

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR VOTE 08:
DEFENCE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26 BY
HONOURABLE FRANS KAPOFI, MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT, MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS
AFFAIRS**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members of this August House

1. I am honoured to present to this August House the budget allocation for Vote 08: Defence, for the Fiscal Year 2025/26. This opportunity affords this House a moment to assess, evaluate and validate the implementation of the activities that the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) had undertaken to carry out during the previous Financial Year in fulfilment of its contract with the Namibian people as well as to understand the programmes put in place by the Ministry to conduct national security and sovereignty.

2. Last year, when I presented the Defence Budget Statement on 4 April 2024, I thought it would be my last time to perform that honourable responsibility for the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. However, on 22 March 2025, my opinion changed when Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah reappointed me in the same portfolio. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, for the trust and confidence she has bestowed upon me with this appointment. My reappointment has afforded me continuity as the Ministry is currently preoccupied with the transformation process of the Defence Force and its support systems. The transformation came about as a result of the natural attrition of the experienced combatants through retirement and the ever-changing defence and security environment. I am therefore confident that, within the next five years, the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs would have realised the aspirations of Vision 2030 to a great extent.

3. Before I continue Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this August House, I wish to extend congratulations to the Speaker, Dr. Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on her election as speaker of the National Assembly. I also congratulate Rt Hon. Dr. Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare on his appointment as Prime Minister and as such leader of government business in Parliament. Equally, I extend fraternal congratulations to all my comrades, most of whom are dynamic young people who are ready to step into the shoes of the old guard. Since the opening of the first session of the 8th Parliament, I have observed the vibrancy of the young members of Parliament from the other side of the aisle. I listened to them as they delivered their maiden speeches. You have maintained the decorum of the house to an extent possible. So, congratulations to you all.

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4. The Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Erica Shafudah, when she presented the Budget Statement for the 2025/26 Financial Year, she informed us that the Budget Proposals for and the FY2025/26 to FY2027/28 Medium Term Expenditure Framework are anchored under the theme “*Beyond 35: For a Prosperous Future*”. What a dream! What a dream, meaning, are we of the same understanding of this theme? Does it mean the same thing to all of us, or does it mean different things? I am posing these questions because I discussed the theme with a friend, where I realised that our understandings differ. One understands the theme to be referring to 35 years of Namibia’s independence, while another understands it to mean beyond the year 2035.

What remains true, though, is that whether what is meant is the number of the years that Namibia has been independent or it is referring to the end of the 1st term of Her Excellency Dr. Nandi-Ndaitwah's presidency, the future of Namibia goes beyond the year 2035.

5. From MODVA's line of thinking, therefore, a Prosperous Future is an environment where our national stability is fully protected from all forms of threats, which may include military, economic, social and environmental factors which can negatively impact the quality of life and choices available to the country and its people. Informed by the national dream as projected by Honourable Shafudah, we are looking forward to a Prosperous Namibia whose physical integrity and territory are preserved well; its economic relations with the rest of the world are well maintained on reasonable terms; its environment, institution, and governance are protected from external disruptions; while its borders are well controlled and managed.

6. Given that understanding, allow me, Honourable Members, to bring to your attention that the Defence and Security programmes are developed, informed by current events and future predictions. This is the reason why the collection and critical analysis of information, monitoring of events and prediction of what is likely to happen in the future are very important. The security developments in our immediate neighbourhood will always be followed with keen interest because the spill-over effects therefrom can be rapid and devastating. On the other hand, security developments elsewhere, however distant they may be, can always have ramification effects even in faraway places.

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7. During the past year and until today, we have been and are still monitoring the security hotspots in the SADC Region. Currently, the political situation in the SADC region is relatively stable, with Member States holding democratic elections as per their constitutions. Threats of and perpetration of post-elections violence have taken place in some countries. The most worrying situation is, however, the ongoing conflict in the eastern part Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the simmering tensions that persist between the DRC and Rwanda despite ongoing peace negotiations. It is our hope that a peaceful solution is found to this conflict driven by the Congolese people themselves.

