

Maiden Speech & Contribution to the 2025/2026 Appropriation Bill

HON... ALOISIUS KANGULU IPC MEMBER OF THE 8th NA 2025-2030

WINDHOEK 10 APRIL 2025 Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members of this August House, allow me to begin with insightful words of Julius Nyerere - "If true development is to occur, the people must be involved" this words resonate deeply not only with the core ideology of Independent Patriot for Change (IPC) but also my own personal dedication to involved in serving the people of Namibia.

I stand before you today, humbled and deeply honored, as I present my maiden speech and certainly contribution to the proposed budget. The responsibility entrusted to me by the Namibian people, particularly by the members and supporters of the Independent Patriots for Change (IPC), is one I do not take lightly. It is with great commitment and purpose that, I ALOISIUS KANGULU originally from Oshitutuma Village rise on sense of profound gratitude to the people of Namibia who deemed it fit and democratically necessary to represent them in this August house, ultimately if it could not be our John Walker, our Kandjafa in fact Dr Itula, whom indeed compared by many to a biblical Moses of this Nation, having come to strengthen our democracy, if not on a living testimony some of us might have no chance to be politically empowered, in that regard and from the bottom of my heart, I sincerely cherish the determination of this gallant Son of the soil for his leadership quality, compassion and resilience.

I can't stand here without recognizing our entire leadership from top to the bottom for we remain the champion of true democracy in our desire for a transformed Namibia. Special thanks to my beautiful and lovely wife, my daughters, family and friends for their continue supports.

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members,

As we deliberate in this August house, let us not lose sight of the real challenges that our people endure daily. Among the most pressing issues that demand our urgent attention remains unemployment particularly on youth who are considered the backbone to every Nations of the world. Land and Housing for many of our people who are spending nights of heavy rain and stand unfavorable cold weather under these bridges, if not undesirable non roof houses. The plight of our men and women in uniform—our soldiers, police officers, and prison officers—who, despite their invaluable service, continue to live under terrible conditions. It is unacceptable that in independent Namibia, these brave men and women, who dedicate their lives to safeguard our nation, are still subjected to live in make shift houses, due to inadequate accommodation, decent salaries and lack of proper uniforms. Lack of policy in rewards merit and qualified cadres as well as long serving across all fields remain a challenge that required to be address, if not we will keep on losing quality soldiers as a results of frustrating system. Just Imagine a member that served for 15 years or more but he/she still a troop, L/Cpl or, many of them hold degree or so but their gualifications are meaningless within the system. Their contribution are limited, opportunities are denied leading to the total eroded moral. The is a need for comprehensive review on the placement, promotion in both consideration be it qualification, long serving or so.

It is imperative that the government put the well-being of our security personnel first, their salary must be a sustainable one, that promote their ultimate confident in the course of discharging their obligations.

We must commit to ensure provision of housing, and sustainable living conditions and adequate resources in order for them to perform their duties effectively, knowing well they are remunerated fairly. A well-equipped and well-motivated security force is essential for the stability and prosperity of our nation. It is time we move beyond rhetoric and take decisive action to seriously uplift those who serve and protect this nation.

Honorable Speaker, Hon Members

I must also address another matter that continues to cast a dark shadow over our nation—the ongoing reverberation of the Fish rot scandal. The corruption surrounding the fishing industry has not only undermined public trust in our institutions but has also left thousands of Namibian fishermen and their families in destitution. These are hardworking men and women who, through no fault of their own, have been stripped of their livelihoods due to lack of leadership, greed and selfishness of a few individuals. Few days ago, we read in the newspaper, a statement insist not to focus on the past corruption, the question remain, is such statement really reflect the expectation of our people-votes in fighting corruption? Does that statement truly in conformity with the oath we took? I thought leadership requires consistence and persistence above all.

It is our moral duty as law makers, to ensure that justice is served, through relevant laws that speak to the needs of our people, and that the victims of this scandal are not forgotten. The fishing industry, which could be a pillar of economic stability and employment for our coastal communities and every citizen who migrated to the coastal towns in anticipation for job practically at sea, has instead become a ground of self-enrichment. To such end this 8th Parliament must strengthen policies while embracing monitoring and evaluation mechanism, for zero Torrance to corruption. The Minister must go beyond measure and degree of humility in humanity to ensure urgent intervention to reintegrate fishermen back into the workforce as the current redress program remain another fishrot at its own dimension. The time for empty promises has passed; time for action is now.

