

STATEMENT ON VOTE 08 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022 BY HONOURABLE FRANS KAPOFI MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 26 APRIL 2021

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

1. It is my honour to present to this August House, the budget for Vote 31: Veterans Affairs for 2021/2022 Financial Year and to have an opportunity to discuss matters related to veterans of the national liberation struggle of this country.
2. At the onset, allow me to applaud Hon Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Hon Obeth Kandjoze, Director General of National Planning Commission and their team, for coming up with a budget that prioritises key national development issues at a time when the country is faced with challenges related to the global COVID 19 pandemic which has negatively affected amongst others the health sector and economic stance of our country and at the same time, the country is also battling to fight swarm of locusts which is a serious threat to our food security.
3. At this point, let me express my gratitude to the Hon Minister and Director General for allocating a realistic budget, considering the socio- economic situation that we find ourselves in, which is not only peculiar to Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

4. The importance of the existence of a Defence Force cannot be over emphasized, however some quarters of our society appear to disregard it as something optional. The establishment of our Defence Force is provisioned in our Constitution, to be specific in *Chapter 15, Article 115 of the Namibian Constitution*.

5. Namibian Defence Force plays a very important role in the socio-economic development agenda of our country. Thus, the mission of the Namibian Defence Force defines for itself the three strategic roles:

- a. Protection of the territorial integrity and national sovereignty;
- b. Provision of assistance to civil power and civil authorities; and
- c. Contribution to international and regional peace and stability.

6. In light of the three defined strategic objectives, it cannot be over emphasised that the Namibian Defence Force is our nation security guarantee.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL POWER AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES;

7. The NDF plays a role of participating in joint activities with other forces in the security cluster, for example, manning the road blocks and ensuring implementation of COVID 19 protocols and regulations aimed at preventing the spread of the pandemic. The tasks may also include disaster management, the distribution of items to vulnerable groups of our society.

8. In 2020, **two thousand five hundred** (2500) troops, **one hundred and twelve** (112) trucks, **two** (2) boats, **thirty** (30) hard skinned vehicles, **four** (4) helicopters, **one** (1) aircraft, and a mobile hospital were deployed during the state of emergency to assist in enforcing the COVID – 19 Regulations. It is important to note that the number of troops including all types of transport were reduced after the lifting of the state of emergency. NDF deployed **fifty** (50) troops and 1 **(one)** aircraft to combat the outbreak of African Migratory Locusts at Zambezi Region from 02 March 2021 until the end of the operations in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR).

9. It is worth noting that, since the beginning of the year 2021, a total number of NDF personnel deployed with O/M/As providing different types of support stands at **one hundred and fifty-three** (153) personnel. In the same vein, a total of (9) NDF trucks are deployed with government Offices and Ministries in the same role. All the referred missions require reasonable financial inputs.

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**CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PEACE
AND STABILITY.**

10. At the international level, the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs has the responsibility to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. Thus, Namibia actively participates in peace support operations, not only at SADC level but also at the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) levels. With that understanding, Namibia continues to be part and parcel of SADC, AU and UN for Peace Support Operations (PSO). To this end, NDF is currently having **eleven** (11) officers serving with **three** (3) UN PSOs namely: UNAMID, UNMISS and UNISFA. Amongst the members deployed, **four** (4) are females while **seven** (7) males. **(kindly write these abbreviations in full)**

11. **(May I draw your attention to the accountability report as hereto attached). (Also kindly attach the breakdown of the N\$5,428 595 00)**

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

14. It is now my honour to request the Honourable Members to support and approve the allocation of **Five Billion Four hundred and Twenty-Eight Million Five hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$5,428 595 000)** only to fund the program of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs during the 2021 – 2022 Financial Year.

I thank you

(Kindly note that the statements should be printed separately)

STATEMENT ON VOTE 31 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022

Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Hon. Members

- 4.** As we are all aware, Veterans Affairs was established to address the plight of veterans of the National Liberation Struggle by initiating, promoting and implementing projects and programmes aimed at improving the socio-economic wellbeing of the veterans, and to keep and preserve the history of the National Liberation Struggle for generations to come.
- 5.** You will all agree with me that it was due to the immense contribution made by the gallant sons and daughters of the soil, that brought freedom and independence of our motherland Namibia from the yoke of colonial powers. It is therefore our responsibility to help government in uplifting the livelihood of these brave men and women that made it possible for us to enjoy the peace and democracy we are enjoying in this country. The struggle we waged was fought in a three (3) pronged approach namely political, diplomatic and military front. Therefore, as a nation, we should not forget the sacrifices and hardships that veterans endured during the armed liberation struggle and here at the home front.
- 6.** In achieving this, Veterans Affairs is guided by the Veterans Act, act no 8 of 2008, as amended and other policies and administrative documents that organise its functions and

ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the utilisation of allocated fiscal resources to achieve its Strategic Objectives namely;

1. Ensure timely recognition of Veterans.
2. Improve social and economic status of veterans
3. Ensure that the history of the national liberation struggle is preserved and kept alive.
4. Enhance organizational performance.
5. Ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of social and economic services to veterans.

During the previous Financial Year, Veterans Affairs received funding for its budgeted programmes and was spent on activities mainly aimed at veteran's welfare and keeping the history of the liberation struggle alive. This is further articulated in the Accountability report for the year ended March 2021, hereto attached. **(Also kindly attach the breakdown of the N\$861,344,000)**

7.

- 8.** These activities include; the disbursement of the monthly allowances to qualifying veterans, Individual Veterans' Projects (IVPs), funeral assistance to families of deceased veterans, erection of tombstones, Education and training grant, medical assistance and counselling, activities related to the Veterans and

Appeal Boards, and Research and documentation of the history of the National Liberation Struggle amongst others.

CONCLUSION

**In conclusion, Hon Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members**

- 9.** We will continue to emphasise once again that the peace we enjoy today in our country is because of the unwavering contributions by our Namibian people who most of them sacrificed their youthful age to liberate our country, hence it is of utmost importance to ensure that the wellbeing of our dear veterans is looked after and to ensure that the history of the liberation struggle is preserved for future generations to come.

Nelson Mandela a former President of South Africa once said: *“our struggle for freedom and justice was a collective effort. It is in your hands now to create a better world for all who live in it”*.

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

- 10.** I am therefore requesting Hon Members of this August house to support and approve the allocation of **Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Million Three Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$861,344,000)** to fund the programmes of the Department of Veterans Affairs under the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for the 2021/2022 Financial Year.

I thank you!