8. On the African Continent, the political and security situation is generally stable, not without mentioning that the West Africa region has become deeply polarized, exacerbating the already existing instability, with the Central Sahel region continuing to face persistent high levels of violence.

9. Globally, despite the ceasefire agreements that were brokered between Israel and Lebanon as well as between Israel and Hamas during the period under review, the security landscape in the Middle East remains volatile as Israel has resumed attacks on Hamas and Hezbollah localities, leading to the indiscriminate killing of the innocent Palestinian civilians for only asking or demanding their nationhood, sovereignty - their inalienable rights to self-determination.

10. We are also concerned that the unceasing Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to have direct political and socio-economic impacts on Africa and the world. We are, however, hopeful that the efforts to bring Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table may bring about a lasting solution.

The ongoing trade stand-off between the US and China and the general change in the US foreign policy require continuous monitoring for us to be able to mitigate the effects that may arise therefrom.

11. Every conflict of war in the world has the potential to fuel conflict elsewhere. This has even become more pronounced because of the advent of lethal autonomous weapon systems. The availability of sophisticated weapon systems (sometimes through the black market or with the support of some States) to non-state groups, as well as the employment of drones, has become a force multiplier in all the ongoing conflicts. The application of asymmetric (non-conventional) warfare tactics by the armed groups constrains conventional forces in their response. This then makes the future look bleak and thus demands that the States prepare themselves for any eventualities, and Namibia is no exception.

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12. During the last financial year, MODVA was allocated **Six Billion, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 6,883,897,000.00)** The biggest pie equivalent to approximately **63%** went into **Personnel Expenditure**, about **23%** went into **Goods and Other Services** while **14%** was spent on the **Acquisition of Capital Assets and Infrastructure Development**.

I am glad that the Personnel Expenditure pie was reduced by 4% from 67% to 63% during the preceding Financial Year, resulting in an increase of 2% each to Goods and other Services and Acquisition of Capital Assets and Infrastructure Development. This development is positive as more resources are starting to be geared towards the development of the Defence Force.

13. MODVA has prudently and efficiently executed last year's budget with an Execution Rate of 99.9%, for which we are assured of an unqualified audit. I am also proudly reporting that we received an unqualified audit report for FY2023/24, which makes it five years in a row. The Accountability Report for the FY2023/24 and the Execution Report for the FY2023/24 were presented during the Mid-Term Budget Review by the Hon. Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

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14. During the last Financial Year, we witnessed the graduation of **One Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Seven (1387)** young recruits on 25 September 2024 and the graduation of **One Hundred and Forty-Eight (148)** Officer Cadets on 4 December 2024. This is the group that I reported last year to have commenced their basic training on 7 December 2023 as part of the Force Rejuvenation drive. We have also initiated the recruitment process for another group of about 1,500 youngsters. They were supposed to have started their training in April, but the commencement date was postponed due to unforeseen challenges in two Regions. Furthermore, **Two Thousand Five Hundred and Thirteen (2513)** members of the defence force participated in specialised training both at individual and collective levels inside and outside of the country.

15. The NDF continued to conduct operations and provide support to Civil Authorities and Communities as per Government direction. Since last year, we have to date trucks, drivers and other troops participating in the distribution of drought relief aid. We have also recently beefed up the emergency teams with helicopters and other additional resources to respond to the devastating flood in the Northern Regions. The Defence Force conducted border and maritime patrols using all the necessary platforms available. It continued to assist the Namibian

Police in anti-poaching operations and combating other criminal activities.

16. MODVA continued to enhance engagements with the Defence institutions of friendly states. Partnerships with friendly countries within the Region and beyond help build confidence and foster cooperation to improve collective responses to common security challenges. In this regard, Namibia and Botswana commenced last year in July to carry out Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities targeting communities living along the common border, sensitising them on the importance of peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness. There are also ongoing joint border verification and clearance operations taking place along the Namibia/Zambia border from Katima Mulilo to the Singalamwe border posts.

17. We have also continued to implement existing agreements with sister Defence Institutions of Friendly States from Africa and elsewhere in the world. We have also honoured our multilateral commitments and obligations by participating in multilateral engagements, including upholding our Stand-by arrangement commitments.

