



Republic of Namibia

**Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs**  
**Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure for Financial**  
**Year 2026-2027**

01 April 2026 -31 March 2027

**VOTE 08**

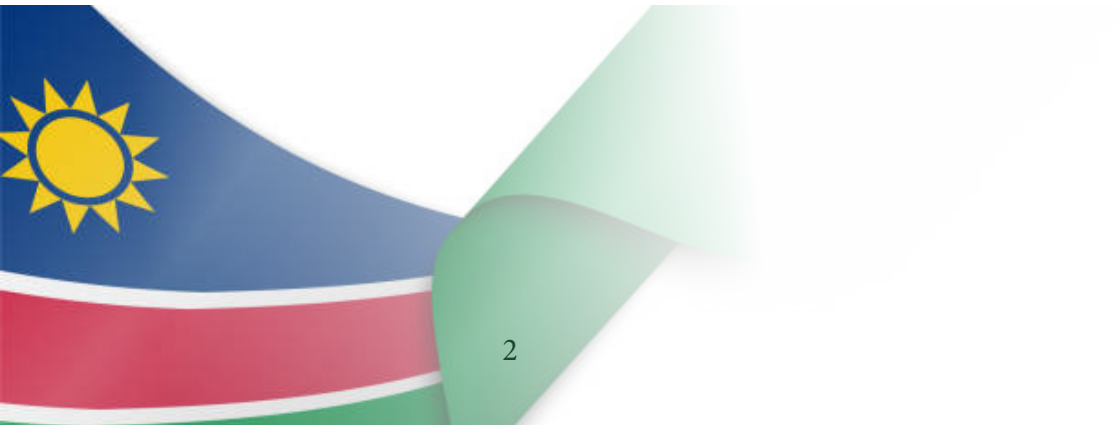
30 March 2026





2026

***“People: Productivity, and Prudence.”***







# **STATEMENT OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR VOTE 08: DEFENCE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/27 BY HONOURABLE FRANS KAPOFI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee  
Honourable Members of this August House**

1. It is my distinct honour and privilege to table before this August House the budget allocation for Vote 08: Defence, for the Fiscal Year 2026/27. First and foremost, allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to Honourable Erica Shafuda, Minister of Finance, and Dr. Kaire Mbuende, Director General of the National Planning Commission, together with their dedicated staff, for presenting a balanced national budget that has equitably considered all sectors of the economy. While our projected amounts were not fully met, it is gratifying that the estimates provided will nonetheless enable us to make meaningful contributions to our country's socio-economic development.

2. In this context, I begin by presenting the Ministry's undertakings during the previous Financial Year, thereby allowing Honourable Members to assess and validate the implementation of programmes and projects in fulfilment of our promise to the nation. I will also outline our intentions for the 2026/27 Financial Year, so that Members gain a clear understanding of the Ministry's planned programmes in fulfilment of its mandate to guarantee national sovereignty and protect territorial integrity.

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3. When the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Erica Shafudah, presented the Budget Statement for the 2026/27 Financial Year, she anchored it on the deliberate theme of "People, Productivity, and Prudence." In doing so, she called for action to nurture human potential, to strengthen growth drivers, and to ensure fiscal sustainability.



These are not mere words; they are guiding principles that shape how we allocate resources, make decisions, and secure our nation’s future. The responsibility, therefore, rests upon us to make the most effective use of the fiscal resources entrusted to Defence, ensuring that our efforts are strategically aligned not only with this theme, but also with the National Development Plan 6 (NDP6) and the FY2026/27 to FY2028/29 Medium Term Expenditure Framework, as we implement the Ministerial Strategic Plan.

4. The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs holds a vital, though often understated, place in advancing our national theme of “People, Productivity, and Prudence.” Marshal Georgy Zhukov once said: “War is a terrible thing, but sometimes it is the only way to defend your country and your people.” His words echo across history, teaching us that war has never been an end in itself, but a burden imposed by circumstance. And history, as we know, has a way of repeating itself. Namibia, too, may one day be called upon to defend her sovereignty; not for conquest, but to safeguard peace, to secure stability, and to protect the promise of development for generations yet to come.

