



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION, YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS AND
CULTURE (MEIYSAC)**

BUDGET MOTIVATION STATEMENT

VOTE 40: EDUCATION

FY2025/2026

Presented

BY

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08 May 2025 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members of this August House

1. I rise to motivate and seek your esteemed support for the budget allocation of Vote 40, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC) for the 2025-2026 Financial Year.
2. Allow me, on behalf of the MEIYSAC team, to extend our appreciation to both teams at the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission (NPC), for their support and dedication during our budget consultation process that resulted in the successful finalization of this budget. Without your full support and engagement, we would not have been able to surmount this challenging task. Being the beneficiary of the largest share of the national budget, we pledge to ensure prudent financial management, transparency in the conduct of our business and to best deliver on our mandate.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

3. It is without emphasis that we share in the view that education is a great equaliser as it encompasses all the elements that the Ministry of Education, Innovation,

Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture exist for. A great effort has been put into transforming this sector since the National Conference on Education (NCE) held in 2022.

4. Recommendations from the conference have carefully and purposefully been imbedded into the Ministry's strategic plans (2025/2026 – 2030/2031), equally streamlined to the draft National Development Plan Six (NDP6), thus building further on the education policy pillars of **Access, Equity, Quality and Inclusive Education** across all levels from pre-primary education, through to senior secondary as well as tertiary education.

5. The comprehensive Project Charter of National Conference on Education (*the Project Charter is the Cabinet approved Implementation Plan of the 2022 National Education Conference Recommendations*) for the transformation of the education sector in our country encompasses ten key recommendation which were consolidated into the following five focal areas:

- i. Inclusive and quality education
- ii. Skills for life, work and sustainable development
- iii. Teaching and teaching profession

iv. Education Infrastructure

v. Information, communication and technology (ICT).

6. With a strong focus on the above the Ministry commits to its wider mandate to unlock the potential of every child, learner, youth and adult, embracing skills development, Sports, Arts, Culture and Heritage as instrumental in the continuum of education.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

7. The budget allocation to Vote 40, of **Twenty-Four Billion, Eight Hundred Twenty Seven Million, Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollars** (N\$24 827 230 000), represents **23.4% of the National budget and 8.9% of GDP**. This budget allocation surpasses the 20% national budget and the 6% GDP benchmarks of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG4).

8. A sizable share of the budget of which **59% goes towards the defrayal of personnel expenditure, 37% is allocated for operational expenditures, while the remaining 4% goes to capital expenditures.**

The Budget is executed through eight programmes as depicted under table 1 below:

Table 1: Budget per Programme
N\$ '000

Programme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1. Policy Coordination and Support Services	1,342,632	1,406,731	1,453,823
2. Pre-Primary Education	774,283	802,662	826,743
3. Primary Education	11,478,889	11,613,548	11,704,686
4. Secondary Education	5,081,781	5,124,922	5,250,261
5. Higher Education	4,897,548	5,175,044	5,268,350
6. Vocational Education and Training	587,969	600,671	604,569
7. Science, Technology and Innovation	79,505	132,838	139,586

Programme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
8. Information, Adult, Lifelong Learning, Arts and Culture	584,623	599,069	622,039
TOTAL	24,827,230	25,455,485	25,870,057

Programme 1: Policy Coordination and Support Services

9. This programme focuses on policy development and coordination, while steering the Ministerial Strategy implementation, infrastructure development, as well as the provision of ICT equipment.

10. Information, Communication and Technology (ICT):

Integration of ICT in education is essential for the modernisation of teaching and learning, addressing structural inequalities and the preparation of learners for the demands of a knowledge-based economy, as emphasised in the 2022 National Conference on Education.

11. The amount of **Two Hundred Million, Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 200 230 000)** is

budgeted for the deployment of ICT at educational facilities which includes amongst others:

- i. Procurement of mobile computer laboratories for schools. Additional 50 schools will be equipped with mobile computer labs during the 2025/26 financial year to the value of **Twenty One million, Eight Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$21 800 000)**.
- ii. Delivery and supply of ICT devices at Educational Institutions amounting to **One Hundred Fifty-Nine million, Three Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$159 330 000)**.
- iii. Development of off-line and online digital content, school connectivity and related services to the value of **Nineteen million, One Hundred Thousand Namibia dollars (N\$19 100 000)**.

