Prime Minister Hon Natangwe Ithete, all newly appointed Ministers and Deputy Ministers, and all Members of Parliament. May our collective efforts contribute meaningfully to the progress and development of our beloved nation.

As a new Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister, I am committed to serving with integrity and compassion, particularly in the areas of gender equality, child welfare, and social justice. I believe that empowering women and protecting the rights of our children is not only a moral imperative but a national priority.

Honourable Speaker,

In conclusion, I wish to express my full support for the national budget. It speaks directly to the core issues that matter deeply to me: the development of our youth—both boys and girls—gender equality, the strengthening of primary education, and the fight against poverty. These are not just policy priorities; they are personal commitments that I carry into this role.

Let us work together to build a Namibia where every child can dream, where every woman can lead, and where no citizen is left behind.

I thank you.