



Republic of Namibia

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENTARY MAIDEN SPEECH

BY

**RT. HONOURABLE DR TJITUNGA ELIJAH NGURARE,
PRIME MINISTER, MP**

17 APRIL 2025

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members

I rise with humility and respect, especially for the Youthful Generation in this August House. At the onset, I thank God for the blessings and my family for life. I congratulate Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on her historic election as First Female President of the Republic of Namibia and I thank her for my appointment as Prime Minister and my inclusion in this 8th Parliament.

I am here in the executive and in the legislature to support the President and the mandate given to her by the Namibian people, to implement the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto – a social contract she personally championed across all regions. She travelled to each of our 14 Regions and listened to the views of the Namibian people; she listened to the young and to the old. The people have invested their hopes in her leadership, and we in the executive and here in the legislature must be

united to assist her in fulfilling those aspirations. Above all, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am here as a servant of my generation, dedicated to serve our people and country.

I also salute the Secretary General of SWAPO Party Comrade Sophia Shaaningwa, for your support and leadership. I salute the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of SWAPO and congratulate all Members of the 8th Parliament including my colleagues in Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

Honourable Deputy Speaker,

I wish to singularly recognize and congratulate Honourable Immanuel Shawana Nashinge, Leader of the Official Opposition, IPC, we worked together when he was Secretary of Economic Affairs for the SWAPO Party Youth League; Honourable Prof Job Shipululo Amupanda, Leader of AR, we worked together when he was Secretary of Information and Publicity for the SWAPO Party Youth League; Honourable Bernadus Clinton Swartbooi, Leader of LPM, he too we worked together when he was Secretary of SWAPO Party Youth League; Honourable McHenry Venaani, Leader of PDM, we worked together as a youth of our generation; Honourable Evaristus Kaaronda, Leader of SWANU, we worked together as a youth of our generation; Honourable Vetaruhe Kandorozi, Leader of NUDO, we worked together as a youth of our generation; Honourable Ambrosius Kumbwa, Leader of APP, a youth of our generation; Honourable Kalimbo lipumbu, leader of NEEF, we worked together as a youth of our generation, Honourable Hendrik Gaobaeb, Leader of UDF, a friendly elder to our generation; Honourable Mathias Mbundu, Leader of RP, a youth of our generation; Honourable Lukato Lukato, Leader of NDP, a friendly elder of our generation; Honourable Festus Thomas, Leader of Body of Christ, a friendly Christian leader to us all.

As you can see Honourable Members, from your side of the aisle as opposition parties, to this side of the aisle as a majority party, we are the same generation in the majority. To name but a few, the Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taye, Honourable Erica Shafudah, Honourable Lucia lipumbu, Honourable Veikko Nekundi, Honourable Paulus Natangwe Iithete, Honourable Ephraim Nekongo, Honourable Immanuel Wise, Honourable Willem Amutenya, Honourable Sharonice

Busch, Honourable Fenny Tutjavi, Honourable Marius Sheya, Honourable Jennely Matundu, Honourable Emma Theofilus, Honourable Emma Kantema, Honourable Sirrka Ausiku, Honourable Paula Kooper, Honourable James Uerikua, Honourable Elder Filipe amongst others were this same generation. Even the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are members of our collective generation.

Honorable Deputy Speaker, Honorable Members,

My name is Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare, born in a peasant family at Nkurenkuru, Kavango West. My upbringing, marked by hard work and responsibility as the firstborn, instilled in me the values of patience, resilience, and selfless sacrifice. Like all boys of my generation, I looked after my parents livestock, pounded mahangu, fetched firewood, walked for long distances to fetch water and attended to all other domestic chores.

I am a product of the saying “it takes a village/community to raise a child.” I am so grateful to the opportunity of growth given me by many individuals from Nkurenkuru, Siurungu, Nyangana, Katjinakatji to Arandis. I thank my first teacher Onya Tembe, she taught us under a tree at Kakuro village on the outskirts of Nkurenkuru. I thank my primary, secondary and university teachers especially the late Mitili Jaakko Kangayi. I thank my pastors Rev Hausiku, Rev Kaapanda and many others. I thank our traditional leaders especially the late Hompa Sientu Mpasi and Hompa Linus Shashipapo who directly instilled values of manhood and community support in me at an early age.

