By Jay Palm

Before we even attempt to discuss the budget Hon Kuugongelwa-Amadhila tabled in parliament, let us have a look at the most important facets of that budget:

**Highlights**

- **NS37,7 billion Estimated total Government spending for 2011/12**
- **NS28 billion, up 24 percent from 2010/11 11.9 percent deficit for 2011/12**
- **N$37,7 billion Estimated total Government spending for 2011/12**

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila presented a budget totalling a massive N$38 billion. This is 17 times greater, in fact, than the first budget tabled by the first minister of finance, Dr Otto Henrigh for the 1991/1992 budget.

Amadhila presented a budget to tabled by the first minister of finance, Dr Otto Henrigh for the 1991/1992 budget.Over 180,000 new jobs to be created by 2013/14

Government to spend N$14,7 billion in job creation activities over next three years.

- N$23,8 billion over next three years
- N$9 billion, about N$9 billion

The budget will inject specific amounts of money, about N$9 billion, into agriculture, tourism, transport and housing sectors with the specific purpose of creating 104,000 new jobs.

An additional 82,000 new job opportunities would be realised through public works programmes with a budget of N$5.5 billion.

This would bring the total number of jobs created to 186,523 at an overall cost of N$16.4 billion over the next three years.

With that, the Minister of Finance Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has introduced the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth/TIP peg programme aimed “specifically at addressing economic growth sectors.”

“With this around, we expand the budget yet again to accommodate the economic recovery, create jobs and improve welfare conditions, while safeguarding macroeconomic sustainability,” said Kuugongelwa-Amadhila when introducing the 2011/12 national budget, and the three-year rolling budget until 2014.

The bold spending is coming at a cost inflating 9.8 percent deficit on the country’s purse during 2011/12, with an estimated N$28 billion in revenue.

This year’s expenditures increased by 10 billion over last year’s N$27.7 billion.

State revenue is expected to go up over the next three years, reaching N$37.3 billion by the 2013/14 financial year.

The increase is due to “better than anticipated SACU receipts and improved domestic revenue outlook on account of positive economic outlook.”

Public debt increases by 27.4 percent for the year.

Government, the said was also going to “explore alternative revenue sources to ensure that a favourable fiscal position is maintained”.

Reactions to the budget were immediate and fairly uncompromising.

The Namibian had this to say: “REVOLUTIONARY” and “aggressive” were economists’ first impressions of the 2011-12 Budget last night, with most admitting that Finance Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila had caught them completely off guard with her N37,7 billion spending spree.

“If it’s as good as government decided it’s all or nothing,” economist Emmanuel van Zyl of Simion Financial Services said, describing the Budget as “revolutionary and almost panic.”

As if Namibia realised that something drastic needs to be done now to start giving jobs to the hundreds of thousands without work.

“Not doing anything wasn’t an option,” John Steytler, economist of Bank Windhoek, said.

Both economists agree that the massive capital injection into the Development Budget might be a

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**Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development**

**VACANCIES**

(A) Post Designation: Director Grade 4B (M)

Directorate: Decentralization Coordination

Salary Scale: NS289 227 x P-322 671

1 x Post: Windhoek

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in the following field of study Public Administration, Management Science, Public Management or any related field of study. Plus nine (9) years appropriate experience of which five (5) years should be at a Management and/or Supervisory level,

Main Duties include:

- Ensure that actual performances of the directorate are monitored against programmes, budgets and targets.
- Coordinates the preparation of Decentralization Action Plan by line Ministries
- Provides appropriate decentralization policy guidelines to line Ministries, Regional Councils and Local Authorities.
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of fiscal decentralization
- Provides advice to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development on decentralization. Provides secretariat services to the Decentralization policy implementation Committee.

Enquiries: Mr, E. I. Negonga Tel: 061-2975180

(B) Post Designation: Deputy Director 4A (M)

Directorate: Housing Habitat Planning and technical Service Coordination

Division: Housing Coordination

Safety Scale: NS 239 061X P- 272 505

1 x Post: Windhoek

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree Public Administration, Management Science, Public Management (or equivalent qualification), plus five (5) years appropriate experience.

He or She shall be:

- In charge of day to day administration of the division.
- Ensure the facilitation of adequate shelter and basic services particularly for low and ultra low income families in collaboration with the regional and local authorities.
- Liaises with the Ministry of works concerning housing provision for civil servants.
- Provide briefing to international visitors, national groups and individuals who have interest in social housing provision on the country.
- Facilitate training for staff of regional and local authorities on Decentralized social Housing programs and projects.
- Liaises with line Ministries and other stake holders and attend committee meetings related to shelter issues.
- Monitors, evaluates and analyse progress reports from regional and local authorities on decentralized housing functions.
- Execute delegated functions and officiate for the directorate and Ministry.
- Analyse housing needs and initiates squatter or informal settlements projects projects on recommendation of local and regional committee

Enquiries: Mr. M. Shikongo Tel: 061-2975046

**Republic of Namibia**