5. Defence, therefore, is not a barrier to productivity; it is its foundation. By ensuring a stable and predictable environment, Defence creates the conditions in which investment can flourish, economic activity



NDF troops assessing the effects of flood at Kabbe North and South Constituencies in Zambezi Region



can thrive, and our people can prosper. Yet we must also be guided by prudence. In a resource-constrained environment, fiscal discipline is not optional; it is essential. The Ministry recognizes this truth: that safeguarding our nation must go hand in hand with careful stewardship of our resources, so that security and sustainability advance together.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee  
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6. Allow me to emphasize that, given the inevitability of conflict, it is imperative that we continuously monitor security developments within our region, across the continent, and globally. Only by doing so can we appropriately shape and adapt our Defence and Security programmes. This vigilance is essential, for the effects of conflict are often swift, far-reaching, and devastating; impacting even those nations far removed from the source.

7. Over the past year, we have maintained close observation of security hotspots in the SADC Region. We report that the political situation remains relatively stable, with Malawi, Seychelles, and Tanzania successfully holding democratic elections at the end of 2025 in accordance with their constitutions.



SADC Map



8. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, however, continues to face a highly volatile security environment. In the eastern region, persistent violence by armed groups has caused widespread displacement and deepened the humanitarian crisis. These developments carry significant implications for regional stability, and we remain vigilant in monitoring them.

9. Globally, the geopolitical landscape is changing. The Middle East is gripped by a severe and expanding conflict, sparked by the US and Israel's attack on the sovereign Islamic Republic of Iran, which has left scores of people dead and homeless. As a result of this war the world is grappling with scale rocketing of oil prices and other commodities.

10. These developments present a deeply concerning global security landscape. It is evident that the environment is becoming increasingly volatile, complex, and unpredictable. Conflicts, though geographically distant in some cases, are not isolated in their impact. They disrupt global supply chains, heighten economic pressures, exacerbate humanitarian crises, and increase security risks across regions—including here at home and throughout Africa.



Middle East Political Map



11. This evolving context underscores the urgent need for vigilance, preparedness, and strategic foresight. It compels us to strengthen our defence and security posture, deepen regional cooperation, and ensure that our national policies remain responsive to a rapidly changing world. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding Namibia's national interests while contributing to regional and global peace, stability, and security.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee  
Honourable Members of this August House**

12. During the **2025/2026 financial year**, Vote 08: Defence was allocated a total budget of **Seven Billion, Four Hundred and Ninety-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$7,494,898,000)**. However, the Ministry of Finance suspended an amount of Eleven Million Namibian Dollars (N \$11,000,000) from the Development Budget during the 2025 /2026 Mid-Term Budget Review. This suspension reduced MODVA's total budget allocation to **Seven Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$7,483,898,000)**.

13. More than half of the budget (60%) was allocated to **Personnel Expenditure**, reflecting a **3% decrease** compared to the preceding financial year. The allocation for **Goods and Other Services** decreased by **1%**, from **23% to 22%**, while the allocation for the **Acquisition of Capital Assets and Infrastructure Development** increased by **4%**, rising from **14% to 18%**. This development is encouraging, as it reflects a growing commitment to channel more resources toward strengthening and developing the Defence Force.

14. The budget execution rate for the 2025/2026 financial year is projected to increase to 99.8% by the close of the financial year on 31 March 2026. I am also pleased to report that we received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2024/25 financial year, marking six (06) consecutive years of clean audit outcomes.



During the Mid-Term Budget Review, the Honourable Minister of Finance presented the Accountability Report and Execution Report for the 2024/2025 financial year, which indicated an overspending of 3.67% for that period on Vote 08 due to high personnel expenditure.

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15. As part of the Force Rejuvenation drive, **One Thousand Seven Hundred and Five (1,705)** young recruits are currently undergoing basic military training at the NDF Training Establishment in Osona, with graduation scheduled for May 2026. In addition, the Ministry is at an advanced stage of recruiting another **One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500)** youth, whose training will commence in the 2026/27 Financial Year. Beyond recruitment, the NDF has successfully trained **Two Thousand Four Hundred and Nineteen (2,419)** members in diverse combat and academic competencies, equipping them with the skills required to operate effectively in the era of digitalisation.



Young Namibians taken through pre-recruitment fitness test



16. The Defence Force has conducted regular border patrols to secure our land, air, and maritime domains. In fulfilling its secondary role of supporting Civil Powers and Authorities, NDF troops remain actively deployed in anti-poaching operations across national parks and conservancies, safeguarding Namibia's natural resources. Furthermore, the Force has supported National Disaster Risk Management efforts during droughts and veld fires, reaffirming its critical contribution to national resilience.

