



Maiden Speech & Contribution to the 2025/2026 Appropriation Bill

By Hon John-Louw Mouton (IPC)

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members, Children in Namibia are dying of hunger. Unemployment and Poverty has driven our boys to crime and our girls to prostitution. This is unacceptable.

I am Honorable John-Louw Mouton, Shadow minister of ICT. I grew up all across Namibia and after finishing school I went to Study Theology and Psychology at the University of Pretoria because I wanted to understand and solve the problem of the Individual, But When I came back I realised that the problems Namibia face are far bigger than the Individual.

As an entrepreneur, I co-founded a tech startup that solved problems in the private sector but I always believed my true calling was to serve the people of Namibia, however I thought there is no place for a White Boertjie in Namibian Politics. Our IPC party President Dr Itula came and opened my Mind with Article 17 of the constitution , Stating: all citizens shall have the right to participate in Peaceful political activity intended to Influence the composition and Policies of Government.

And today I am able to participate thanks to all the namibians that gave us the mandate to serve.

Ons Afrikaners het 'n geneigdheid om op die kantlyn te staan en te kla en kritiseer, maar dis tyd dat ons opstaan en saam werk om die probleme van hierdie land op te los. Sodat ons 'n beter land kan verseker vir elke Namibier en die geslagte wat kom.

Which translates to: Afrikaners have a tendency to sit on the side line and critique, but it is time that we work together with all Namibians to help solve the problems and create a better future for us all.

Our Beloved Land faces numerous Challenges and the nation is looking at us to solve them. With a population of just over 3 mil people and an abundance of resources our people are still suffering. This does not make sense.

With a broad Unemployment of 54.8% you have to ask yourself, Why are we not training our youth for the job Market. Why is there no Strategic vocational training in **all** Schools? Surely we can teach our children agricultural skills to empower them to grow their own food. With all the fertile land in Namibia we should have food security for 3 million people.

I believe Technology is the key to solving these problems. For example, we can integrate online learning and applications to assist education and find transformative ways to farm in barren land.

Our country seriously lacks software infrastructure to streamline its services and create a conducive environment for innovation. Technology is advancing at an exponential rate and if we are not serious about catching up quickly we will be left so far behind that other countries will take advantage of us and exploit us even more than we are currently being exploited. When I look at the proposed Budget, there is no indication that we are taking technological advancement seriously enough. With technology we can keep people accountable, track government assets and wasteful tenders, cut red tape, reduce bureaucracy, fix our procurement system and create a more nimble and efficient government that can serve the people of Namibia to its full potential.

We need to start aggressively stimulating our secondary sectors. If we are not manufacturing in this country, we are not creating jobs and we are not adding value to our resources.

The Fiscal Strategy for the medium term expenditure framework 25/26 states the following: *The manufacturing sector is estimated to record an improved growth in 2024 compared to a contraction recorded in 2023.*

I don't know why we are making estimations on 2024 surely we should know if grew by now. Further it states: *Going forward, growth is expected to slow down in 2025.* This Sector should not slow down!

Our young people need to be prioritised. Youth unemployment is a major issue, and creating your own opportunities is an immense challenge. When we started our own company I realised just how extremely difficult it is to create a business. Numerous hassles with getting a company registered without guidance or a conducive infrastructure to grow and scale the business. Our education system fails to teach entrepreneurship properly and our Tax and funding systems are not aligned for SME's. If we have proper software systems and online structures in place we can ease this process and help small businesses.

With the Rapid advancement of AI, it is imperative that we start looking at legislation to establish a comprehensive legal framework for AI to ensure safety and protect fundamental human rights.

A large portion of this country still does not have an active Internet connection with only 1.216 mil people active on Google, According to a global statistics agency, Data Reportal.

That means the majority of this country still does not have proper access to information. How are we addressing this problem?

When we look at the proposed budget a lot of questions come to mind. Like why is the MICT planning to spend more than 28 mil (28,120,000) on S&T for this financial year. That is almost 2.5 mil per month, 78 000 per day. Where are you all traveling to for that amount of Money. Surely the ministry is aware of Online meetings like Zoom or Microsoft teams. In comparison we are only spending 259 mil on development Infrastructure in the ministry. With the majority of that going to new government offices.

Hon Speaker, Hon members. There is a common saying that Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We have seen alarming rates of corruption in this country and we are increasingly becoming an Authoritarian state, with laws giving the president the power to Nominate the Director general of the Anti Corruption Commission which then gets approved by a parliament where the same party has majority seats. There is no independent body policing the ACC, there are no proper accountability measures in place to keep leaders accountable.

At the end of the 7th Parliaments term a rule was passed to change the composition of the selection committees to give the ruling party absolute power over this Assembly. I want to Caution this house on the greed for absolute power. There is a reason we have the strongest opposition since Independence in this Country. The people of Namibia are tired of the abuse of absolute power.

There are those that are Corrupt and Corruptible and they might sit on both sides of the house. And then there are those who know about corruption but don't participate. I want to speak to those members specifically, who have the moral awareness not to participate, but choose to keep quiet. They are the ones that can change the trajectory of this country, because they know how corruption is done. And finally there are those of us who really have the nation at heart. If we are serious about heeding the call to fight corruption then let's work together to be a force for goodness that can change the tide for the better for all Namibian people.

We might not always agree on everything, But I am sure we can agree that the Unemployment in Namibia is a major crisis and should be our primary priority. We are entering unprecedented times globally, and we will be the parliament to guide Namibia through this storm. We have a massive responsibility on our shoulders. I strongly believe If we work together we can find simple solutions to the complex problems in Namibia, because no child deserves to die of hunger!