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**STATEMENT-ON-THE-NATIONAL-BUDGET**

**BY THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE NAMIBIA ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (NEFF), HON. LN KALIMBO IIPUMBU**

Windhoek, Namibia

Hon-Speaker-and-Hon-Members,

Fellow-Namibians,

The Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF) has taken note of the recent tabling of the national budget for the next five years by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. As custodians of the voices of the voiceless and defenders of economic justice, we approach this budget with critical hope and revolutionary scrutiny.

We acknowledge and commend the prioritization of key ministries such as Education, Health, and Defence. At face value, this budget seems to carry a tone of progressiveness. However, as a movement rooted in grassroots realities, we ask a fundamental question: Does this budget truly speak to the needs of the people, or does it merely tick boxes in the name of political performance?

Yes, the Ministry of Education has been allocated the highest share of the budget. But where are the transformative measures? Where is the new thinking? Where are the deliberate strategies to address overcrowded classrooms, the shortage of teachers, and the lack of infrastructure in rural schools? Throwing money at a broken system without systemic reform is not a solution; it is a political sedative meant to silence the frustrations of the masses. We expected to see deliberate investment in technical and vocational training institutions across the country. We expected to see the establishment of innovation hubs and free access to early childhood education. Sadly, this budget only amplifies the status quo.

It is economically irresponsible that the Ministry of Agriculture remains underfunded when it holds the key to food security, youth employment, and rural development. Namibia is rich in land and climate diversity. We could be exporting more than meat and importing less food — if only the right investments were made. Where are the programmes to train young Namibians in agro-processing, horticulture, and modern farming techniques? Where is the national plan to mechanize communal farming and turn it into a commercial powerhouse? We are failing to prepare our youth for self-sufficiency, and that is a betrayal of the future.

This budget fails to address the most immediate burden facing our people — the high cost of living. The price of basic goods is skyrocketing, housing is unaffordable, and public transport costs continue to deepen the pockets of the elite. While we hear promises of stability, we see no direct measures to ease the daily suffering of the working class and the unemployed. There is no significant increase in social grants, no policy shift on land ownership, and no strategy to bring down the price of housing or fuel. If this budget is not directly fighting poverty, then it is simply a document of delayed justice.

The NEFF is particularly concerned that developmental projects that could absorb thousands of unemployed youth are underfunded or completely absent. We expected to see large-scale state-led industrial projects, infrastructure development in regions beyond Windhoek, and special economic zones in the north, east and south — but instead; we are offered crumbs dressed as cake.

Young people need jobs, not workshops. They need employment, not empty slogans. They-need-inclusion,-not-tokenism.

Lastly, we warn the nation to stay vigilant. A beautiful budget can be destroyed by a corrupt hand. Without transparency, without accountability, and without independent oversight, this budget can easily become a feeding trough for the politically-connected.

We therefore call for a detailed breakdown of how every cent will be spent, and we urge civil society, media, and citizens to demand accountability at every level. The NEFF remains committed to economic freedom in our lifetime. We do not applaud for the sake of applause. While we recognize areas of promise in this budget, we demand more — because our people deserve more.

We demand a budget that empowers, transforms, and liberates. A budget that speaks to the dreams of the village child and the ambitions of the township youth. A budget that doesn't pretend to be progressive — but is, in fact, revolutionary.

We will continue to monitor, to question, and to lead where others fail.

Hon.LN-Kalimbo-Iipumbu  
Deputy-President  
Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)