

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA

OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT

Tel. +264 (0)61 288 2624 • Fax: +264 (0)61 235 547 • Email: rpnamibia@gmail.com
PO Box 22605 Windhoek, Namibia • № 13 Love, Street Ground Floor • Office 90

FY2025/26 Budget Statement

Contribution
by
Mathias S. Mbundu, MP

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*Honourable Speaker,
Right Honourable Prime Minister,
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Mines, Energy &
Industry,
Honourable Members of this August House, and
The Namibian Public at large*

I give extra recognition to our *Deputy Prime Minister* as my former Chairperson for the Economic and Public Administration Standing Committee, who taught me much about leading while I was his Deputy. With 35 years into our youthful democracy with majority of its citizens being youth too, tells us much about where this governments priorities should have been for the past years. Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana and a strong advocate of African Nationalism, famously declared, "***We face neither East nor West: we face forward,***" during his speech at the milestone conference of the All-African People in Accra, Ghana on December 11, 1958. Thus is my response to this Bill focused on asking H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's Administration the most crucial question of-Where are we as the Namibian nation looking towards building an economically competitive nation, in these troubling times of geopolitics?

Having studied this Bill have I come to the general conclusion that Namibia is a long way from reaching the Founding Fathers aspirations to become an industrialised nation, as it was envisioned under vision 2030. My argument is based on the realisation that our *national purse* is heavily dependant on what the IMF, World Bank and all these international bodies dictate to be good or bad for our people. If you

read the former Finance Ministers' Budget speech of last year and compare notes with yours honourable Minister; you will understand what I mean by my above statement when coming to the overbearing influence IMF has on our budget plans.

*Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,*

The ordinary decent, hard working and unemployed Namibian couldn't be concerned with the World Economic Outlook (WEO) of each financial year, if it does not directly improve their living conditions. Our people are looking for practical solutions to every day struggles such as a daily meal for their children, a decent income that can allow them to save up for the festive season with their loved ones or to expand their SME business to gain better business opportunities. All these hopes for a better life, is pinned on the manner in which this Bill prioritise its spending *on Infrastructure & inflation counter-measures!*

We can't expect to confront the current crises of unemployment without looking at the skills and knowledge gap existing in the education sector. Because most graduates end up jobless or over-skilled because our existing job market can't absorb them, so it brings back the question of how is our Natural Resources benefitting the unemployed literate & illiterate citizens?

*Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,*

There are commendable advances in this Budget Bill with the introduction of cash voucher system to replace the food relief distribution programme led by the Office of the Prime Minister. This is an indication that indeed the government does listen to the advice of this august house members, since it was an appeal that my former colleague championed to our current Speaker while she was heading the OPM. For that we give gratitude on behalf of the many Namibians who will benefit from the system.

The honourable Minister of Finance should be frank to the Namibian nation in stating the reality that we are not self sufficient as we would want to be, but rely heavily on a taxation system that is at the mercies of external inflationary factors. We are not “For a prosperous future” as her slogan alludes because this budget lacks the drive to lead all Namibians towards prosperity. In my view should this Bill have spoken to how this Swapo-led government plans to concretely confront the elephant in the room-which is *wealth distribution through our natural resources & minerals, economically-aligned skills development and job creation*. Because the recently released NSA unemployment statistics reflect that our unemployment rate is at a disputed 36.9% that don't include a vast majority of discouraged unemployed workers. Which if included; actually brings unemployment figures up to an alarming of 54.8% that we should treat as a Crises. And on that note will I commend my opposition member Honourable Inna Hengari of the

PDM, for introducing the Motion speaking to the state of unemployment in Namibia. Its our wish that it will be supported by all Members in this esteemed august House.

*Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,*

In conclusion fellow members do I want to say this budget should be informing the Namibian nation on what the primary focus will be for the next five to 20 years as a means to addressing the lack of decent salaried employment amongst the majority of unemployed skilled, under-skilled & unskilled Namibian people. And as such does the Republican Party of Namibia, for the sake of expediency partially support this Appropriation Bill under the new Administration of Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

I so submit.