



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

INTRODUCTION OF VOTE 31

FOR

2013/2014 FINANCIAL YEAR

BY

HONOURABLE DR. NICKEY IYAMBO,

MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,

18 APRIL 2013



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members:**

I am taking the floor to motivate Vote 31 for your kind consideration and approval.

My Ministry's mandate is to initiate promote and implement projects and programmes that address the socio-economic needs of the veterans including keeping the national liberation history alive.

Firstly, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Director General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for a well composed budget which indeed aims at investing in our future and enhancing our competitiveness as a nation. What stands out clearly is that this budget is indeed about improving the living standards of our people.

Secondly, I want to draw the Honourable Member's attention to the government Accountability Report of the 2011/2012 financial year, pages 404 to 409 which detailed the activities of the year under review. Therefore, for the detailed activities of what had happened, fact and figures are available in that Accountability reports where it indicated that the execution rate of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the **2012/2013 financial year stands at 99.9%.**

Thirdly, I am now moving to present the budget request for the Vote 31, Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the 2013/2014 Financial Year:

The Ministry of Veterans Affairs is requesting the Honourable Members to support the request of **eight hundred and sixty one million and one hundred and ninety thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$861,190,000)** budget to enable the Ministry to carry out its Mandate as per the following programmes and activities:

PROGRAMME 1: VETERANS WELFARE DEVELOPMENT

Activity 1: Identification and Registration of Veterans and Dependents of Veterans

Registration of many Namibians, who have not been registered, continues. Under the registration activity, the Ministry will review the existing regulations and formulate new ones that will interpret those new amendments introduced in the Amendment of the Veterans Act.

The Ministry is going to issue identification cards for all the approved veterans. To cover these activities, the Ministry requests **four hundred and sixty thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$460,000).**

Activity 2: Support Package to Veterans (Payment of Monthly Financial Assistance and Certain Support Services)

The Ministry will also continue to pay a monthly allowance of two thousand two hundred Namibia Dollars (N\$2,200) to unemployed veterans and veterans whose income is below the taxable amount.

An amount of three hundred and sixteen million eight hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$316,800,000) is requested to pay monthly subventions to veterans.

Activity 3: Medical Assistance to and Psychological Counseling of Veterans

This activity is aimed at addressing the physical and psychological needs of veterans such as purchasing of prosthetic and other mobility aids and cover medical treatment for veterans where Government health facilities are unable to manage such conditions, but does not include veterans who are covered under a medical aid scheme. The activity will also include the rolling out of psychological awareness creation to all regions as it was done in the Khomas Region during the 2012/2013 financial year.

An amount of twenty five million four hundred and eighty thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$25,480,000) is requested to fulfill the tasks.

Activity 4: Payment of a Once-Off Gratuity (lump sum)

In October 2010, Cabinet approved the payment of lump sum to veterans over a period of three financial years beginning 2010/2012. The Ministry is requesting an amount of **two hundred and fifty million Namibia Dollars**

(N\$250,000,000) during the 2013/2014 financial year to pay the lump sum to veterans.

Activity 5: Education and Training Grants to Veterans and Dependents of Veterans

The purpose of the Educational and Training Grant is to provide financial support to veterans and dependents of veterans who wish to further their studies or obtain vocational skills at institutions of higher learning in Namibia to enable them to compete in the labour market and secure employment. **A total amount of nine million two hundred and eighty eight thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$9,288,000)** is required for this activity.

Activity 6: Funeral Grant

The Ministry requires **six million, five hundred and twenty thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$6,520,000)** for this purpose.

Activity 7: Individual Veterans' Projects

Veterans are venturing into projects in areas of property development, livestock farming, transportation and crop production.

An amount of **sixty million Namibia Dollars (N\$60,000,000)** is required for the individual veteran's projects for the 2013/2014 financial year.