18. The modernisation of the Defence Force for the future has taken centre stage over the period under review. We have added two birds to our Air Force fleet, which has improved our airlift capacity. Thanks to this delivery, we were able to facilitate the transportation of the remains of our National Hero, H.E. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, to the regions (MHSRIEP).

19. Last year, I also reported on the progress made in the revitalisation of the Defence Industry. The Windhoek Maschinen Fabrik has shown signs of improvement in terms of innovation. It has also enhanced its vehicle modification, refurbishment, repair, and

maintenance capacity, becoming a reliable service provider to MODVA, the Namibian Police, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform.

20. Sat- Com's capacity to satisfy both local and international markets is gaining traction. The company's capacity has been enhanced, and it has successfully exported some of its products to international markets for the past financial year. Apart from satisfying the local market, August 26 Construction (Pty) Ltd also secured its first international contract. We are hopeful of the companies' continuous growth.

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21. On the eve of the New Year (2025), H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba told us in his New Year message: **“Make sure that 2025 is the Year of Namibia; a year during which we all hope for better and promise to do better. A year, during which Namibia continues to become stronger and better for current and future generations”**. President Mbumba's message resonates well with the theme of this budget as it is future-looking, the future in which Namibia is expected to be strong and prosperous for the current and future generations.

22. The MODVA is determined to play its part by directing national defence to maintain and enhance the security of our country so that socio-economic activities can be implemented smoothly to ensure a prosperous future. The ministry is also determined to participate in the development of the country through employment creation by capacitating its workforce with requisite skills, investing in economic ventures, developing infrastructure and managing resources prudently.

23. As I reported last year, the Ministry's roles will continue revolving around the protection and advancement of Namibia's security interests through the promotion of security and stability, provision of military capabilities for the defence of Namibia and its national interests, and support to civilian authorities and communities as directed by the government. We will develop and implement the National Defence Strategy, which will encompass a comprehensive outline of Defence policy planning, capabilities and resourcing. This will also include a review of the Defence Doctrine.

24. We will continue to shape the workforce to be more capable, agile and resilient. The Implementation of the National Defence Strategy will drive the priority of investment in Defence capabilities and reviewing the MODVA structure, posture and preparedness to meet the nation's security challenges in the long term. To meet these requirements, focus will be on growing and skilling the servicemen and women from different sectors of the Force to support the augmentation of Defence capabilities.

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25. The MODVA is one of Namibia's largest public sector employers. Its spending and investment ought to bring prosperity to the Namibian communities, businesses and industries. Defence is also supposed to provide leadership in technological innovation and scientific research, and this is the capacity we are willing to inculcate in our Defence Industry. Defence assists health care agencies in major emergencies, like we did during the COVID period. It is therefore just fitting that we expand our military health organisation to be able to meet that strategic requirement.

26. This financial year, the MODVA has been allocated an amount of **Seven Billion, Four Hundred and Ninety-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 7,494,898,000.00)** which is an increment with 8.9% from the previous FY appropriation. This amount represents: **Six Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 6,894,898,000.00)** for the Operational Budget; and **Six Hundred Million Namibia Dollars (N\$600,000,000)** for the Development Budget. These resources will enable us to execute our mandate with the following expected outputs:

Programme 01: Training and Capacity Building. N\$701,778,000.00

27. The ability of MODVA to recruit and retain its workforce is a critical element of managing workforce risk and ensuring the achievement of required workforce growth. The past recruitment drive has revealed massive interest from the youth willing to join the NDF. We will continue to develop a more diverse and inclusive workforce, drawing from across all spectrums of the Namibian community, to ensure we can attract and retain the critical skills necessary to achieve our mission now and into the future.

28. The NDF must therefore be prepared in a manner that fits within the scope of the challenges that we face. We must acquire modern technology. We must right-size our force by developing a requisite responsive structure while continuing to rejuvenate our force every year to offset age gaps and personnel losses. Skill gaps will have to be brought to a bare minimum through continuous training. Training institutions should be enhanced in terms of size and capacity according to the human resources development demands. Our training and the acquisition of equipment must reflect the harmony of the three Arms of Service. We are determined to do this with the attitude of achieving more with less.