12. **Education Infrastructure:** The provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure at all levels of the education system is one of the top priorities of our Ministry. An amount of **One Billion, Twenty-Five Million Namibia Dollars (N\$1 025 000 000)** is set aside to address the infrastructure gap.

13. To improve access at pre-primary level, 166 pre-primary classrooms will be constructed at a cost of **Ninety-Eight million Namibia dollars, (N\$98 million)**, while a further **Two Hundred Sixty-eight million Namibia Dollars (N\$268 million)**, will be spent to construct an additional 217 classrooms, 27 science laboratories, 24 Computer laboratories, 28 administration blocks and 39 ablution blocks at various schools nationwide.

14. An amount of **Five Hundred Forty-Seven Million Namibia Dollars (N\$547 000 000)** is set aside to fund the construction of ongoing and projects in various regions, namely; Katima Morden (Zambezi region); Aussenkehr secondary school (//Kharas region), Bravel Boarding School (Kavango-West), Drimiopsis Hostel (Omaheke), Otjiwanda Hostel (Otjozondjupa region), renovation of Ashipala Secondary School Hostel (Omusati region), Havana Primary school (Khomas region), Epembe Modern school (Ohangwena region), Ehangano Secondary school (Oshikoto region), Otjomuise Primary School (Khomas region), Mix settlement primary School (Khomas region), Kunene resource school (Kunene region), Onkumbula Secondary school (Oshikoto

region) and Oshikunde Primary School (Ohangwena region) to mention but a few.

15. The construction of Community Learning and development Centers (CLDCs) is underway with these being constructed in Nkurenkuru, Karibib, Rehoboth and Oranjemund to bring the total number of CLDCs to 20 country-wide.

16. The University of Namibia (UNAM) is allocated **Fifty-Five million Namibia Dollars (N\$55 million)** from the infrastructure budget for construction and upgrading at their university campuses.

17. The amount of **Fifty million Namibia Dollars (N\$50 million)** is allocated to the University of Science and Technology (NUST) to construct and upgrading there campuses, while an amount of **Five million Namibia Dollars (N\$5million)** is budgeted for the establishment of an agricultural campus in the Otjozondjupa Region.

18. The Satellite Data Receiving Station at the Windhoek telecom earth station will be funded to the value of **Thirty Five million (N\$35 million)**, while the student

village earmarked for construction in Windhoek Khomasdal suburb has an allocated budget of **Thirty Five million (N\$35 million)**.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

Programme 2: Pre-Primary Education

19. This programme aims to lay the foundation for acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills and to ensure a smooth transition between Early Childhood Development (ECD) and primary education.

20. Pre-primary education takes up 3% of the total budget allocation of our Ministry. The goal is to increase funding to pre-primary education, to reach the international funding goal of 10% going towards foundational learning by 2030.

The following key activities will be covered during the 2025/26 financial year.

21. **Early Childhood Education transition into education system:** The Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC), alongside Ministry of

Gender Equality and Child Welfare have developed a transition plan for Early Childhood Education and Care, having conducted a functional analysis which outlines the roles and responsibilities of various key line Ministries. It is envisaged that ECD be integrated into formal education by the academic year 2028.

22. **Foundational Numeracy and Literacy:** Interventions to improve early grade literacy and numeracy skills of learners will continue during the 2025/26 financial year. This includes refresher training on Jolly Phonics for newly appointed teachers, as well as the lecturers at Institutions of Higher Learning in order to ensure pre-service institutionalisation.

23. **Procurement of teaching and learning materials:** The Ministry through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNICEF will be procuring teaching and learning materials at national level for all pre-primary classrooms.

24. The Universal Pre-Primary Grant is allocated an amount **Fourteen Million, Three Hundred Forty Thousand, Namibia Dollars (N\$14 340 000)** and covers both the **N\$300 per pre-primary learners, N\$1500 per**

learner for learners in resource schools/units and **N\$15 per learner** seed capital for school hygiene projects.