To my family, thank you for your unwavering belief. To my mother, Nana NyaTjitunga, and my late father, Tata Jonas Ngurare Manongo, thank you for life. To my late grandmother, Kuku Katrina Malesu Mupunga and grandfather, Kuku Tjihinga Lupale, my late aunt Nya Ndembola and uncle Pastor Joseph Nsamba, thank you for cherished memories and lessons.

To the Kambindas, Shandus, Kaapandas, Gontes, Kaimbis, Endjala, Kandji, Shaanika, Shiveras, Karuombes, Kashikolas, Uushonas, Harasebs, Triebs, Hangulas, Namudjebos, Shanyenganas,

McLunes, Welshes, Armstrongs I owe immense debt of gratitude. I also remember the late Mrs. Cornelia Muhuura and the late Mr. Gabriel Nater Accam for their profound influence.

To my wife, Dr. Albertina Mbuta Ngurare, thank you for your love and support. You have remained Ndjikitani on my side despite the clouds of political challenges. You have mastered the art of cooking mutete deliciously. To our children Lee, Eloy, Malesu and Tjitunga Jnr and granddaughters Shidona and Vihemba, thank you for reminding me what is important. To my prayer warriors, all over Namibia, thank you very much for your strength.

Honorable Deputy Speaker, Honorable Members,

My years in the youth fraternity taught me the importance of empowering others. While I faced personal challenges, I recognize that many in our society face far greater hardships, and we must strive to assist them practically. Everything life had thrown at me, I regard it as a classroom of experience and resolve towards service delivery.

An experience from my time as Secretary of the SWAPO Party Youth League illustrates our commitment to action. After visiting Elavi village (Oshikoto Region) and learning of the need for water, we took the initiative to drill a borehole through fundraising, despite lacking an initial budget. We then handed it over to the government.

Later, as Director of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination, we successfully lobbied for a significant increase in the national borehole drilling budget, enabling us to provide water not just in Elavi, but across all 121 constituencies from Warmbad in //Karas Region to Queenstown in Zambezi Region and address the critical needs in crocodile-prone areas mainly along the Kavango River.

This demonstrates our attitude towards addressing the real issues facing our people. We don't just talk; we act with unwavering commitment. Our work in these early weeks of office mirrors our long-standing dedication. We have always stood with the downtrodden, with our artists, the unemployed, and the essential service providers such as nurses, teachers, police, soldiers etc. Now,

with executive and legislative power, thanks to Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, we must deliver the solutions outlined in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. Failure is not an option.

Service delivery must be our collective focus, requiring political and economic unity for the benefit of all Namibians, regardless of political affiliation. For example, the long-awaited Nkurenkuru District Hospital must be realized, and existing hospitals must be adequately resourced. Pregnant women should not have to travel long distances for basic care. No child must die of malnutrition. The education of our children deserves proper infrastructure, no child should learn under trees. To this end, we stand with the Ministers of Health and Education in achieving these goals.

This N\$106 billion budget, as expertly presented by the Minister of Finance, is crucial for addressing the needs of our people, and we must give it our full support. Anyone proclaiming not to support this budget is therefore being insensitive to the plight of our people.

Honorable Members, Honorable Deputy Speaker,

I am also graduate who once faced unemployment despite my qualifications. I support this budget because it recognizes the urgent need for job creation across various sectors of our country especially for our youth. I take this aspect not lightly. Unemployment has a human face and it takes a toll especially on thousands of our unemployed young professionals. Every penny of this budget must therefore count and every dollar must reach each household of our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members,

When I was SPYL Secretary, I prioritized creating opportunities for others before seeking parliamentary office myself. This period, though financially challenging, provided invaluable lessons. I am deeply grateful to His Excellency the late Founding President Sam Nujoma and His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for their guidance. I also thank the late Cde Dr Ngarikutuke Tjiriange and the late Minister John Alphons Pandeni for their mentorship and the

opportunity to work closely with traditional authorities from Ondonga Traditional Authority to Okakurukouje Traditional Authority.

I express my gratitude to the late Founding President H.E. Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, H.E. Cde Hifikepunye Pohamba, the late H.E. Comrade Hage Geingob, H.E. Cde Nangolo Mbumba, Cde Jerry Ekandjo, the late Cde Marco Hausiku, Cde Pendukeni Iivula Iithana, Cde Petrina Haingura, Cde Richard Kamwi, Cde Nahas Angula, Cde Helmut Angula, Cde Isak Katali and now Her Excellency Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. I also acknowledge the wisdom of stalwarts like Cde Kanana Hishoono, Cde Vinia Ndadi, and Comrade Ben Amathila. The late H.E. Cde Sam Nujoma's contribution to my development has been immense. I shall forever treasure the tutelage of his guidance and support.