29. We will endeavour to expand the existing training institutions and better manage the partnership we have established with local tertiary institutions to run defence and security-specific programmes. There is also growing interest from friendly countries to send their trainees to our training institutions. This development requires us to improve and expand our training infrastructure to international standard.

30. In terms of improving our training output, we will continue to seek assistance from Friendly Forces to second their experts to our training institutions and to accept our Directing Staff at their Training Institutions through exchange programmes. We have, over the years, benefited from training offers from friendly countries, we will continue to request for more offers and reciprocate.

Programme 02: Land Operation. N\$3,316,603,000.00

31. On the eve of our independence on 21 March 1990, our Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, H.E. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, declared: **“I move in the name of our people to declare that Namibia is forever free, sovereign and independent”**. Consequently, for the past 35 years, the MODVA has consistently ensured that Namibia remains free and independent and is committed to guaranteeing the prevalence of that status till eternity. We owe our sovereignty and independence to the sons and daughters who, through their sweat, blood and tears, sacrificed their youth to liberate our country and their people from the yoke of colonialism. While some survived to see the light of day, others laid down their lives. It is thus ingrained in the minds and souls of the men and women in the NDF that the sovereignty of our country is sacrosanct and can therefore not be traded for anything, regardless of the adversity.

32. MODVA will therefore continue to plan for, develop and maintain the capability to deter and defeat armed aggression against Namibia and its interests. The defence of our country's sovereignty comes with its many challenges. The territorial land is vast, covered by wide open skies and an expansive maritime space. We have abundant strategic resources on and beneath our territorial land and maritime space. Our wide airspace and expansive maritime and land borders are agonizingly porous. The size of our population and the economy cannot afford a sizeable structure with the capacity to have a presence everywhere. The ongoing discoveries and investments in the mining, energy and blue economy have even exacerbated the situation. This is why we have scheduled patrol activities to police the physical borders and monitor activities in the areas with difficult accessibility. This challenge can only be offset by technology, which is changing and improving by the day. The deliberate efforts required to advance our technologies thus make the defence of our motherland an expensive undertaking. In this financial year, we will enhance our activities with increased coordination and cooperation with stakeholders.

33. We are currently faced with the challenge of mitigating two natural occurrences that our people have gotten accustomed to over the years, those being the effects of drought carried over from last year and the flood situation caused by the above normal rainfalls not seen in this country for many years. We will continue to assist the Office of the Prime Minister and other authorities in the distribution of relief aid and in relocating the people whose habitats have been flooded, rendering them uninhabitable. When spring comes, we will be faced with the man-made disasters of the veld fires. On this one, I would like to caution our people to handle fire with care because the amount of grass we have this year may be cumbersome to handle once ignited by fire. Farmers and the members of the communities are also requested to stock up on firefighting tools as the NDF does not have them in their

possession. Our soldiers, however, remain committed to saving lives and properties when disasters strike.

Programme 03: Airspace Protection. N\$431,887,000.00

34. The safeguarding and protection of the Namibian airspace is one of this ministry's core business. Even though there are other stakeholders, especially on the Civil Aviation component, the NDF has the overall responsibility to ensure that the national airspace remains safe and secure at all times.

35. The geographic location of our country makes it suitable for observing airspace activities in the Southern Hemisphere. There are also organisations who regularly seek for authorisation to conduct aerial sports and other entertainment activities in our airspace. Requests for overflight and landing clearances by unregulated flights come in frequently. All these and many activities that happen in our national airspace attract the attention of the MODVA and hence the need to constantly monitor the airspace.

36. In this regard, the MODVA will continue to improve its surveillance capacity and to conduct aerial patrols regularly. The Air Force will also provide airlift support to government institutions in their delivery of services to the Namibian people. For this reason, efforts will be made to acquire suitable equipment as well as to maintain the support infrastructure.