Programme 3: Primary Education

25. Primary education accounts for 46% of the Ministry's Budget allocation. This is due to the majority of the teachers, 18 805, being employed in the Public Service at the primary level.

26. School feeding remains critical to the retention of learners in a classroom. The Namibia School Feeding programme amount to **One Hundred Fifty Five Million, Three Hundred Ninety One Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty Six Namibia Dollars** (N\$155, 391 166), while the cost of Hostel Catering is **Eight Hundred, Fifty Three Million, Four Hundred Fifty Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Two Namibia Dollars** (N\$853 456 942)

27. An amount of **Forty million (N\$40 million)** is set aside for procurement of textbooks for all phases of the education system. The aim is to reach 1:1 learner to textbook ratio, while replacing old/worn out textbooks. A further **Fourteen million (N\$14 million)** is set aside for the procurement of materials and supplies for technical and practical subjects for the financial year 2025/26.

28. The Ministry will prioritise strengthening basic pre-vocational Subjects by increasing schools offering these subjects for learners with special educational needs and disabilities. The post of Education Special Needs Assistants has been approved by Cabinet concerted efforts in this regard will ensure additional support to our learners with special educational needs and disabilities. A budget of **Twenty Million Namibia Dollars** (N\$20 000 000) is allocated to procure assistive devices, teaching aids as well as consumables for basic pre-vocational subjects.

29. **School Health and Safety initiatives:** The Ministry is dedicated to the holistic development of learners and will focus on the implementation of school health and safety initiatives.

In light of the recent horrendous crimes committed against our children, the focus will be to roll out the National Safe School Framework and the #Keepmesafe campaign in collaboration with the Namibian Police. We will also strengthen the implementation of Integrated Physical Education and

School Sports (IPESS) through the implementation of the IPESS Policy, which includes the restructuring of the Namibia School Sports Union (NSSU). An amount of **Three million Namibia Dollars**, (N\$3 000 000) has been set aside for this initiative.

30. The Ministry has developed various tools for teachers to provide psychosocial support to learners and will continue to train teachers on the Counselling manuals, as well as Responding to Sexual Violence for Teachers manual. There will be a training of trainers in June 2025 on the referral mechanisms for violence against children.

31. The Universal Primary Grant is allocated an amount **One Hundred Twenty-Four Million, Seven Hundred Sixty Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Namibia Dollars (N\$124 766 940)** and covers both the **N\$300 per pre-primary and primary learner, N\$1500 per learner** for learners in resource schools/units and **N\$15 per learner** seed capital for school hygiene projects.

Programme 4: Secondary Education

32. The aim of this programme is to improve the quality of secondary education through responsive and relevant national curriculum and curriculum support materials as well as professionalization and capacity building of educators.
33. Secondary education represents 20% of the total education budget and the main focus for the 2025/26 financial year will be on **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of secondary teachers.**
34. An amount of **Twenty Seven Million, Five Hundred and Eighty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$27 580 000)** will be spent on capacity building of teachers for Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS) subjects in order to improve learning outcomes.
35. Training needs were identified in past (2023 and 2024) examination reports, as well as training needs assessment of teachers conducted in collaboration

with the Cambridge University Press and Assessment. The following subjects will be targeted:

- NSSCAS Mathematics
- NSSCAS English Second language
- NSSCAS Geography
- NSSCAS Agricultural Science

36. The Ministry also made further budgetary provision of **Fifty-Nine Million, Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy Nine Namibia Dollars** (N\$59 325 179), for the continuous Professional Development (CPD) of teachers at Regional Level. The CPD budget at regional level is for all phases of the education system.

37. **The Universal Secondary Grant (USG):** An amount of **Ninety Six Million, Seven Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars** (N\$96 716 000) covered under this grant include amounts of N\$400 per secondary learner, N\$2 000 per learner for learners in resource schools/units and N\$15 per learner for seed capital for school hygiene projects.

