

Jobs *from page 6*

Notwithstanding special attention to sectors with high growth and employment potential, reforms and support to other economic sectors necessary to achieve our social and economic conditions should not be discontinued. Some of these reforms and policy directives include but are not limited to the following.

The improvement of basic sanitation as per recommendation of the 2008 Cabinet retreat should be expedited; the construction of low cost housing has the potential to create many

jobs; in fisheries, focus should continue to be on the prudent management of our fish resources with emphasis on local value addition and promotion of aquaculture; in mining, emphasis should continue to be on the beneficiation of our local minerals. In particular we must develop a framework for beneficiation and further development of our uranium resource. Water supply could potentially be a key constraint for the uranium sector to develop to its full potential. Ownership issues in the mining sector should also continue to enjoy prominence.

Manufacturing should not be neglected, but efforts to develop



manufacturing should be tied to the economic sectors with higher growth potential. Increased livestock production and beneficiation of other raw materials should give a natural boost to our manufacturing efforts. Implementation of the

green scheme should continue to be promoted during the next 10 years, as it will go a long way to reduce Namibia's dependency in import of essential food stuff and enhance food security.

The role of finance in stimulating real economic activities cannot be overemphasised, and to achieve our objectives certain financial sector reforms would be necessary. Our financial sector reforms should focus on a number of areas, such as financial inclusion through the promotion of innovative and affordable financial products; attraction of more players to promote competition in the financial system; deepening of the financial system, through promotion of new instruments; development and promotion of the capital market to stem capital outflows and promote domestic investment; and sound financial sector regulation, and consumer protection.

We must continue to improve our business climate, including reducing the costs of doing business in Namibia. In this respect, we need to start with the implementation of the recommendations of the investor roadmap without any further delay. These recommendations have been well documented and were accepted by all of us. If for any reason we have changed our positions on these recommendations, then we should have a dialogue to resuscitate them.

Another area that requires our collective attention is that of the labour market. On various occasions the private sector businesses have raised their concern that our labour market is too rigid, unnecessarily adding to the costs of doing business. What we need here is a genuine dialogue among the concerned parties.

The unfortunate thing is that as partners we have failed to engage each other with mutual respect where the goal is to find a lasting solution. Most of the time we tend to resort to disobliging discussions that seek to demonise and characterise each other as villains that must be defeated.

We need to recognise that at times what is good for those who are employed today is not necessarily in the best interest of our collective future development. It is thus important for us to strike the appropriate balance between free labour markets and labour exploitation and I believe it is possible provided that we engage each other meaningfully and with mutual trust.

Efforts aimed at reforming our education system should continue and intensified. Here I would like to add two additional points. The first is the need for more innovative oriented education and training. In the long run we can succeed in our development efforts only if we start to innovate. The second point is the importance of private sector and public sector collaboration in education. It is not only the responsibility of the public sec-

tor to educate and train our people; it should be a joint effort. After all, the private sector has a lot to gain from having a trained and productive workforce.

Having agreed on what is to be done, the next question that we need to ask ourselves is the affordability of the proposed intervention. In answering the question of affordability, we should also ask ourselves what will happen if we were to continue with the current strategies. What will happen to our society if we do not take extraordinary measures to address the problem of low economic growth and rising unemployment?

What is clear is that if we fail to introduce bold economic reforms, the fiscal position will deteriorate; unemployment will escalate and we will not meet some of the key goals of Vision 2030. Some of the reforms will require little or no costs to implement, while others will be more expensive. For us to implement all the suggested intervention measures, we must be prepared to accommodate a higher budget deficit and consequently higher public debt over the medium-term. Our estimates suggest an average budget deficit threshold of 7 percent of GDP in the medium term, while public debt will escalate from 15 percent to 40 percent of GDP. However, we must share the burden of development finance through innovative financing mechanism, including private public partnership.

It is also important that we review our expenditure pattern with the view to identify areas where it is possible for us to reduce our expenditure. We also believe that the time has come for us to seriously consider the possibility of unlocking value by reducing Government ownership in some of the carefully selected public assets. This can significantly assist the Government in making the urgently needed public investment.

In conclusion, we need a strong monitoring mechanism to ensure that our plans get fully implemented. As the institution tasked with development planning and monitoring and evaluation, the National Planning Commission commits to developing the necessary tools to ensuring effective and efficient implementation of development plans.

Ladies and gentlemen, it can be done. All what is required of us is to form a true partnership among all the stakeholders that is rooted in our collective desire to prosper as a nation. We need to make a commitment to do all that is necessary to launch our economy on a faster growth trajectory. Above all, we need to have the courage to make the difficult decisions in the knowledge that it is in the best interest of our people.



Republic of Namibia

Message of Condolences

*Hon. Angura Peter Tshirumbu Tsheehama,
former Minister of Safety and Security*



It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of the late Honourable Angura Peter Tshirumbu Tsheehama on 03 October 2010 at Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region.

The nation has lost a visionary leader who served as a Member of the National Assembly as well as Director General of Namibia Central Intelligence Services. He will be missed for the role he had played in serving the Namibian Nation with dedication.

The Namibian Government and the entire Namibian Nation wish to express condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family, and especially the widow and children of the late Hon. Tsheehama during this difficult time.

May God comfort you at this sad hour and grant you strength and protection in this time of sorrow.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!