

SWAPO PARTY



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**CONTRIBUTION BY
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
APPROPRIATION BILL (BUDGET), IN
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON, April 01, 2025**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly,

The 50-50% gender representation policies of the SWAPO Party, have enabled Namibia to be one of the few countries where women can flourish and achieve greatness in the world. For centuries women were denied their rights to self-determination and emancipation. So I congratulate Her Excellency, the President of the Republic Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwa, the Vice President and the Speaker of the National Assembly, and all women who have accented to high political office last month. This is a matter of historic significance which makes Namibia, one of the most forward thinking economy in the world.

I would like to commend the Minister of Finance for your presentation of the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026!

The global economy has started the year 2025 on a firm footing, on the back of easing inflation, improving financial conditions and a resilient performance by the Namibian economy. Nevertheless, the outlook is fragile. According to economic indicators, in 2025, the global economic outlook suggests a continued, although slower, growth trend, with projections around 3.1% to 3.3%, below historical averages. The key risks stemming from heightened policy uncertainty, particularly, the trade wars. and geopolitical tensions, are compelling businesses to adapt their operations and supply chains for potential policy and economic shifts.

Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to strengthen to an average of 4.2 percent in 2025-26, driven primarily by improvements in the outlook for industrial-commodity-exporting countries. Making Africa one of the economic zones to have a positive high growth outlook

Namibia is confronted by these economic challenges that could derail the growth trajectory as already seen in the economic decline from 4.4% growth in 2023 to 3.7% in 2024. So our path of achieving economic growth is ever so fragile.

As pragmatists, we are confronted by the dogmatic blue print of that, the global economic arena, is very competitive, innovative and not caring towards smaller economies. Technological solutions and the fast roll out of Artificial Intelligence which seem great today are often redundant the next day.

We must ensure that our economy is competitive in order to turn Namibia into a beacon of hope. I believe that if we the people work together, then we can make a meaningful contribution to the socio-economic conquest of our country.

Some will think that any consequential change in the market economy has to come all of a sudden, in a form of one system for another. I do not believe that. I believe that change can be substantial, but nevertheless gradual and experimental.

The structure of our economy MUST be confronted. Whether we understand it, believe it, like it or not! Real change must happen around the organization of the market economy. Namibians don't own the market economy. So it is just not enough to regulate the market or to compensate the market for the inequality of the market, through retrospective tax and transfer program.

Namibia is urgently seeking for a restless alternative solution that will give opportunities and instruments to the ordinary men and women in the informal settlements or Rural Communities. What we need is to reshape the market in its institutional contexts, so that more people have more access to more market in more ways. Not just an exclusive club of few.

The REDLINE veterinary fence is a case in point. We spoke about this REDLINE in one of the Standing Committees during the 7th Sitting session. We cannot continue to manage two economic systems, one for the rural poor and one for the commercial riches. The opponents of the removal of the REDLINE, usually sights that the meat from the north is not fit for consumption, yet residents in the north and tourists visiting the north, are consuming the meat. If it is a matter of protecting the European meat market, then the process of quarantine must be robustly improved and certifications enhanced, and once conditions are met, then farmers should be allowed to move their animals from the communal to the commercial areas whether for commercial or personal exploitation.

And as an interim measure, I feel we must be radical and investigate if the northern farming community can meet their own market demand. If this is the case, then we should also prevent meat from the commercial area to be sold in the communal north until the current discriminatory system is total and completely abandoned.

The reduction in the SACU receipts with N\$6.9 Billion, which is at N\$21.1 billion is worrisome, but unavoidable. Nevertheless, the Nations of SACU are to a large extend experiencing a new form of neocolonialism emanating from the lack of equity in terms of production and industrialization, characterized by permanent innovation often only one sided. These forms of neocolonial production are making other SACU economies highly uncompetitive and creating an industrial development imbalances. These innovative vanguard style of production is often confined to narrow vanguard of international economy, weakly connected to South Africa and the rest of humanity and the larger part of the labour force in other SACU countries are excluded from these vanguards. What

we need is to disseminate these advance practices to the large part of the SACU economy in order to bring about equity and fairness. So the SACU AGREEMENT MUST BE REVIEWED.

There is a correlation between public safety and economic growth. While we are celebrating the massive discovery of oil play. THE DANGERS OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY is ever looming near our country. I can forewarn that a strategic shift must be instituted to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Because the current trajectory we are on is not sustainable. While oil players have been pushing aggressive petroleum work programs coupled with massive geophysical programs, the country's legal and policy framework, strategic plan, visions and security has been lagging behind. This is a clear and present danger to the country.

Namibia needs to act now before it is too late. The decision by the president of the Republic to bring oil and gas into the presidium is highly commendable, however, much more should be done in order to avert the dangers that petroleum exploration and productions usually imports into countries.

Negative impacts associated with global oil and gas industry in emerging oil regions, includes international conflict through: (1) resource wars, in which states try to acquire oil reserves by force; (2) petro-aggression, which will make Namibia more willing to engage in risky foreign policy adventurism; (3) the externalization of civil wars in oil-producing states ("petrostates"); (4) financing for insurgencies—for instance; (5) conflicts triggered by the prospect of oil-market domination; (6) clashes over control of oil transit routes, such as shipping lanes and pipelines; (7) oil-related grievances, whereby the presence of foreign workers in petrostates helps extremist groups recruited locally; and (8) oil-related obstacles to multilateral cooperation on security issues.

Honourable Colleagues, I am happy that one of the budget policy pillars are specific provisions to address YOUTH EMPOWERMENT. The most important pillar in any economy are a multitude of small and medium size businesses. Most of these businesses are owned by young people, but are pushed back to relatively primitive production. What we need is to give these SMEs access to advance productive practices and supply chains. Because leaving this to competitive market forces, free market capitalists will just not allow these SMEs into the Supply chain. So there has to be an imposition unitary intervention policy by the bureaucratic apparatus of State.

Part of the agricultural ministry's budget is earmarked for water related projects, which is highly welcome, how much of the Ministry's strategic framework is designed towards operational effectiveness within the green

schemes projects to ensure food security. We depend a lot on South Africa and other countries for our stable food supplies, is it wise? Because if history teaches us hard lessons, we are not guaranteed sufficient food supplies from other countries should any calamity arise? The Agricultural horticulture programme that will be rolled out, can it be fast tracked and can more resources be allocated to that or subsidies to farmers already in operation.

The debt stock of N\$165.9 billion is a concern that will require an aggressive strategy, because in the future, if borrowing is not curtailed, then the country will run out of the fiscal space. Usually, we borrow in order to put money in a capital project of significant value which will in turn give some return on investment. But it is bad business to borrow just to pay operational expenses.

I believe in human creativity, endeavor and teamwork. I am confident that despite the challenges we are facing right now, they are not insurmountable, and with those few words, I support the Appropriation Bill.

THANK YOU SO MUCH