



MAIDEN SPEECH

OF

HONOURABLE AUSTIN MACHANA SAMUPWA, MP

**MEMBER OF THE 8TH PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA**

THURSDAY, 27 MARCH 2025

Honorable Speaker,
Hon. Deputy Speaker^x and Chairperson of the Whole House
Committee
Chief Whips^x across the Political Divide and their
Deputies,
of Parliament
Honorable Members and fellow Namibians,

I am pleased to announce my presence in this august
house, as a member of the eighth Parliament of the
Republic of Namibia. My name is Austin Samupwa
representing the SWAPO Party. *X*

It is with a deep sense of humility and great pride that

I stand before you today as a newly appointed Member
of Parliament. I do so not only to fulfill the
responsibilities entrusted to me by the Namibian
people I represent, but also to honor the promises
made by our Party, SWAPO, and our government ✓

under the leadership of Her Excellency, President Netumbo Nandi – Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia. ✓

Today marks the beginning of my contributions to this Parliament in the next in the next five years, during which I vow to work relentlessly for the prosperity of Namibia's citizens – particularly our youth, our rural communities, and our under-served populations. I am here in this 8th parliament to ensure that promises of ~~our party manifesto~~ become a living reality for all Namibians. ~~In this vein,~~ I undertake to initiate and support legislative laws that are aimed at removing bureaucracies and obstacles to delivering SERVICES EFFECTIVELY & EFFICIENTLY to all Namibians. ✓

In this maiden speech, I want to speak directly to the challenges we face and the vision I have to overcome them. I will focus on ~~three~~ ^{four} core issues that are at the

heart of my work as a parliamentarian: job creation for the youth, the provision of basic housing and amenities, improvement of our education system and boosting of the rural economy. These areas are critical in moving Namibia forward and ensuring that every Namibian has the opportunity to live a dignified life.

Job Creation for the Youth:

Honorable Speaker, we live in a country where more than 40% of our youth are unemployed, and many of them are struggling to find employment opportunities. This unemployment crisis, particularly among our youth, is not only an economic challenge; it is a social and moral one. It is a crisis that threatens the future of our nation. But I stand before you with a commitment – a commitment to working with my fellow parliamentarians to create an environment where our youth can thrive. Any laws that stand in the way of

youth employment, it is obvious, we shall smash them to pieces. ✓ - and ~~discard~~ ^{condemned} them to ~~the~~ dustbin.

I will speak strongly on the need for job creation and skills development for the youth and also call for the establishment of economic opportunities that focus on the sectors that matter most to the future of our country – agriculture, technology, tourism, and renewable energy. These are sectors where we can and must create jobs. I will be a vocal advocate for policies that that support the creation of small and medium enterprises, innovation hubs, and ~~and~~ technical training programs, so that our young people are not just looking for jobs, but are empowered to create jobs, to build businesses, and to shape their own futures. ✓

The Government has shown a commitment to this by establishing initiatives like the Youth Enterprise ✓

Development Fund, and as a parliamentarian, I will push for further investments in programs that provide mentorship, business incubation, and affordable finance for young entrepreneurs. We must empower our youth not only through education but through economic independence.



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Providing Basic Housing and Amenities:

Honorable Speaker, housing is a basic human right, and yet too many Namibians – particularly in rural areas – are living without adequate shelter, water, sanitation and electricity. Access to basic amenities is essential for the dignity and well-being of all our citizens. This is especially true for those living in our rural areas, where the gap between urban and rural living conditions continues to widen.



Jawm.

I will strongly emphasize the provision of affordable housing and infrastructure as a key pillar of our national development agenda. As well advocate for the construction of thousands of affordable houses, focusing on social housing and rural electrification. But beyond the building of homes, we must ensure that these homes are equipped with basic amenities – access to clean water, sanitation, and electricity.



