



Maiden Speech & Contribution to the 2025/2026 Appropriation Bill

By: Hon. L.Brinkman

**WINDHOEK
15 APRIL 2025**

Hon Speakers
Hon Members

I stand before you today with a heart full of gratitude and humility, deeply honored to serve as a member of this Parliament.

Firstly, I want to thank the almighty God for choosing and guiding me not only to serve but to stand in the gap for His people.

To the Party I represent, IPC, I am profoundly grateful for entrusting me with this responsibility, I owe a debt of gratitude to the people of Mariental Urban Constituency and the electorate of Namibia at large. I am committed to represent your interests with integrity and dedication.

Lastly to my Husband, Pst Jarreth Brinkman, my parents, my parent's in-law, and my family, thank you for having my back.

Hon Speaker
Hon Members

My name is Lilani Brinkman, born in Gibeon but have spent most of my years in Mariental. Like many Namibians today, I have faced unemployment while holding qualifications. I have qualifications in Information Technology, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, just to mention a few. From teaching I later ended up in the health sector.

While I am profoundly grateful for this journey, it has opened my eyes to the urgent health challenges we face in this country.

- ❖ The most heartbreaking experience was during the COVID 19 pandemic, with my entry in the Ministry of health. Lives were lost as if they held no value. Fear of death was the leading cause of many fatalities. I witnessed desperate pleas for life, yet they remained unanswered; patients yearned for survival but it was simply not possible. The healthcare system faltered, leaving healthcare providers unable to save numerous lives. Patients had to be prioritized for ICU services, the infrastructure was just not adequate to cater for everyone. How sad, while the health sector is walking away with the 2nd biggest cut of the budget!
Many individuals experienced complications following the COVID 19 vaccination. The question remains: was it a result of the vaccine or was there an underlying health issue?

Hon Speaker
Hon Members

- ❖ By now, everyone is aware of the long waiting queues that the patients are facing. The shortage of staff and medicine that are constantly out of stock is a topic in every household! The nation is tired of the constant excuses. They are tired of the speeches, speeches that are full of empty promises.
- ❖ The elders of this country are suffering with chronic diseases, like diabetes and high blood pressure. They have to take from the already little pension money and go to the nearest hospital or clinic, waiting in cues for the whole day, just to be told the

medicines are out of stock. Life saving medication out of stock! For those that can afford, they get the medication from the private pharmacies, but for the majority of our elders, the state is their only option. Their only hope! You will find that Sometimes the prescription is being changed and they just have to deal with the side effects! I have seen many surrendering, no more going to the hospital and has rather given up on life. The health system keeps has and I'd failing them.

- ❖ I remember that bed ridden patient in Katima Mulilo, waiting for student nurses to turn him, bath and feed him because the staff could not just manage the workload. Workload of patient care as well as administrative tasks, "if you didnt record it, you didn't do it" is the big rule. Nurses are standing on the feet the whole day, yet it is just not enough!
- ❖ Countless young mothers like Cecilly from Gibeon and Charmaine from Aranos, has suffered the heartbreaking loss of their infants in the Mariental Hospital, babies that were only admitted with fever. The health system has failed them.
- ❖ Sister Eveline only developed shortness of breath, came to the hospital, was referred and booked for specialist care in Windhoek, while waiting for her date in September 2025, she lost her life, will be buried this coming Saturday. The waiting list was just too long. A young mother that was suppose to live for her family gone, just like that. The system has failed sr Eveline.
- ❖ One ambulance is serving a whole Region with emergencies and referrals coming in from all sides. I remember that uncle who had an accident in Gibeon while repairing a truck tyre, he pleaded with God the whole way to spare him but Windhoek was just too far! Help was out of reach. He succumbed! What are we doing, how are we prioritizing our resources? These are constant failures of the system, year in and year out. Lives are being lost on a daily basis because somebody is not doing their job or the interest of this Nation is not at heart.
- ❖ Where is the accountability? Accountability to ourselves and to the nation we serve? Why do we do what we do? Why is the outcry of the nation not heard?
- ❖ 82% of this Nation is using public health, with a mere 18% having medical aid. They are dependent on this system; a system they keep on trusting with their lives because there is no other way! The mandate of the Mohss is to provide quality health services, this includes ensuring that these services are accessible, affordable and sustainable.

Hon Speaker

As we delve into the appropriation bill debates, my plea is that each and every member of this house will have the interest of the Namibian people at heart, those newborn babies that do not have vaccines, the HIV/Aids and TB patients that has been affected by the shortage of medication due to the funding of USAID that has been withdrawn, those elders that are hopeless, the Malaria outbreak that is becoming worse. Let our hearts be where our mouths are.

In Conclusion Hon Speaker and Hon members,

The IPC manifesto is clearly outlining the importance of medical research, focusing on disease prevalence in Namibia. By upgrading our research facilities, we can discover innovative treatments that will advance patient care and overall public health.

Studies should be conducted on efficacy and safety of traditional medicines as it has fewer side effects and can be effective in certain treatments.

A nation is looking up to this house. We can deliver what they need, we can save Namibia. Not in our own strength but through the power of God, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He knows what is the best for our country!

I THANK YOU