17. The Ministry continues to align with Namibia's overarching commitment to international peace and security. Accordingly, we have strengthened bilateral relations through the implementation of existing agreements with sister defence institutions in friendly states across Africa and beyond. This includes maintaining fifteen (15) military diplomatic postings in selected countries and international organisations.

18. The border clearance programme along the Namibia-Zambia frontier, covering a 90-kilometre stretch, remains ongoing. It focuses on removing landmines and unexploded ordnance (remnants of past conflicts) while establishing a 30-metre buffer zone along the border. However, we are deeply concerned about the increasing number of cattle rustling cases in the Zambezi Region. We have observed individuals violating our borders with impunity, especially cattle rustlers, for some time now. I wish to warn them that the time has come for them to cease, or we will



NDF, BDF and Stakeholders conducting Civil Military Cooperation Sensitisation Campaign during Phases One and Two



be forced to take very strict action if they do not heed this warning. On the other hand, the Civil-Military Cooperation Sensitisation Campaign between Namibia and Botswana, launched in 2024, has progressed steadily. Phases One and Two successfully engaged forty-eight (48) villages on the Namibian side and forty-one (41) on the Botswana side, fostering trust, awareness, and cooperation among border communities.

19. Namibia has also continued to honour its multilateral commitments through active participation in regional and international engagements, including fulfilling our standby arrangement obligations. Notably, the Namibian Air Force participated in the SADC Air Forces humanitarian and disaster response exercise, codenamed “**Exercise BLUE LUGWASHO**”, held in the Republic of Zambia in September 2025.



Namibia Air Force airlifting Medical Personnel from Engela State Hospital to flood affected areas in Ohangwena Region

20. The Ministry has further advanced turnaround strategies for the defence industries by procuring goods and services from them and refining their regulatory framework to ensure their sustainability and continued operations.



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee  
Honourable Members**

21. The future of the NDF depends on the quality, readiness, and professionalism of its soldiers. As the force continues to age, the Ministry has implemented plans to recruit 1,500 young people annually into the NDF until 2029/2030. This targeted recruitment is vital to ensure a gradual renewal and the force's sustainability, while maintaining optimal operational capability. Bringing in younger personnel helps the NDF build a talent pipeline that can be systematically developed, mentored, and deployed to meet changing security demands. The recruitment effort has attracted great interest, with applications received from all 14 regions of our country. However, Honourable Members, I must draw your attention to a troubling issue that has long challenged the NDF during recruitment exercises.



Recruits on Parade at the opening of Basic Military Training at Namibia Defence Force Training Establishment



Some young people who reach the training stage often leave before completing it. As we have emphasized, joining the Defence Force is a demanding undertaking that requires courage, physical and mental resilience, and a genuine desire to serve. Yet, despite having successfully passed all the tests, some individuals choose to withdraw just as they are about to become soldiers, finding the journey too difficult. We therefore urge our people to ensure that when they commit to this demanding career, they are fully prepared to undergo training and to serve as soldiers. A significant amount of resources is invested in this process, and when trainees fail to complete their training, much of that investment is regrettably lost.

22. Moving into the future, the Ministry endeavours to mould the workforce through various capacity-building initiatives. We will all agree that combat training remains the foundation of military preparedness, as it equips our soldiers with the tactical skills, physical endurance, and mental resilience required to operate effectively in demanding and often hostile environments. Through rigorous field exercises, simulations, and operational drills, our personnel are prepared to respond decisively to threats, and support peacekeeping and humanitarian missions when called upon. However, Honourable Members, modern security challenges are increasingly complex and require more than battlefield proficiency alone, and this is where academic training becomes equally vital. Therefore, a combination of combat and academic training ensures a balanced, professional, and future-ready force. This is achieved through collaboration with local tertiary institutions and cooperation with other countries.

23. Beyond safeguarding our sovereignty, national defence underpins economic growth by ensuring stability that attracts investment, creates employment, and supports critical infrastructure, while also providing disaster relief and essential services to our people. It is therefore imperative that this House supports a strengthened budget to enable the Ministry to effectively fulfil these vital responsibilities.