Activity 8: Housing

70 Houses are envisaged to be constructed across the 13 regions of the country. The Ministry requests **thirty five million one hundred and fifty thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$35,150,000) for this purpose.**

Activity 9: Resettlement

The Ministry envisage acquiring 2 farms during this financial year and it is requesting **thirteen million Namibia Dollars (N\$13,000,000) for that purpose.**

Activity 10: Development Planning/Projects Management Programme

i) Turn-Around Strategy for Former Development Brigade Corporation Projects

Training of staff members on the implementation of the turnaround strategy for Okatope Poultry farm, Namibia Bricks Enterprise and Star Protection Services and the actual implementation of the strategy is envisaged for this financial year. The joint Management Committee comprising of members from the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and the Namibia National Liberation Veterans Association will spearhead the implementation of the strategy. The Ministry is requesting **twenty nine million eight thousand and ninety two Namibia Dollars (N\$ 29,892,000) for this activity.**

ii) Etaka Veterans Recreational Centre

Construction of the facility is continuing, for which the Ministry is requesting **three million Namibia Dollars (N\$3,000,000)** for this financial year to further develop the facility.

iii. Ministerial Capital Projects

The Ministry is requesting **ten million five hundred thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$10,500,000)** for Ministerial Capital Projects such as the acquisition of offices for the Ministerial headquarters, regional offices and for the agricultural support programme for resettled veterans.

Activity 11: Conferment of National Status and Awards

You may recall Honourable Members that in 2012, you approved the Bill titled *Conferment of National Status and Awards*. **One million two hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,200,000)** is required to start with the implementation of this important activity.

Activity 12: Veterans Association Grant

An amount of **one million Namibia Dollars (N\$1,000,000)** is needed to enable the Namibia National Liberation Veterans Association to do its work during the 2013/2014 financial year as per their mandate and in accordance with the Veterans Act, (Act No 2 of 2008).

Activity 13: Activities of the Appeal Board

Section 40 of the Veterans Act (Act No 2 of 2008) provides for the establishment of the Appeal Board. The functions of this Board among others, is to hear appeals from any person who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Veterans Board.

I therefore request this August House to approve the request of **one million Namibia Dollars (N\$1,000,000)** to enable the Appeal Board to execute its function during the 2013/2014 financial year.

PROGRAMME 2: LIBERATION STRUGGLE HERITAGE

One of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is to ensure that the history of the National Liberation struggle is kept alive for the present and future generations to know and appreciate the purpose of the struggle and those who contributed to it.

Keeping the liberation struggle history alive will be done through research, documenting, storing and preserving the information and or materials of the liberation struggle. The project will also include the identification of specific areas where monuments, buildings or any marks that have any connection with the liberation struggle can be erected and/or preserved as stipulated in Section three of the Veterans Act of 2008. In order to undertake these tasks, the Programme needs **eleven million, four hundred and five thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$11,405,000)** for the 2013/2014 financial year.

PROGRAMME 3: COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The main objective of this programme is to ensure an enabling and conducive environment and to improve performance culture in the Ministry.

Activity 1: Capacity Building

To enhance the capacity of staff members for them to affectively and efficiently deliver services to veterans of the liberation struggle, an amount of **one million, one hundred and seventy five thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1,175,000)** is requested for this activity.

Activity 2: Monitoring and Evaluation

The Ministry conducts periodical monitoring and evaluation of individual veterans' projects in order to ensure that the veteran's projects are sustainable and progressing. An amount of **five hundred and eighteen thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$518,000)** is requested to execute this activity.

Activity 3: Veterans Sensitization

The Ministry embarks on information sharing with veterans about the Ministry's programmes. For this activity an amount of **six hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$600,000)** is requested.

Activity 4: General Administrative Services

This activity focus on the general administration support services of the Ministry.

An amount of **twenty five million, two hundred and twenty one thousands (N\$25,221,000)** is requested for the Ministry to carry out this activity.

Activity 5: Personnel Expenditure

This aims at the management and monitoring of remuneration expenditure, benefits, and other personnel expenditure of the Ministry.

An amount of **fifty eight million, nine hundred and eighty one thousand (N\$58,981,000)** is requested to cater for this activity.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members:

It is against this background that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Vote 31, is being presented to this Honourable House and I am requesting the support and approval from you Honourable Members for the amount of **Eight Hundred and Sixty One Million One Hundred and Ninety Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$861,190,000)** for the 2013/2014 financial year.

I anticipate your full support!

Thank you for your attention!