



Original

MAIDEN SPEECH OF HON. DAWID CHRISTIAAN EIGUB

8th Parliament, National Assembly, Republic of Namibia

¹⁶
15 April 2025, Windhoek, Namibia

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

1. I stand before you this afternoon as a servant of the Namibian people, a seasoned Civil Engineer—groomed and shaped by the foundations of discipline and excellence at Dawid Bezuidenhout High School.

2. I qualified as a Civil Engineer and Project Management at the then Polytechnic of Namibia. Over the past 16 years in my career I have been involved in the design and construction supervision of mass land servicing initiatives in local authorities such as Ondangwa, Ruacana, Aroab, Karasburg, Keetmanshoop, Gibeon, and Gobabis, along with key road infrastructure projects. My career took me to work on mega engineering projects abroad, in countries such as Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

(Instructed)
Registered with the Engineering Council of Namibia as Incorporated Engineer
Feasibility Studies / Plans
Served as Ex-Member of (EPAN)

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

3. Sir Isaac Newton states in his First Law of Motion: "that an object will not change its motion unless a force acts upon it." That force must be greater than its downward momentum to change direction. This 8th Parliament ^{therefore} must be that greater force—a balancing counter-force against poverty, unemployment, and hunger. A force that redirects Namibia in a trajectory of inclusive growth, equity, and opportunity for all.
4. We are called to rise in a time when poverty, unemployment, and gross systemic inequality have become deeply entrenched under a kakistocratic regime of the South West Africa People's Organization.
- A regime under which 46.2% of women-headed households live in poverty. 40.6%
 - A regime under which 42% of our youth remain unemployed.
 - A regime under which 1,763 individuals own and control 85% of the country's wealth—making Namibia one of the most unequal countries in the world.
 - A regime under which 80% of urban residents live in shacks, and approximately 1.2 (40%) million Namibians endure informal housing conditions.
 - A regime under which public infrastructure is deteriorating, with a recent report released by the Roads Authority of Namibia indicating that 50% of our transportation network has reached the end of its lifespan. (40% - 50%) Cabon force

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

Does the Budget
speak to this
reality?

5. The urban housing crisis is merely the symptom of a deeper problem—a human settlement planning and design crisis. The failure to decentralize and empower rural economies, has accelerated rural-urban migration, placing unsustainable pressure on towns and cities already crippled by underfunding and lack of basic service capacity. Windhoek is crippled by lack of land delivery resources, and yet the centre is not supporting the City with meaningful resources. Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Otjiwarongo, Keetmanshoop, Mariental, and the list goes on, are all the towns that are crumbling under the weight of the lack of funding.
6. Local authority efficiency is severely constrained by historic financial mismanagement and unsustainable debt accumulation inherited from SWAPO led councils. Valerie Jarrett once said: *"When you are in local government, you are on the ground. You look into the eyes and hearts of the people you serve. It teaches you to listen, to expand the people with whom you engage—and that gives you political judgment."* This, Honourable Speaker, highlights our experience as a party governing two of the largest regions in the country.
7. In 2020 Tsinstabis was declared a settlement in terms of terms of. Section 31 (1) of the Regional Councils Act, 1992 and is now known as the administrative capital of the Guianas Constituency, ^{at the heart of the} Due to its strategic location, the social and economic activities and its current population, it becomes critical that this settlement and other settlements such as Aminuis in the Omaheke Region be considered for upgrade to village council status.

Hon. Speaker,

Adjojo Mangaki
Oshodi to Elara

Hon. Members,

8. I strongly urge the Hon. Minister of Finance that an allocation of ²⁵⁰ ~~N\$100~~ million be earmarked for local authorities to implement youth-centered, training-based and labour-based construction projects. A similar programme was successfully implemented in the transportation sector ^{and SME empowerment} and should be extended to local authority areas to deal with unemployment in urban areas. It cannot be overstated that the construction sector provides massive potential to create employment and put daily bread on the tables of many ^{struggling} households. Besides the immense hunger and poverty of our people, no youth unemployment benefits are being considered, including a small but sensible amount to stopgap the downward spiral mode our youth has gotten into due to the excesses of poverty, hunger, unemployment and marginalization! Imagine, the youth, while they are the largest population group, are the largest marginalized group in this country! How odd! How sad!

9. We cannot further delay the injection money and opportunities into the hands of our young people, both through agriculture, infrastructure development, education and the creative arts industry. The time is now! If this government was a serious government at least N\$2 billion should be allocated to local authorities for the formalization of informal settlements across all regions where training and development of construction companies and consulting firms owned by young local professionals are given top priority in order to stimulate the local economy.

10. Seventy percent (70%) of the world's freshwater is consumed by agriculture. Of that, 40% is wasted due to inadequate irrigation, evaporation, and poor water management. ^{In the case of Namibia} In a country plagued by drought, this is unacceptable. The Ministry of Agriculture must lead efforts in sustainable water management and innovative irrigation solutions. Moreover, I propose: A national budget allocation of at least N\$ 1,5 billion to drill more boreholes, especially in communal areas where farmers and communities struggle daily. Let's do it!

11. We are the only country in the world where a mega-dam project—the Neckartal Dam, one of Namibia engineering ^{White Elephant} marvels, completed in 2018 holding a capacity of 857 million cubic meters—has been sitting idle, at full capacity, for more than six years without any productive use. The same government which has failed in this regard now claims to build apparent 10 000 homes and create apparent 250 000 jobs under Procurement Act No.15 of 2015 that has thwarted and severely frustrated implementation of development projects. My personal experience with the Procurement Act is that it does not take into consideration realistic project implementation timelines from the date budgets are availed to the date when the government fiscal year ends. ^{in current form} This Act created severe bottlenecks around value ^{by Contractors} engineering while frustrating consulting engineers who are a critical stakeholder in planning and development.

Honourable Speaker,

12. With a clear moral conscience, I reject the national budget in its current form. We cannot pass a budget that ignores our youth, that fails our pensioners, that fails to prioritize infrastructure development, job creation, agriculture, land and housing.

Finish en klaar!

I so submit !