



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
8TH PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MAIDEN SPEECH ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE BRAVE MARTIN LUKATO
LUKATO, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP).**

**16 APRIL 2025
WINDHOEK**

In June last year, Her Excellency Dr-Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah — then Vice President and presidential candidate for the ruling party made a heartfelt promise to our senior citizens: that the monthly old-age pension grant would be increased from N\$1 600 to N\$3 000 should she be elected.¹

Now, Madam President has assumed the highest office in the land. But following her inauguration, she stated that the increase will not happen this year, citing youth development as the current budgetary priority.² I acknowledge and respect her leadership. Indeed, the youth are the future. But let us also not forget: our pensioners raised those very youths. And now, they are being asked to wait again.

¹ Elieser Ndeyanale. 07 April 2025. The Namibian Newspaper.

² Elieser Ndeyanale. 07 April 2025. The Namibian Newspaper.

Honourable Members,

The 2023 Namibia Population and Housing Census revealed that Four hundred and Eighty Four thousand, one hundred and thirty one (484,131) persons are receiving social grants or pensions.³ Of these, 36.6% that is approximately One hundred and seventy six thousand, seven hundred and eighty (176,780) people receive the old-age pension.⁴ That's not just a statistic. That is One hundred and seventy-six thousand, seven hundred and eighty (176,780) mothers, fathers, grandmothers, and grandfathers many of whom are raising not only grandchildren but orphaned children too. The same census tells us that orphan hood is more prevalent in rural areas (8%) than in urban areas (7%), and that social grants and pensions remain the largest source of income for most households, particularly in the rural

³ Namibia 2023 Population and Housing Census, p. 44.

⁴ Namibia 2023 Population and Housing Census, p. 44.

areas where monthly household income averages below N\$1 500.

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, this Parliament has a duty to reaffirm that promise. We must prioritize the elderly not just as a matter of policy, but as a matter of principle. We must remember that dignity in retirement is a human right, not a campaign slogan.

I propose the following measures:

1. The promised N\$ 3000 is too little to cater for their essential needs, I therefore recommend an amount of N\$ 5 000 for the Senior citizens for the next two Fiscal Years, starting with an increase to N\$3 000 during the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year, and N\$ 3000 for other social groups for the next two Fiscal Years, starting with an increase to N\$ 2 000 in the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year.

2. Create a targeted rural household support programme linked to pensioners caring for orphans, under the office of the president.

Honourable Deputy Speaker,

Turning now to the issues of crime, corruption, and illicit financial flows three interconnected cancers weakening our institutions.

To effectively tackle these threats, I call for the full digital integration of our financial oversight institutions including the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), NamRA, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and the Namibian Police through a National Anti-Financial Crimes Task Force.

Additionally, we must:

- Equip investigators and prosecutors with modern forensic accounting tools, including blockchain auditing capabilities.
- Conduct mandatory lifestyle audits for senior public officials.
- Introduce a whistle-blower reward system to incentivize citizens to report corruption.
- Strengthen Namibia's capacity to enforce laws on cross-border money laundering and tax evasion, in line with international frameworks such as FATF (Financial Task Force⁵) and the AU Anti-Corruption Convention.

Honourable Members,

Namibia is now facing a disturbing resurgence of malaria, particularly in regions such as Kavango East, Zambezi, and

⁵is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. It sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.

Ohangwena. This disease is preventable and curable, yet it is once again claiming lives.

In alignment with NDP6 and our Universal Health Coverage goals, we must:

- Increase investment in vector control interventions, especially indoor residual spraying and distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets.
- Expand cross-border malaria coordination with Angola, Zambia, and Botswana.
- Deploy mobile health teams for surveillance and treatment in hotspot regions.
- Strengthen community health worker networks to raise awareness and encourage early detection and treatment.

Malaria is not just a health issue it is a development challenge.

If we do not act now, the cost in lives and lost productivity will be far greater.

Finally, Honourable Deputy Speaker,

Let us turn our eyes to food security, an area of immense potential but chronic underperformance. Namibia's Green Schemes were designed to be the engines of national food production. Instead, many are either dormant or underperforming.

We should:

- Establish a Green Scheme Restructuring Authority to overhaul governance and ensure transparency.
- Open schemes to private-public partnerships, with land and infrastructure leased to experienced Agripreneurs under strict performance contracts.
- Prioritise climate-resilient and smart agriculture technologies, including drip irrigation and solar-powered pumps.

In Conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker,

We cannot afford to break the trust of those who have carried this nation through struggle and sacrifice. We cannot ignore the rise of disease. We cannot allow crime and corruption to rob our children's future. And we must never let our land go uncultivated while our people go hungry.

Let us move from promises to action, from policies to impact, and from waiting to working.

Who is Lukato Lukato?

I was born in Anda area in the district of the main land Makanga District area. I am a head-man of Queen's land village, in the district of main land Makanga District area. I am a commander, I am a lawyer, I once served as an acting prosecutor in the Namibian's courts. I am a former Police Officer, I am a pure politician, a former UN (United Nation) envoy in the UN (United Nation) peace keeping missions. I am a pure Christian