

MAIDAN SPEECH BY HON. FENNY TUTJAVI

Delivered in the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia

Date: ⁰⁹~~08~~ April 2025

**HONOURABLE SPEAKER,
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE,
FELLOW NAMIBIANS WATCHING ACROSS THE COUNTRY,**

On this ⁰⁹~~08~~ day of April 2025 I rise to once again appreciate, Namibia's strong commitment to upholding the core values of democracy. I wish to reference the principle of participation which accords me the confidence to stand before you today I am Mbahimwa Fenny Tutjavi, born in the great Kunene Region, raised in the Mighty Erongo region, subsequently transcending into my Youth in the Mighty Khomas region.

I rise today, as a proud daughter of the Namibian soil, called to serve under the banner of the SWAPO Party and appointed through the visionary, progressive and forward striving leadership of **HER EXCELLENCY Dr NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH** and **DEMOCRATICALLY** being elected into Parliament by the Namibian Nation.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I can but not seize to move my deepest gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in the youth of this country. Your bold leadership, by action and not just rhetoric, reminds every young girl and boy in every dusty street and crowded classroom that their voices matter, and their dreams are valid.

2. Write a 3-15 minute

HAVING SAID THIS HON SPEAKER, I wish to put it on record that. As a young person, I have been around, I have seen, I have heard, I have felt and equally so continue to share in the different plights of the Namibian young people. Therefore it is with immense pleasure and appreciation to this great call of duty that I wish to say to my Constituents that we are still together. This call is ours, as the great saying Goes that each generation has it's call owners and is on us to either rise to the Occasion or to betray it. Therefore from the onset allow me to extend an invitation to my generation to walk this call of duty with me. And by extension urge all Namibians to walk this call of national duty with me.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

Namibia today stands at a critical juncture, a moment where we must ask: **WHAT KIND OF NATION ARE WE BUILDING FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME?** As a member of this esteemed House, I come with no illusions about the magnitude of the task ahead. However, I also come with the unshakable belief that if we lead with vision, values, and vigilance, our country can become a beacon of hope on the African continent. With the **RECENT SWEARING-IN OF OUR FIRST-EVER FEMALE PRESIDENT,** the limelight is on us, and the bar has been set high. Honourable Members, we are oath-bound to rise to the occasion.

THE SWAPO PARTY Government has outlined an ambitious yet necessary set of development priorities to be pursued between 2025 and 2030 National development period. These are not just mere promises of the past; they are a blueprint for the future. A future that must be built on seven priority pillars: These seven pillars provide a clear direction and a foundation for transformative change and progression. Aimed at strengthening Social progression and economic stability for a prosperous Namibia.

namely Agriculture, Sports, Youth Empowerment, Quality education & Training, Creative industry, Quality Health & Social Work, Housing, and Sunbath

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

In light of the 2025 national budget, I believe I would do an injustice towards the line minister of Finance and grants. If I fail to recognize the timely tabling of the appropriation bill, for consideration. A move well done indeed **COMRADE HONOURABLE MINISTER.**

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

In 2024 Namibia was ranked 1st world wide in education spending, according to the 2024 Global Innovation Index. This Year **HONARABLE SPEAKER,** Namibia's education has been ranked as the third best in Africa and first globally in education expenditure as a percentage of GDP, according to the **MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION.** Namibia continues to maintain its position as a global leader in education investment. It is commendable that the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts, and Culture continues to receive the largest allocation, ~~over~~ N\$24 billion.

This speaks to the government's recognition of education as the cornerstone of national development. It speaks to amplify the notion that we should never as a country compromise on the imperative role that education plays in Nation building.

Whiles the allocation is fundamentally well intended, the challenge now lies not with the size of the allocation, but in its **STRATEGIC UTILIZATION**. Every cent must be traced to a meaningful outcome, be it classrooms that actually have chairs, schools, teachers that are well-trained and motivated, or students who are not just in school but are truly learning.

I further note the reintegration of the **NAMIBIA STUDENTS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND (NSFAF)** back to the Ministry of Education. This shift must translate into a streamlined, transparent, and student-centered funding mechanism, aimed at strengthening and enhancing effectiveness. For the greater benefit of our student populates. Bureaucracy must not steal our students' time or futures. The administration of financial aid must be efficient, equitable, and focused on removing the financial barriers that continue to haunt thousands of bright but disadvantaged students.