I pledge to work with fellow parliamentarians to accelerate the pace of housing construction. This will require a multi-faceted approach – strengthening public—private partnerships, increasing government investment in housing infrastructure, and making financing more accessible for ordinary Namibians. But most importantly, we must ensure that the rural areas are not left out or behind. We need to strengthen the national program that targets rural electrification, road construction, and clean water initiatives so that



every Namibian, regardless of their geographic location, has access to basic necessities of life.

3

Improving Education for All:

Honorable Speaker, there is no greater investment a country can make than in the education of its children. Education is the key that unlocks the door to prosperity. Yet, despite significant improvements in access to education, the results have not been what the nation expects. Namibia continues to face challenges in improving literacy, numeracy, and overall educational outcomes. ✓

I will continuously place education at the heart of national development and emphasize the need to improve the quality of education at all levels, from early childhood development to tertiary education. I equally commit to the reform and modernizing the

education system, improving teaching standards, and ensuring that our education system is not only about producing students who can pass examinations, but students who are equipped with critical thinking skills, creativity, and technical competencies needed in the modern world. These will equally prepare them to contribute to the national development agenda in various spheres. ✓

As a parliamentarian, I will advocate for policies that prioritize education reform and ensure that resources are directed to the areas where they are most needed – such as teacher continuous professional development, the provision of teaching and learning materials, and the improvement of school infrastructure. But I also believe we need ^{to} do more to foster partnerships between the education sector and the private sector. This can create opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and hands-on

experiences that will better prepare our students for the world of work.

Additionally, I will advocate for the improvement of quality education in rural areas. No child should feel that their geographic location condemns them to a lesser quality of education. I will strive to initiate and support policies that speak to the building of more schools, increasing teacher recruitment and teacher retention in rural areas, and introducing digital learning platforms that can reach even the most remote communities.



Boosting the Rural Economy:

Honorable Speaker, the rural economy is the backbone of Namibia. It is in rural areas where we find some of the most hardworking, resourceful, and entrepreneurial people in our country. Yet, too often

than not, rural Namibia is left out of the economic conversation. Agriculture, which is the primary source of livelihood for so many Namibians, faces multiple challenges – drought, land degradation, and a lack of access to markets.

I recognize the critical role of the rural economy and call for a comprehensive strategy to support agriculture and rural development. This includes modernizing agricultural practices, supporting smallholder farmers, promoting Agri-processing and ensuring that rural communities have access to markets and financing.

Honorable Speaker, I will work to ensure that rural Namibia is not just a recipient of aid, but an active participant in national development. By supporting rural infrastructure such as roads, irrigation systems, and agro-processing centers, we can create sustainable

quality education, and rural communities are not left behind in the development process.

Let us work together to turn our aspirations as a nation into tangible outcomes. Let us create a Namibia where the voices of all people – especially the most marginalized – are heard and respected, and as well empowered to be productive members of our communities.

I stand before the Namibian nation as a servant of the people, committed to the ideals of equality, justice, and progress. I remain relentless in advocating for the issues that matter most to the Namibian people – job creation, affordable housing, education, and rural development.

Let us all work together to create a Namibia that is truly for all Namibians, where no one is left behind and

economic opportunities that uplift entire communities.

We can only boost rural economy if we place a budget in the hands of the leadership that was freely elected by the people – the Constituency Councilors. I will therefore call on the speedy finalization and implementation of the Constituency Development Fund.

Conclusion:

Honorable Speaker, as I embark on this journey, I am guided by the belief that our greatest resource is our people. The challenges we face as a nation are significant, but they are not insurmountable. Together, we can build a Namibia where every youth has a job, every family has a home, every child has access to

Before I conclude, let me make a few remarks on the budget:-

- ① Our economy's growth is projected to remain steady and broad-based
- ② The Govt. has committed to implementing measures to diversify the economy.

every member of our society is able to contribute positively to the betterment of our country.

I support the Bill!
Thank you,

God bless the Republic of Namibia.

End//....