Programme 04: Military Health Support. N\$105,104,000.00

37. The Directorate of Defence Health Service has the responsibility to ensure that the NDF is medically ready by planning and providing it with the necessary capabilities, maintaining and improving the health state of the soldiers.

38. Over the years, the MODVA has capacitated health practitioners and technicians in different fields. Unfortunately, most of these members have left the Ministry for greener pastures. This has therefore created serious knowledge gaps and manpower shortages both in the Directorate and the Military Health Institutions. We had also experienced a devastating fire incident, which gutted the Peter Mweshihange Military Health Centre in Windhoek. We are yet to embark on the planning and construction of a fully-fledged Military Referral Hospital.

39. In this regard, the ministry will continue to put more efforts in the provision of health services, medical supplies and equipment. We will also recruit health professionals and improve the conditions that had caused the high turnover. We will also commence the process of rebuilding the Peter Mweshihange Military Health Centre as well as to revive the process to resume the construction of the General Military Referral Hospital.

Programme 05: Offshore Defence. N\$483,044,000.00

40. The maritime space of our country is very important to us as a ministry and to all humankind. The Atlantic Ocean and our port at Walvis Bay play a facilitation role for both economic and cultural values. Our sea-locked neighbours and ourselves depend on the port and the ocean for exports and imports. Our ports provide the necessary relief to both merchant and military vessels.

41. The blue economy contributes significantly to national revenue. The significance of the blue economy has even been heightened by the investments in the exploration of oil and gas and other marine resources as well as in green hydrogen. These investments, as much as they are beneficial to the Namibian people, they also do attract threats from pirates and other Negative Forces.

42. In view of the foregoing, the MODVA will continue to capacitate the Navy to provide the necessary protection and security in the ocean and at the harbour. The capabilities of the Navy will be enhanced in terms of surveillance and response to be able to effectively combat maritime security threats such as piracy, robbery at sea, illegal bunkering, illegal fishing, human and drugs trafficking, marine pollution and all other maritime security threats.

Programme 06: International Deployment. N\$128,268,000.00

43. The MODVA has established and enjoys warm and cordial relations with sister institutions in many countries of the world. Since 1990, we have greatly relied on the assistance from friendly countries for the development of the NDF. We still uphold these relations as partnerships with friendly countries within the Region and beyond, help building confidence and fostering cooperation to improve collective responses to common security challenges. We will therefore continue to implement existing agreements while pursuing new areas of cooperation. In this regard, we are currently having **four** new bilateral agreements with different countries awaiting approval by the Cabinet before they are formalised.

44. Peace and security at home can no longer be taken for granted in a world in which global and regional powers re-arm, terrorists strike in places around the world, cyberattacks escalate, and the scramble for resources breeds conflict. International and Regional bodies (UN, AU, SADC etc.) are greatly failing to end conflicts, as demonstrated by the conflict in the Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique and the Eastern DRC, which are closer to home. There is therefore a need to enter into strategic partnerships for Namibia to be assured of survival in this chaotic world.

45. We will therefore maintain existing military diplomatic postings in fifteen (16) countries and open three new ones where we see the need. We will further maintain our presence in the Secretariat of International organisations and possibly establish a presence in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Our presence in those organisations will enhance our compliance with international laws and enable us to benefit from their programmes and the exchange of information.

46. We will continue to support the neighbouring countries and the SADC Region in emergency and disaster situations as directed by the Government. Our component of the SADC Stand-by Force, was recently inspected by the SADC Secretariat, and will remain ready for its purpose. We will also maintain our deployments to existing UN Peace Missions while remaining ready to contribute to international peace through the UN/AU/UN initiatives.

**Programme 07: Policy Coordination and Support Services.
N\$2,328,214,000.00**

47. The world is marred by increasing global volatility and emerging security challenges, which are numerous, complex, interrelated and difficult to foresee. The fluidity of new technologies that emerge brings new vulnerabilities and threats in the international environment. Environmental changes such as climate change, scarcity of natural resources in some countries, and disputes over shared natural resources often provoke political and military conflicts. These security challenges can only be ameliorated through a comprehensive approach, combining policies and instruments, short and long-term measures. This approach requires a large range of civil and military capabilities in terms of planning and execution.