38. The procurement of basic school stationery will cost the Ministry **One Hundred Twenty Nine million (N\$129 million)**. These funds will be transferred to the Regional Directorates of Education to facilitate the stationery procurement prior to the commencement of the 2026 academic year.

Programme 5: Higher Education

39. The budget allocation to Higher Education is 20% of the Ministerial Budget, which is in line with government's commitment to equitable access to quality education and skills development. This budget seeks to support the phased implementation of free higher education and vocational training across all public higher education institutions (HEIs) and government-owned vocational training centres

40. To support the institutional effectiveness of the higher education sector, this budget also addresses operational shortfalls experienced by institutions such as the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and National Council of Higher Education (NCHE), whose mandates are essential to ensuring

academic quality and regulatory oversight. Similarly, the University of Namibia (UNAM) will benefit from dedicated support to strengthen its Readiness Programme, aimed at enhancing student preparedness and institutional responsiveness.

Having highlighted the above, an amount of **Four Billion, Seven Hundred Seventeen Million, Five Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$4 717 548 000)** is allocated to this programme.

The above translates into the following breakdown:

- i) **One Billion, Three Hundred Eighty-One Million Namibian Dollars (N\$1 381 000 000)** for the University of Namibia;
- ii) **Twenty-Eight Million Namibian Dollars (N\$28 000 000)** for the National Council of Higher Education;
- iii) **Five Hundred and Seventy-Six Million Namibian Dollars (N\$576 000 000)** for the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST);
- iv) **Two Billion, Six Hundred Fifty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand Namibia**

Dollars (N\$2 659 169 000) for the Namibian Students Financial Assistance Fund (NASFAF).

v) **Sixty-Two Million Namibian Dollars (N\$62 000 000)** for the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA).

vi) **The remaining Eleven Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$11 379 000)** will be channeled towards the operational expenses of the Directorate of Higher education for policy oversight.

Programme 6: Vocational Education and Training

41. In line with the draft NDP6, the Ministry pledge to produce graduates with skills that are aligned and responsive to industry demands. This will be achieved through the following key projects.

42. The establishment of a new governance legislation for State-Owned Technical Vocational Training Centres that will enable the separation of TVET regulatory function and the national qualification framework from the training function thereby, enabling the roll-out of free vocational education without competing for resources with private training providers.

43. The budget allocation to vocational education and training is **Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$587 969 000)**, out of which an amount of **Five Hundred Sixty-Five million Namibia Dollars (N\$565 000 000)** is allocated to the Namibia Training Authority (NTA). This constitutes 2% of the Ministerial budget.

Programme 7: Science, Technology and Innovation

44. The budget allocation to Science, Technology and Innovation is **Seventy-Nine Million Five Hundred and Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$79 505 000)**, with **Sixty Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$63 300 000)** going towards the National Commission for Research, Science and Technology (NCRST). Included under this program is technology forecasting and opportunities identification for strategic use of emerging technologies for development.

Programme 8: Information, Adult, Lifelong Learning, Arts and Culture

45. Budget allocation of **Five hundred eighty-Four million, Six Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand Namibia Dollars** (N\$584, 623, 000) prioritizes investments in foundational, transferable, vocational, digital, and green skills that equip Namibians of all ages to actively participate in lifelong learning, respond to emerging labour market demands, and contribute meaningfully to their communities and the broader economy.

46. It further covers the digitisation of records of national importance and establishment of the National repository at the National Library of Namibia. Also included are the development and modernization, heritage infrastructure (Oranjemund Museum, Alte Feste Museum, Owela Museum and Display Centre and the Acre Compound).

Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honorable Members

In conclusion, the 2025/2026 budget for Vote 40 is a clear and intentional investment in the future of our nation anchored in the belief that quality, inclusive, and equitable

education, innovation, youth empowerment, sports, arts and culture are the bedrock of sustainable development.

With a comprehensive and forward-looking allocation strategy, we aim to bridge historical inequalities, strengthen foundational learning, unlock opportunities for our youth, and catalyse social and economic transformation.

I therefore humbly request the full support of this August House in approving this budget, so that together we may continue to empower every Namibian to realise their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the prosperity of our beloved country.