SWAPO MPs
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particularly on the need to use all available technical, financial and natural resources to fight and defeat unemployment in the country.

She particularly commended the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth, TIPEG, whose aim was to address economic growth and the high unemployment rate through support for strategic growth in four key sectors – agriculture, transport, tourism, and housing and sanitation. But she wanted to see more action than just talking.

What is in this budget for the community of Okakarara or Leonardville, she asked. “What is in this budget for a young unemployed city dweller standing on the side of the road in Windhoek or Swakopmund everyday looking for a job? What is in this budget for the young people who have business ideas but continuously are asked to provide collateral in order to obtain start-up capital, even in the identified key focus areas of TIPEG?”

Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, Erastus Utoni, welcomed the national debate provoked by the budget, both in the National Assembly and in the country at large. He said:

Overall, Minister Ngihuntjina welcomed the budget as presented, commending the special attention given to the four targeted sectors – agriculture, tourism, transport, and housing and sanitation. This approach, he said, would create much needed jobs.

“Harmonizing the budget process from budget debate to budget approval, as well as to the actual budget implementation is crucial, and hugely determines the final outcome of the spending plan,” Minister Ngihuntjina said.

He added that the country’s budget behaved like it was fenced off items.

“While I appreciate that the system is aimed at ensuring effective, efficient and user-friendly, indeed, the Government has committed itself to expedite tender procedures,” he said. “At times, the utilization of allocated funds in a timely and effective manner has been adversely affected due to cumbersome tender board procedures.

“These need to be stream-lined to become effective, efficient and user-friendly. Indeed, the Government has committed itself to expedite tender procedures as a top priority.”

SWAPO MP Eveline Nawases-Taeyele described the budget as responsive, whose overall objective was to improve the needs of the nation, the budget embodied Namibia’s short and long-term objectives the country had set itself at independence in 1990.

The budget was therefore intended to build on those objectives and contribute to the upliftment and general empowerment of the Namibian people. Professor Kajirivi drew the attention of his colleagues to the tender board process, which has virtually become cumbersome, and in the process, hampers economic growth and development.

“We need effective and efficient tender board procedures,” he said. “At times, the utilization of allocated funds in a timely and effective manner has been adversely affected due to cumbersome tender board procedures.

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