Honorable Deputy Speaker, Honorable Members,

As I indicated earlier, this 8th Parliament is largely composed of a younger generation from both the ruling and opposition parties. Our shared generational identity presents an opportunity. Will we focus on the real issues affecting our people, or will we engage in unproductive rhetoric or by extension wanting to become parliamentary movie stars? In my opinion, our conduct should reflect servant leadership, not linguistic battles.

We have a chance to unite on matters of basic needs and demonstrate to our elders that the sacrifices of our liberation struggle and the war of resistance were not in vain. Let's seize the moment. We must build upon the foundation they laid and drive Namibia towards economic prosperity for all. Our parliamentary debates should reflect the lives and concerns of all Namibians.

On a lighter note, by unity of the generation I also mean if for example Honourable Hengari or Honourable Moongo invites us to their respective weddings one day, we must be able to attend; equally if Honourable Sheya or Honourable Uerikua invites opposition members to their respective weddings they (opposition members) too must be able to attend without barriers of political differences.

Honourable Members,

As we consider the Budget Votes in the coming days, I urge us to be guided by the imperatives of youth empowerment, rural development, informal settlement upliftment, and genuine economic empowerment. Her Excellency the President has placed her trust in many young people; our work in Parliament should complement her vision. Let us continue to support her in service to our nation.

Honorable Deputy Speaker, Honorable Members,

In the words of the late Hompa Kassian Shiyambi, "shirongo shina mene mayegho" – Namibia has come of age, and so have many of us. We are now parents and grandparents, serving in the public eye. The elections of 27 November 2024, demonstrated the will of the Namibian people, who have given SWAPO a strong mandate. It is also the will of the Namibian people that we have the opposition parties as they are. We respect them and they too must respect the Majority Party as entrusted by the Namibian people.

As a Majority Party, we will not be deterred by attacks or shouts; instead, it will strengthen our resolve to advance our national agenda. While we seek cooperation, we are prepared to defend our electoral mandate. We do not seek to transform parliament into a battleground of shouts. The Namibian people expect us to work together regardless of our political differences.

On a personal note, I am not in parliament for wealth or grandeur. I pray that God continues to guide me with the same principles of Ndjikiti that have sustained me over the years. These principles are worth more than silver and gold. I have been poor in wealth but my bank accounts of humanity must continue to overflow. I shall therefore be guided by my conscience to do the right thing at all material times to treat all Namibians fairly and shun all retrogressive tendencies of corruption, favoritism, tribalism and/or racism.

To this end, **Honourable Members**, being in Parliament is not a personal achievement but an opportunity to work collectively towards a better standard of living for every Namibian household

—access to water, electricity, housing, income, education, and sanitation. In my opinion, this is our shared goal as Members of Parliament. Let our tenure be defined by this commitment, and I invite our colleagues in the opposition to join us in this clarion call of addressing bread and butter issues. Let us do so regardless of our political affiliations.

Dear Opposition Members, I appeal on you to support this budget, so that we can ensure job creation for majority of our people; so that we continue to develop green schemes including small scale agricultural schemes countrywide, let us realize desalination projects including the one for northern regions of Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Kavango West, let us expand borehole drilling, support young farmers with borehole drilling subsidy, ensure adequate resources for clinics and hospitals, let no child be taught under a tree or unimproved educational facility; let us empower our vocational training centers and for the National Youth Service to be first respondents to national disaster. As a former employee of the University of Namibia and the International University of Management as well as having worked closely with the Namibia University of Science and Technology, I am confident that institutions of higher learning have a crucial role to play in this march forward towards building local capacity in all sectors.

In the final analysis, let the humanity of our people reign supreme in our thoughts and action. Our common denominator must be to advance the National interest and Security of Namibia under the guiding principle of: "One Namibia One Nation" in all 121 Constituencies and 14 Regions of country. The solutions to our challenges as a country are within us. In doing so, no mountain must be too high to climb and no valley too low to mow in the implementation of these solutions. This is our unwavering path. **Honourable Deputy Speaker**, I fully support the Budget.

May God bless this August House. May God Bless Namibia. I thank you.