

**MAIDEN SPEECH AND 2025/2026 BUDGET CONTRIBUTION OF HON. HILMA N. IITA -  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, APRIL 2025**

*Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members*

I stand before this esteemed House today, with profound gratitude and a deep sense of honour, as I address you for the first time as a duly elected representative of the people of our beloved nation, Namibia. This moment fills me with immense privilege and responsibility, as I reflect upon the trust and hopes of our citizens who have placed their confidence in me by electing me to serve in this August House.

First and foremost, I express my gratitude to The Almighty God for His protection throughout my journey. I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to my political home, SWAPO Party, which has provided me with a platform to serve, promote justice, and to contribute to our nation's<sup>(u)</sup> development. To my family, I owe my deepest gratitude for their unwavering support and strength.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable members

I stand here, not just as an individual, but as a voice for the diverse people of Namibia - that have long yearned for development, dignity, and effective representation. I carry into this chamber their lived realities: their stories of perseverance, their struggles, and their aspirations. Many of them are farmers, **workers, entrepreneurs, students, veteran's and caregivers**, their collective expectations are clear: they seek tangible action, equal distribution of natural resources, unwavering integrity, and meaningful results. ➔

Honourable Speaker, Honorable members

As I embark on this journey, I am reminded of the fundamental role of Parliament as the heartbeat of our democracy—a place where laws are made, policies are shaped, and the voices of the people resonate. I pledge to uphold the principles of justice, accountability, and good governance in all my contributions

Honourable Speaker, Honorable members,

I pledge to conduct my work in this August House with diligence, humility, and respect for all Honourable Members, across Party lines. Our debates must be vigorous yet respectful, our differences of opinion must be guided by the singular goal of crafting policies that are responsive to the realities on the ground.

Turning to the important matter before this House, <sup>us in</sup> **Honourable Speaker, Honourable members** the Appropriation Bill demands our earnest and meticulous consideration. This Bill is not a mere fiscal allocation; it is a reflection of our collective vision for national development, social progress, and economic stability. It is a financial instrument that seeks to translate policy into action and aspirations into realities. The allocations to critical sectors such as Education, Health, Agriculture, and Youth Empowerment are investments in the prosperity of our nation.

In this regard, *Honorable Speaker*, Honorable members, I would particularly like to urge the Honourable Minister of Finance <sup>and Social Grants Management</sup> and the Honourable Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs to consider a slightly increased allocation to the portfolio of Veterans Affairs. It is an obligation upon us to ensure that those who fought for the freedom we so enjoy today are not left behind. Let us honour their sacrifices not just with words, but with deeds that advance the cause of justice, fairness, and national unity.

Honourable Speaker, Hounorable members, we must acknowledge that our nation is facing economic challenges, which are further worsened by global instability. However, this Bill represents a commitment to **fiscal discipline**, ensuring that every dollar spent is directed towards sustainable growth and poverty alleviation. The emphasis on **accountability and transparency** in public spending must remain paramount, as it is our duty to safeguard the interests of our citizens.

As custodians of the public trust, let us remain ever mindful that public funds belong to the people. Our decisions must reflect this, with a clear focus on improving lives and fostering resilience across our nation.

Let us remember always: the true historic strength of this August House lies not within its walls, but in the positive, lasting impact of its decisions on our people.

With these words, I pledge my full support to the 2025/2026 Appropriation Bill and urge my fellow Honorable Members to do the same in the interest of our nation and her people.

*Honourable Speaker, Honourable members*

I thank you