Our education must be the great equalizer, **AS OUR FOUNDING FATHER DR SAM SHAFIISHUNA NUJOMA BELIEVED, MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.**

We must confront the uncomfortable truth that thousands of young people find themselves in educational limbo. Let us not confuse pass rates with progress. Let us not settle for structural systems that reward privilege and punish potential. **TVETs** must be brought to the same footing as traditional academic paths. The moment we call one **"FORMAL"** and the other **"INFORMAL,"** we already begin to devalue the latter.

SPORTS- The proposed renovation and utilization of our national stadiums do not only serve sports, but serve the economy. Home games mean hotel bookings, taxi rides, visa applications, cultural exports, and more. Let us do the math. Let us see the multiplier effect. Renovated stadiums are more than concrete, they are catalysts for economic revival.

CREATIVE INDUSTRY- It is high time we stop treating the Creative Industry as a hobby sector. Arts, music, and media are not side hustles, they are industries. They employ thousands, attract international capital, and shape national identity. If properly harnessed, they can stand beside mining, tourism, and agriculture as pillars of GDP growth. Centres such as the College of the Arts (COTA), Arts Performance Centre (APC), The Project Room, Namibia Craft Centre, the National Art Gallery of Namibia just to mention few are beacons of talent and innovation. Government must invest in expanding and replicating these across all regions to make the creative economy more accessible and economically viable for more young people.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

Furthermore, I welcome the directive issued by the Ministry of Finance to all Offices, Ministries, and Agencies to allocate budget lines for apprenticeships, internships, and graduate intensives in the 2025–2027 cycle. But policy alone is not progress, it must be implemented with urgency and resolve. When linked with the youth empowerment pillar, these initiatives have the potential to transform the country's human resource base and reduce youth unemployment in a real sustainable way. Youth Empowerment will no longer be lip service. It will be a national commitment.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

Safety and security must be a central concern for us all. It pains me deeply to reflect on recent tragedies that have shocked our nation. A 17-year-old boy, Paulus Kahili, was brutally murdered in Rundu by two ^{teenagers, 17 and 18} 18-year-olds. The day before Yesterday alone, we witnessed the horror of an 18-year-old man in Usakos killing six of his own relatives, including four minors. And rape incidents continue to rise across our regions, two having been very recent that they happened over the weekend. These are not isolated crimes, they are indicators of deep-rooted societal distress. We must urgently invest in community policing, youth rehabilitation, mental health care, and a stronger justice system. Safety is not optional. It is a right.

HONARABLE SPEAKER, HONARABLE MEMBERS,

Neo-colonialism remains a shadow over Africa's development. While we remain grateful for foreign aid and strategic partnerships, Namibia's sovereignty is not for sale and as Honourable members we have been called upon to defend and protect the Namibian sovereignty. We are a friend to all and an enemy to none, but we must always read the fine print. Aid must not be agenda-driven, and our policy space must remain Namibian-owned and Namibia centered. Let us not become vessels for other people's interests under the pretense of cooperation. As Thomas Sankara reminded us: "He who feeds you, controls you." We must feed ourselves. We must govern ourselves. And we must dream for ourselves.

This is a generational call. We, the youth, are not asking for charity, we will not appreciate tokenism, we are demanding inclusion, deliberate inclusion. We are not waiting for tomorrow, we are participating today. Once again it is one thing Hon, members to involve Young people in decision making and transformation, however it is progressive and Youth Centered to have young people driving the transformation and impact of their needs and desires. By way of conclusion, let me say this:

I stand here not to be the youngest Member of **PARLIAMENT OF THE 8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** for symbolic purposes, but to make substance out of symbolism. This seat is not mine alone, it belongs to every young Namibian who has ever felt overlooked, underestimated, or unheard.

I am here. We are here. The youth are here. And we are ready to build the Namibia we deserve. We have unapologetically arrived.

ALUTA CONTINUA. THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES, BUT THIS TIME, IT IS A STRUGGLE FOR EXCELLENCE, aimed at Enhancing economic development, social progression and youth for Sustainable development. It will indeed not be business as Usual.

**I SO MOVE HON
SPEAKER, AND I THANK
YOU.**