

Intervention by Hon Nono Katjingsiua on the 2025/2026 Budget

Honorable Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to make my humble contribution to the maiden budget presented by our new Government led by Her Excellency President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa. The Honorable Finance Minister in her budget speech has laid out the vision of our government at reinforcing confidence through a slow but steady continuation of the fiscal consolidation of the last decade yet with a clear path towards investments in key infrastructural and social upliftment programmes. Further, the 2025/26 National Budget is a pragmatic recognition of the macro-economic opportunities available to our country and the enormous socio-economic challenges facing our country.

Honorable Speaker, honorable members, the 2025/26 national budget presented by the Finance Minister, Honorable Erica Shafudah on the 27th of March 2025 was preceded by high expectations of reforms from all walks of life in Namibia. The budget has also been presented at the backdrop of the aftermath of the current global economic uncertainties caused by the imposition of trade tariffs by the USA that are prompting different government interventions or responses around the world which provides difficulty for long-term planning.

I believe that the Honourable Finance Minister has done a great job compiling this year's Budget in view of the greater demand for government's intervention in dealing with the myriad of social challenges such as housing, education, unemployment, inequality and health as well as the heightened expectations placed on our new government following last year's elections.

The budget gave due importance to all sections of the economy and has targeted to enhance infrastructure development while keeping its focus on dealing with poverty alleviation and social upliftment. I am particularly pleased with the growth in the development budget by N\$2.4 billion from N\$10.4 billion this year to N\$12.8 billion in the coming budget year.

We should also take pride in the continued prioritization of the social clusters, especially the allocation to the education sector comprising 30% of the total allocation. This is clear evidence of our government's emphasis on the lives and future of our country's young people. We should however continue to look for ways to improve the outcomes from our country's investments made over the last

decades, we need to see improvement in the quality of our peoples' livelihoods through these investments.

Additionally, the increased allocations to the various social protection programmes will go along way to safeguarding livelihoods and protecting families. This will also help to support our country's quest to reduce inequality and poverty.

Honorable Speaker, honorable members, It is pleasing to see the improving macro-economic parameters including the positive GDP growth over the last 3-years and a moderation in inflation and interest rates over the last 1-year. The gradual relaxation of the tax burden on our people should further move to provide our people with more cash in their pockets. This shall allow for improving livelihoods for our people as we, as a government, move decisively and intentionally to tackle poverty, unemployment, inequality, educational outcomes and access to health facilities. In the current environment of uncertainties, we as leaders have a greater need to understand the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The current budget once again emphasises the importance of government in the Namibian economy. With the numerous social and infrastructure initiatives planned, government expenditure would be a key driver of growth and social transformation and upliftment in the coming year.

I would like to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister for delivering a budget that is well balanced and responsive to the needs of the economy and the expectations and aspirations of our people.

I thank you.