48. From this year, going forward, we will be embarking upon reviewing the instruments and formulating frameworks which will guide the development and effective employment of the NDF fit for its role. There will be wide consultation with all stakeholders in the defence and security cluster, as well as those from academia and non-governmental organisations as appropriate.

49. When H.E. the President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force reappointed me as the Minister responsible for Defence and Veterans Affairs on 22 March 2025, one of the tasks she directed me to perform is “**Complete institutional reforms of line agencies under your Ministry**”. The reforms started in 2019; however, not much could be achieved due to many reasons. The governance structure of the August 26 Holding Company and the Subsidiaries is in place. During the past two years, all the subsidiaries have passed the audit, which is a good thing.

50. We will develop a turnaround strategy for the industry, which will not only improve efficiency but also make it an able partner in the development of the NDF. The idea is to increase self-sufficiency in the production of materials and equipment and the development of infrastructure.

In fact, with the turnaround strategy I have envisioned, I will complete infrastructure needs in existing military bases within the next five years using the August Twenty-Six Construction (Pty) Ltd and the NDF’s Engineer Regiment. This combination will not only accelerate the pace of construction, but it will also reduce the cost, the purpose being to achieve more with less.

51. A strong partnership with the Defence Industry will be critical in delivering Defence capabilities. The Windhoek Maschinen Fabrik 1998 (WMF) (Pty) Ltd will be turned around to its original production capacity to provide the necessary mobility to the NDF.

The ammunition production capacity will also be enhanced with new production lines. Sat-Com will continue to explore opportunities in the market for their unique brand, which is sought after by many countries in the world. We will therefore continue to enhance Sat-Com's capacity to conduct more research and improve its brand to satisfy both the local and the international markets.

52. Efforts to revitalise the Agro-Tour Initiative to bolster self-sufficiency in terms of food production are gaining traction. This is one project through which our ministry can create many job opportunities once fully developed. It can be turned into a one-stop shop where primary produce and agro-processing facilities are available in one place. We will therefore heed the call by H.E. the President to do everything within our abilities to create as many job opportunities as possible, when she said: **“We are going to increase investment in the agricultural sector to increase output to meet domestic food requirements. Agriculture can also produce materials that can serve as input to the manufacturing sector, a necessity for industrialisation and job creation”**.

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53. At the opening of the first meeting of the Cabinet, H.E. the President emphasised: **“The Namibian people, especially our youth including young women need employment opportunities; they need housing and our small and medium enterprises need assistance to become competitive, to be able to grow and to create more jobs”**.

54. I am therefore glad that our government has demonstrated, in the current budget, its commitment to creating the preconditions for the generation of wealth and prosperity, ensuring the protection of such

prosperity, as well as investing in peace and stability, and in MODVA's capacity to defend and protect national interests. As a result of that investment, my Ministerial staff and I hereby reaffirm our commitment to delivering on our mandate during the financial year 2025/26.

55. Last year, we made the same promise, something we lived up to. At this juncture, I would therefore like to sincerely thank my former deputy, Hon Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor, Dr. Wilhelmine Iyaloo Shivute, the former Executive Director, Air Marshall Martin Kambulu Pinehas, the Chief of Defence Force, and the entire staff of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for their all-around support, all year through. I would also like to welcome and appreciate Hon Charles Mubita, my deputy and Ms Annely Haiphene, the Executive Director, in their new roles and for the impact that they have already made within a short time in their new roles. I am looking forward to a much improved performance in 2025/26.

56. Finally, let me conclude by thanking the Honourable Erica Shafudah, Minister of Finance and Honourable Dr. Kaire Mbuende, the Director General of the National Planning Commission for the considerable budgetary allocation made to Vote 08 under the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs.

57. It is now my honour to request you, **Honourable Members**, to approve the allocation of **Seven Billion, Four Hundred and Ninety-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$7,494,898,000.00)** to Vote 08: Ministry of Defence.

I thank you!