

MAIDEN SPEECH

2025/04/10

Werner Iita (MP), 10 April 2025

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

Today confidently, I am here to present my first ever Maiden Speech as a member of this August House.

I am Werner Shishiweni Iita, born and bred at Omulathitu Village, 08 Killometers from Oshakati Town, Oshana region. I have substantial experience in banking sector and local government as I worked for financial institutions and various municipalities.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the Namibian nation for mandating the mighty SWAPO Party to continue governing the Republic of Namibia. As a governing Party we shall continue to protect, defend, uphold and respect the constitution and other laws of the land of the brave.

Moreover, I would like to congratulate Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi -Ndaitwah as a first female President of the Republic of Namibia, and General Ndenga Ndaitwah as a first ever Gentleman of our peaceful country. In the same vein I would like to congratulate Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa - Amadhila as a first female Speaker of the National Assembly in our beloved Motherland.



MAIDEN SPEECH

Honorable Speaker

Namibia is a geographically large country with small population of 3 million, economic growth and economic development is feasible across the country. The Government through the BANK and the ministry of FINANCE is consistently containing the fiscal and monetary policy since independence, it is indeed commendable and plaudable to those entities.

The external debt (foreign debt) in relation to internal debt (domestic debt) is reasonable well managed, the repo rate which stand at 6.75%, aiming to support the domestic economy and safeguarding the peg between Namibia dollar and the South African Rand is a crucial monetary policy tool, to impact significantly investment and economic activity by influencing borrowing costs which in turn affects spending, lending and overall economic growth.

The Balance of Payment (BOP) is indicating that investment leakages (capital outflows) and investment injection (capital inflows), which summarizes economic transactions between Namibian residents and the rests of the world, inclusive trade in goods and services, capital and financial flows is build- up of a trade deficit. It is indeed our wish to have our current and capital accounts at breakeven or to keep at (equilibrium) or surplus in near future by investing heavily in manufacturing plant where workers transforming raw materials into finished products and value addition.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Honorable Speaker

The gini coefficient has been improved from 0,90 in 1989 to currently 0,59, recorded an improvement of 40%, this is an indication of government commitment and dedication to better the quality of life of Namibian people.

Namibia's recent economic performance was stronger than expected. The economy grew by 4.2% in 2023, driven by the mining sector, including investments in oil exploration. The economy has recovered to its pre-pandemic level, but many key sectors, including job-rich construction and financial services, are in recovering state. However agriculture is envisaged to grow by 4% as recovers with current abundant rainfall

Honorable Speaker

The appropriation bill indicates that education sector shall receive N\$24,8 billion. In wider sense means that the government value education as a priority on the agenda of youth empowerment. The government value education as a vital for individual growth, economic prosperity, and societal progress, providing skills, knowledge and opportunity for better future. Education fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and empowers individuals to become informed citizens and contribute meaningfully to society, therefore the allocated income and expenditure for vote 40 is commendable and I do assent without any hesitation.

MAIDEN SPEECH

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It is also remarkable to note that in the appropriation bill, Urban and Rural Development shall receive N\$2,7 billion. Large portion of this developmental budget would be used for formalization of informal settlement across country. The unwavered efforts by right Honorable Prime Minister Dr, Elia Ngurare is applaudable by proposing to diminish undignified shelters for our community.

In conclusion, Honorable speaker. Commonsensically, to invigorate the service delivery in urban setup, it is vital to elevate some local authority to part 1 and 2 Municipalities. For instance Keetmanshoop and Otjiwarongo could be elevated from part 2 to Part 1 Municipalities, while Oshakati, Ongwediva, Ondangwa, Outapi, Eenhana, Rundu and Katima Mulilo could be promoted to Part 11 municipalities to ensure self-sustainability and self-governance in terms of "Modus Operandi" to minimize too much dependence on government, except capital funding. The latter have vigorously improved on infrastructural development, their revenue base and mobilization thereof have increased tremendously.

Finally, I do concur with Appropriation Bill 2025/2026 financial year as tabled this year by our venerated Honorable Minister of Finance,

I so submit, Honorable Speaker.