Issue of devastation coursed by heavy rain in many party of our country, including even the non-rain zone town of Walvis and Swakopmund that leave our people in a yet more vulnerable living condition, roads with multiple potholes or ponds, further required an urgent Government intervention but not just to presumably become an IPC issue simply because people democratically chooses a different political home and ultimately leadership changes within these local Government. The notion of "even if opposition win LA and RC, we still control the National cake" must be condemned with strongest term it deserve, November is coming.

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members

As a committed member of the IPC, I stand firm in our party's commitment to accountability, social justice, and the eradication of corruption. Once again, we owe it to our people to rebuild their trust in governance by demonstrating ethical leadership and enacting law and policies that address their real concerns.

Allow me to further stress with clarion call upon all Honorable Members in this House, regardless of political affiliation, to always remember why we are here as to truly serve the people of Namibia, to restore dignity to our Youth, Security personnel, to uplift our struggling fishermen, and to fight against corruption in all its forms. Only through collective effort can we build a Namibia that is truly just, equitable, and prosperous for all.

In a nutshell, I recognize efforts by Honorable Minister of Finance for her commitments to have tabled the appropriation bill for 2025/26 budget. However it remains a challenge for one to effectively debate on a very important aspect brought to us just a week ago. We must mitigate the subscribe time of two months prior as per rule 200 (1) on a ground of sufficient time for the members to critically analyze and scrutinize the proposed budget.

We must further avoid the norm of just ratifying or approving without fully understanding and proper interrogation of the elements involved.

Moreover, I am concern if the is really room to reconsider or accommodate possible amendment on this proposed budget following various positive recommendations by this house, or must we just contribute for as long as given allocated time to talk without necessarily any course for impactful change or perfection.

When the people of Namibia /voters call for change, they truly mean genuine change (way we do things, reason, and implements) and if we are not carefully to listen and adapt to their calls, they will reject us during mobilization and election time.

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members,

I would like to briefly encapsulate quantification view in respect of the proposed budget allocation to the Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs for the 2025/2026 financial year. A budget of N\$7.49 billion, that increase from last year's allocation of N\$6.6 billion with favorable increase on the capital development budget to about N\$579 million from N\$498 million as of 2024.

That gravitate a move of not merely just an expenditure line but an investment in National economic stability, while it remains a positive indicators to our sustainable performance. Is worthy noticed that the Minister consider such allocation looking into the important and significant demand of this Ministry as it really require sufficient budget in order to enhance capacity and capability in a row of their commitments and mandate of accomplishing local, national and global

security obligation, <u>remember Namibia Military Strength</u> (NDF) ranked 116 of 145 out of the countries considered for the annual Global Firepower review in terms of global military rankings, as results I wish more allocation to this vote in the future.

In addition, Namibia like some other Nations, is navigating in a complex terrain with social disintegration, regional insecurity, and natural disasters for that matter. In response, our Defense Ministry must be evolving beyond its traditional role. With consideration of propose allocation, a bold and innovative approach is required in safeguards our territorial integrity and our sovereignty.

Meeting and fulfilling the pride of the Veterans of our liberation struggle by ensuring their benefit, such as project payment, housing & medical provision, as well as psychosocial care, to be accelerated.

Lastly investing in Infrastructure (bases), technology advancement, innovative security approach as well as modernizing our system in preparedness for dynamic military institution that is effective and efficient to counter any security threat. Against such background our attention in regard of Windoek Machinenfabric(WMF), which is likely a while elephant, a need to revived it as we navigate the world of technology demand.

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members

As a proud Shadow Minister of Defence & Veteran Affairs, I stood to lender the necessary supports to Hon Minister and indeed to the entire Ministry in an effort to position our Military Institution competitively. My role in as far as accountability and transparency is concern, through oversight, scrutinize policies and actions of this Ministry/Minister while offering alternative policies remain a commendable collective approach in line with Art 41 "All ministers shall be accountable individually for the administration of their own ministries and collectively for the administration of the work of the cabinet, both the president and to parliament'.

I want to close in a prudent and perceptive legacy of our Founding President Sam Shafiishuna Nuyoma "A People united and striving to achieve common good for all members of society will always emerge victorious"

I so submit and I thank you.