24. This financial year, Vote 8 has been allocated an amount of **Seven Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty-Five Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$7,535,500,000.00)**, which is a **0.7%** increase from the previous FY appropriation. This amount represents **Six Billion, Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight Million Namibia Dollars (N\$6,948,000,000.00)** for the Operational Budget; and **Five Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$587,500,000)** for the Development Budget. These resources will enable us to execute our mandate with the following expected outputs:

### **Programme 01: Training and Capacity Building**

25. This programme is designed to keep our forces prepared. Its main goals are to equip our sailors, airmen, soldiers, and civilian personnel with advanced technical, managerial, leadership, and operational skills; to improve discipline and adaptability in responding to both security and humanitarian challenges; and to develop a highly skilled workforce capable of contributing not only to national defence but also to broader socio-economic development. Through continuous training, this programme ensures that our defence force remains modern, capable, high-performing, and responsive to the changing needs of our nation. This programme is allocated **Seven Hundred and Two Million, One Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$702,169,000.00)**.



Troops in the Field Training Exercise



## **Programme 02: Land Operations**

26. The Land Operations programme is vital for protecting our territorial integrity and maintaining peace within our borders. Its main objectives are to ensure the operational readiness of land forces through training and resource allocation; carry out regular land patrols and strengthen border security; combat illegal activities; and improve response capabilities. The programme also supports civil authorities during disasters and participates in operations other than war.

Through these efforts, the Land Operations Programme plays a crucial role in safeguarding citizens and creating a secure environment for sustainable development. A total of **Three Billion, Three Hundred and Ten Million, Two Hundred and One Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$3,310,201,000.00)**, including **Five Hundred and Eighty-seven Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$587,500,000)** allocated for the Development Budget, is designated for this purpose.

27. Much of the allocation in the development budget will be directed towards rehabilitating ageing infrastructure at military bases across the country. Dubbed the Short-term Intervention, the ministry will construct new facilities and rehabilitate existing infrastructure utilising August 26 Construction and the Engineer Regiment as a cost-effective measure. A significant portion of the funds has been allocated for the completion of the MoDVA Head office, which is projected to be finalised in 2027.

## **Programme 03: Airspace Protection**

28. This programme remains a critical pillar in safeguarding our national sovereignty and advancing our development agenda. It is designed to ensure continuous and effective surveillance of our airspace. This year we undertake to strengthen early warning mechanisms and enhance rapid response capabilities. The programme is allocated an amount of **Four Hundred and Thirty-Two Million, Three Hundred and Six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$432,306,000.00)**.



## Programme 04: Military Health Support

29. This programme focuses on safeguarding the well-being and operational readiness of our defence personnel, while also supporting national public health initiatives. Its primary objectives are to provide comprehensive medical care and preventive health services to all members of the NDF, strengthen the capacity of military health facilities to deliver high-quality healthcare, and enhance emergency medical response capabilities. This enables the military to act swiftly during natural disasters, national emergencies, and humanitarian crises, thereby protecting lives and supporting vulnerable communities. An amount of **One Hundred and Five Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$105,267,000.00)** is allocated for activities under this programme.

## Programme 05: Offshore Defence

30. This programme ensures protection of our maritime territory, safeguarding national resources, and ensuring the security of our coastal communities. The programme's objectives are to strengthen naval operational readiness, monitor and secure Namibia's exclusive economic zone, and prevent transnational organised crimes such as piracy, trafficking, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and pollution. It also seeks to develop a highly trained and technologically proficient naval force, enhance search and rescue capabilities at sea, and support disaster response and humanitarian operations along the coast.



Namibian Ship Elephant on Sea Patrol



An allocation of **Four Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Two Hundred and Two Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$487,202,000.00)** is dedicated to this programme.

### **Programme 06: International Deployment**

31. This programme serves as a vital link in advancing Namibia’s defence diplomacy and international cooperation through the deployment of fifteen (15) Defence Representatives, resident in Angola, Botswana, Federative Republic of Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, India, Federal Republic of Germany, The Russia Federation, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America (New York), Zambia and Zimbabwe but also accredited to many countries around the globe, where we maintain defence partnerships and strategic interests. Its key objectives are to strengthen bilateral and multilateral defence relations, promote strategic partnerships, and facilitate the exchange of military knowledge, training, and technology.



Defence Attaches and Advisors accredited to the Republic of Namibia during New Year Greetings



32. The programme further seeks to enhance intelligence sharing, support international peace and security initiatives, and represent Namibia's defence interests abroad with professionalism and integrity. In doing so, it reinforces our nation's commitment to global stability while safeguarding our national priorities. A budget amount of **One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$128,396,000.00)** is allocated.

