



Cde. Peter Katjavivi



Cde. Richard Kamwi



Cde. Eveline Nawases-Taeyele



Cde. Erastus Utoni



Cde. Stanley Simata



Cde. Elia Kaiyamo

SWAPO MPs
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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 Katjavivi 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."

"These need to be streamlined to become effective, efficient and user-friendly. Indeed, the Government has committed itself to expedite tender reforms 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,

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, TIPEEG, 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 Okanguati 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 TIPEEG?"

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

that when a budget provoked a public democratic debate, it meant democracy was thriving.

"I regard the public debate on the budget as a good move and healthy in the interest of good democracy and national participation in the economic affairs of the country," said Deputy Minister Utoni.

Deputy Minister of Home

Affairs and Immigration, Elia Kaiyamo, said that the SWAPO Party government had brought to the House a tested budget for the people of Namibia, a budget tested for all citizens in the country. He dismissed criticisms by RDP's Jesaya Nyamu, saying that he was in government, and if he wanted better things he could have brought

them up that time.

Deputy Minister Kaiyamo dwelled on various issues such as democracy, tender board procedures, patriotism education and libraries among other things. But he was very emphatic on deploying Party cadres in strategic positions as it was the case in other countries.

"That is why I personally

support that booklet of SWAPO Party that says the institutions should be run by not only cadres, but tested cadres," he said. "I am saying the ministries should be run by tested cadres and we have them, and if there are other patriots around Namibia, they will be considered. Experience has taught us that."

Agribank

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in communal areas.

UNAM will organize and present courses on "introduction to commercial horticulture crop farm management" in the northern communal areas in Namibia. It will also provide courses on commercial small scale dry-land crop farm management in the same areas under the same service level agreements. The Polytechnic will organize and present courses on farm management for small-scale irrigation farmers in the northern communal areas. Agra will organize and present courses on the introduction to commercial livestock production to farmers in the northern communal areas.

Agribank Chief Executive Officer, Ambassador Leonard Iipumbu, described the training project as an important milestone for Agribank to provide



Agribank CEO, Ambassador Leonard Iipumbu, flanked by Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr James Tjivikua, right, and Dr Borniface Mutumba, left, UNAM Pro-Vice Chancellor, signing the agreements. Representatives from GIZ, NECF, NAU also witnessed the signing ceremony. Photo by Anna Nakambale

training to farmers, especially small-scale farmers in rural areas. Emerging commercial and communal farmers needed this type of training to enhance their skills, he said.

"I have been on record, time and again, calling for this type

of undertaking to transfer the required skills and knowledge in farm management in order to increase productivity and sustainability in farming practices that is vital for the successful implementation of the National Land Reform Programme, NLRP," said Ambassador Iipumbu at the signing ceremony.

Last year, Agribank signed a memorandum of understanding with GIZ to take over the implementation of the Farmers Support Project, FSP, which was under the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. This one million dollar training programme was organized through FSP.

One of FSP's major components is to enhance the competence of farmers to engage and understand farming as a business that will in the long-run contribute significantly towards the national development.

FSP has expanded to the northern communal areas in Namibia with the additional N\$2 million Agribank provided in the last financial year. Eleven mentors have already been contracted to render farmers' support services north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, by training and providing advisory services to small-scale farmers during this cropping season.

"Agriculture plays a key role

in the development of the country as two thirds of the population is dependent on the sector, employs the majority of the workforce, 26, 6 percent, and is crucial in ensuring food security and food self-sufficiency," said Ambassador Iipumbu.

"Therefore, the agricultural sector offers the greatest potential for expansion to create employment, reduce poverty by increasing the safety-net of the majority of the population and is an anchor for the promotion of rural development.

"Training of the farmers is one other key element in the value-chain to ensure the successful implementation of the National Land Reform Programme in the long-run. This undertaking will accelerate the creation of jobs, the drive to food self-sufficiency as a nation, NDP III and the implementation of Vision 2030."

FSP is a government project supported by the German government through GIZ. It is implemented by Agribank in partnership with the Namibia Agricultural Union, NAU, the Namibia Emerging Commercial Farmers' Union, NECFU, and the Namibia National Farmers' Union, NNFU.

Unam, Polytechnic and Agra promised to put the money to good use.

Budget

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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 controls, I am worried that such controls are often at the detriment of capital project implementation and therefore compromising delivery of service to the people of this country."

Overall, Minister Nghimtina 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 Nghimtina said.



Ready to send them back! Zambian ballot boxes which were used in the last regional and local authority elections here have been emptied of used ballot papers. Zambia is to hold its regional and local authority elections soon, and these ballot boxes have to be sent back. The time-frame stipulated by law to challenge the regional and local authority elections has lapsed, that is why the ballot boxes were being emptied. Election Director, Mose Ndjarakana, says that since the time frame has lapsed, the ballot papers have become useless. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

Namibia Today is published by SWAPO Party, Department of Information and Mobilization.
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