



Budget Contribution

By

Hon. Fenny Nanyeni

APPROPRIATION BILL 2025/2026

15 April 2025

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,

I rise to contribute to the discussions on Appropriation Bill for the 2025/26 financial year. I thank the Honourable Minister and your team for making this budget happen.

In the same breathe, I would like to congratulate our President Her Excellency, on becoming our first female President. You make us proud and as Namibian women.

Thank you for continuing the Pan-African vision of leaders like Kwame Nkrumah and Muhammad Gaddafi, who rejected imperialism and neo-colonialism and promoting African self-reliance. Your alignment with leaders likes of Ibrahim Traore, gives us hope for unity and will bring to an end the divide and conquer saga. We thank you Madam President.

Honourable Speaker, we must ask: what kind of future are we financing today?

The Honourable Minister has tabled a total expenditure of N\$106.3 billion for 2025/26, financial year which is substantial and one which should reflect the scale of our goals.

However, Honourable Speakers, when we unpack this budget, critical trend emerges with N\$79.8 billion going to operational expenditure, while N\$13.7 billion and N\$12.8 billion to debt servicing and development budget respectively. That means only 12% of our budget goes into building the roads, schools, hospitals, water, electricity and rural infrastructure that our people need most.

While the rise in development budget allocations is notable and I commend the Minister for that, we must not ignore the widening gap between our consumption, what we owe and what we build. For the third year running our development vote is still lagging both operational expenses and debt servicing.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

The budget ratio tells us that debt and salaries take precedence over critical social and developmental infrastructures, and job creation. This is not sustainable, as the development budget is our most important tool for inclusive socio-economic development and unlocking economic opportunities.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

Although some of our debt dates back years ago, what we borrowed back then, it is costing us more in today's taxes. As such, Hon Minister, we must ensure that our borrowing decisions directly support capital formation, not consumption. We cannot borrow our way out of development gaps, especially when the funds are used to finance the present recurrent costs rather than serving the future.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

This year's speech highlighted a conversation between the Honourable Minister and a young man from Drimiopsis, a young person eager to realise his potential if only given a fair chance. I submit that the development budget is the answer to that call if well-funded.

Madam Speaker, without a strong and consistent allocation to the development budget, the goals of young people cannot be fulfilled. We cannot redress the unemployment situation in our country, which is estimated to be highest among our peers.