### **Programme 07: Policy Coordination and Support Services**

33. This programme is charged with responsibilities to ensure effective governance, strategic direction, and efficient service delivery within the defence sector. The programme's primary objectives are to develop and coordinate sound defence policies, strengthen planning, monitoring, and evaluation systems, and ensure the optimal use of resources through transparent financial and administrative management. It additionally seeks to enhance institutional capacity, improve communication and coordination across all defence programmes, and provide essential support services that enable the smooth functioning of the Ministry.

34. The Ministry maintains a robust defence and security framework as a key enabler of socio-economic development. Our priorities remain to uphold national security and stability, provide the necessary military capabilities to defend our country and its national interests, and, where required, support civilian authorities and communities. To further strengthen the national defence and security architecture, we have initiated the development of a National Defence Strategy and a Defence Doctrine, which will be submitted to the relevant authorities this financial year for endorsement and approval. These instruments will provide a comprehensive framework for defence policy, planning, capability development, and resource allocation.

35. For this purpose, an amount of **Two Billion, Three Hundred and Eighteen Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$2,318,357,000.00)** is allocated.



36. One of the key deliverables entrusted to me upon my appointment as Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs was the completion of institutional reforms within the Defence Industries. I am pleased to report that considerable progress has been achieved in this area. Reflecting on past shortcomings, it is evident that the industry was not sufficiently empowered to serve as the primary source of goods and services for the Ministry and the Defence Force. Strengthening this role will enable the industry to grow through innovation, partnerships, and enhanced capacity.

37. In the current Financial Year, over Four Hundred Million Namibia Dollars (N\$400 m) is projected to be spent on goods and services supplied by the Defence Industry. We will increasingly rely on our internal capacities for procurement and infrastructure development. In this regard, the Defence Industry will assume a central and more proactive role, functioning as the primary procurement and logistical coordination agency for the defence sector. This approach will allow us to centralise purchasing, standardise equipment, negotiate better prices, and reduce fragmentation across services.

38. Concerning food security, Agro Tour conducted trials last year to test the suitability of various crops and vegetables at our farms, yielding positive results. Building on these findings, full-scale seasonal production will be carried out across 170 hectares. In parallel, further studies will be undertaken to assess water availability, which will determine the farms' long term production capacity. We will expand the herd of cattle to achieve our goal of producing, among other things, milk and cheese, as well as meat and meat products. At present, our workforce consists of 20 permanent employees and 82 casual workers, drawn from the National Youth Service, the Children of the Liberation Struggle, and the local communities of Mankumpi Constituency.



**Cleared land for cultivation**



**Sweet potatoes and Maize on trial**



**Seedlings production in the Nursery**



**Weeding and pests control**



**Livestock farming**



39. We firmly believe that a stronger Defence Industry will not only enhance military efficiency, but also contribute to Namibia's broader industrialisation agenda. This will be achieved by supporting local manufacturing, strengthening technical skills, reinforcing supply chains, and creating employment opportunities.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee  
Honourable Members**

40. Our freedom and independence were achieved through significant sacrifice, and it is our responsibility to diligently safeguard it against any internal or external threats. Therefore, the disaggregated budget I have just presented outlines how the financial resources allocated to the Ministry will be utilized to carry out our mandate during the 2026/27 financial year and to advance the achievement of our strategic goals. We assure you that these resources will be managed responsibly and utilized prudently in the interest of safeguarding the security of the Namibian nation.

41. As I come to the conclusion of my statement, I would like to sincerely thank my deputy, Hon. Dr. Charles Mubita, Ms Annely Haiphene, the Executive Director, Air Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas, the Chief of Defence Force, and the entire staff of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for their unwavering support, throughout the year. I am confident that, working together as a team, we will accomplish even greater outcomes in the 2026/27 financial year.

42. It is now my humble request to you, **Honourable Members**, to approve the allocation of **Seven Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty-Five Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$7,535,500,000.00)** to Vote 08: Ministry of Defence.

I thank you!



## **VISION**

To be a reliable and committed National Defence Organisation with the capacity to defend Namibia and render effective peacetime support and be recognized for excellence, and unwaveringly uphold our values.

## **MISSION**

To operate a cost effective, professional and highly mobile National Defence System that safeguards Namibia's territory, its inhabitants and national interests, contribute to national development and world peace and provide socio-economic support to veterans of the national liberation struggle and preserve heritage of the liberation struggle.

## **CORE VALUES**

- Patriotism
- Respect for Rule of Law
- Resilience
- Transparency
- Professionalism
- Accountability



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