

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR VOTE 31: VETERANS
AFFAIRS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026 BY HONOURABLE
DR. CHARLES MUBITA, MP, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

1. It is my distinct honour and pleasure to present to this August House, the budget allocation for Vote 31: Veterans Affairs for the financial year 2025/2026. This Vote's budget motivation gives details of projects and programmes that will be implemented in order to deliver one of the Ministry's key mandate, which is **to address the plight of veterans of the national liberation struggle through initiating, implementing, programmes and projects, including keeping the history of the national liberation struggle alive.**
2. I would like to begin by giving my profound gratitude to Hon. Erica Shafudah, Minister of Finance and Hon Dr. Kaire Mbuende, the Director General of the National Planning Commission, as well as their respective teams for the dedication and commendable work in ensuring the budgetary allocation for activities towards veterans' welfare.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

3. As we present this motivation, I want us all to remember that the peace and unity, which we are enjoying in our country is as a result of the freedom and independence that was attained through immense contributions made by the gallant sons and daughters of the soil during the liberation struggle for our motherland.

4. As we introduce our budget vote for consideration, discussion and approval, it is imperative that we are cognizant of socio-economic conditions amongst veterans. These include; post traumatic disorders, the increasing need for medical services particularly to the ever-aging veterans population, request for resettlement and the anticipations for cash payment to all veterans awaiting their outstanding projects just to mention a few.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

5. At this moment, allow me to point out the main achievements for Vote 31 during the 2024/2025 Financial Year.
During the past Financial Year, Vote 31 - Veterans Affairs was allocated a total amount of **One Billion, Four Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,409,516,000)** to carry out programmes and projects, of which **95.40% of the allocated budget** was utilized on activities mainly aimed at veterans' welfare programmes and projects, and keeping of the history of the liberation struggle alive.
6. It is worth mentioning that, the highest cost driver in the budget allocated to Vote 31 was the payment of the monthly grants to the veterans and dependents of veterans. A total of **One Billion, Four Million, Six Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Four Namibia Dollars (N\$1,004,675,184)** was spent on the monthly financial assistance to eligible veterans and dependents of deceased veterans benefiting a total of **Twenty-two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty (22,840)** beneficiaries by end of March 2025. This represents an overwhelming **71%** of the total annual allocation.

It is important to highlight that the expenditure on the monthly grants constantly increases every month as veterans retire or lose remunerative employment in one way or another. These factors lead to more veterans being added to the monthly financial assistance benefits.

7. During the past Financial Year, the Ministry continued with the payment of **One Hundred and Seventy Thousand (N\$170,000)** cash for Individual Veterans' Projects of which **Three Hundred and Five Million, and One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$305,150,000)** was paid to **One Thousand, Seven Hundred Ninety-Five (1,795)** veterans. The Individual Veteran Projects (IVPs) cash payment has brought a positive change in the lives of the beneficiaries as some have used the money to improve their livelihood.
8. **The Ministry also used the remainder of the budgeted funds to cover the following activities:**
 - a) Once off Gratuity (Lump-sum) was paid to **nine hundred and six (906)** beneficiaries at a cost of **Thirty-Seven Million, One Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Namibia Dollars (N\$37,151,665)**. These beneficiaries are those who became successful appellants.
 - b) Funeral Assistance for Four Hundred and forty (440) deceased veterans was provided at a cost of **Two Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$2,577,000)**.

- c) Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight (**388**) Tombstones were erected at a cost of **Six Million Two Hundred and Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$6,208,000)**.
- d) Medical Assistance was provided to Fifty-One (51) veterans at a cost of **One Million Four Hundred and Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-Two Namibia Dollars (N\$1,407,642)** while Psychosocial Support was provided to **One Hundred and Eleven veterans (111)**

9. Let me take this opportunity to inform this August House and the nation at large that Vote 31 also got Unqualified Audit Opinion for the last five years. For this, I sincerely thank the Accounting Officer and her staff for performing their responsibilities prudently. The Accountability Report for 2023/2024 Financial Year and the summary of the Veterans Affairs budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025 have been presented during the Midterm Review by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

10. Having highlighted the above, allow me to present to you the 2025/2026 budget for Vote 31: Veterans Affairs as articulated in the Estimates of Revenue, Income and Expenditure and focusing on our key programmes as follows:

11. Programme 1: Veterans Welfare Programmes

The main objective of veterans' welfare programme is to coordinate the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities that aimed at improving the welfare of veterans of the liberation struggle.

Under this programme, the Ministry will implement the following activities:

- a. Monthly Subvention
- b. Improvement of Welfare Grant
- c. Once off Gratuity (Lump-sum)
- d. Individual Veterans Projects (IVPs)
- e. Medical assistance and Psychosocial support
- f. Activities of the Veterans Board, Veterans Appeal Board and National Honours Advisory Committee.

For the financial year 2025/2026, Veterans Welfare Programme requires an amount of **One Billion, Four Hundred and Twenty One Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,421,991,000)** to pay for benefits under the Programmes. I would like to make a clarification that in the MTEF document you will notice that Veterans Welfare Programme is allocated a minimal amount while the Liberation Struggle Heritage Programme is allocated more, this is an error which will be rectified with the Ministry of Finance.

12. **Programme 2: Liberation Struggle Heritage**

The main objective of the **Liberation Struggle Heritage** programme is to ensure that the history of the liberation struggle of Namibia is preserved and kept alive. This is done through research and documentation, collection and preservation of materials or artefacts, the identification and marking of sites where acts of the liberation struggle took place and the erection of monuments.

Under the **Liberation Struggle Heritage** programme, the Ministry will implement the following activities:

- a. **Assistance for the funerals of deceased veterans**
- b. **Erection of tombstones**
- c. **Identification and marking of heritage sites**
- d. **Exhumation and Re-interment of the remains of the martyrs**

For the financial year 2025/2026, Liberation Struggle Heritage requires an amount of **Sixteen Million and Four Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$16,400,000)** to carry out the activities under the Programme.

13. Programme 3: Policy Coordination and Support Services

Under this Programme, the Ministry is requesting an amount of **Eighty-Nine Million Two Hundred and Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$89,205,000)** towards personnel expenditure and administrative activities for Vote 31 – Veterans Affairs.

14. The Ministry will continue to promote and implement programmes and projects initiated to improve the socio-economic well-being of the veterans, including the preservation of the history of the national liberation of Namibia. To ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the veterans, the Ministry will conduct continuous monitoring and evaluation of the socio-economic services provided to veterans and strive to improve organizational performance.
15. Similarly, the Ministry will continue to optimally utilize the available resources in improving the socio-economic status of the veterans and to preserve and keep the history of the national liberation struggle alive for the present and future generations.

16. As I conclude, it is important to continue recognizing the contributions and sacrifices made by the gallant sons and daughters of our land. This is evidenced by the independence, peace and tranquility that we are enjoying today and the exercising of our democratic rights in this August House.

17. It is therefore my honour to request you Honourable Members to support and approve the budget allocation of **One Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty-Five Million Namibia Dollars (N\$1,535,000,000) for Vote 31: Veterans Affairs.**

I thank you, Honourable Chairperson, and the Whole House Committee members, and count on your support in striving to better the lives of our veterans!