



Republic of Namibia

Statement on Veterans Affairs Budget

by:

**R Adm (Rtd) Peter H. Vilho, MP
Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs**

**VOTE 31: BUDGET ESTIMATES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021**

10 June 2020

STATEMENT ON VOTE 31 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021 PRESENTED BY HON. R ADM (RTD) PETER HAFENI VILHO, MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 10 JUNE 2020

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

1. It is my honour to present to this August House, Vote 31 for the Financial Year 2020/2021 today and to have an opportunity to discuss matters related to veterans of the national liberation struggle of this country.

2. First, allow me to applaud Hon. Iipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and his team, for coming up with an accommodative budget that prioritizes key national development issues at a time when the country is trying to recover from the severe drought which threatened our national food security and worse off, the challenges of the pandemic COVID-19 which has negatively affected amongst others the health and economic stance of our country.

3. At this point, let me express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for allocating a realistic budget, considering the economic situation that we find ourselves in, a sign that we value the welfare of veterans of the liberation struggle.

**Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable 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 programme aimed at improving the socio-economic well-being 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 this gallant sons and daughters of the soil, that brought freedom and independent of our motherland. 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 excising in this August house. As a nation we should not forget the sacrifices and hardships that veterans endured during the armed liberation struggle.

6. In achieving this, Veterans Affairs is guided by policy and administrative documents that organize its functions and ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the utilization of allocated fiscal resources to achieve its five (5) Strategic Objectives which are;

- 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**

7. During the previous Financial Year, Veterans Affairs received funding for its budgeted programme 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 that was distributed by the Minister of Finance.

8. This includes; the disbursement of the monthly allowances to qualifying veterans, Once-off gratuity, Individual Veterans' Projects (IVPs), Funeral assistance to families of deceased veterans, erection of tombstones, Education and training grant, medical assistance and counselling, and activities related to the Appeal Board, and Research and documentation of the history of the national liberation struggle.

CONCLUSION

Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

9. It is worth mentioning once again that the peace that 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 well-being of our dear veterans is looked after and to ensure that the history of the liberation struggle is preserved for future generations.

10. **Von Walker Loop a U.S. Air Force veteran wrote: It is the veteran, not the preacher who has given us freedom of religion. It is the veteran, not the reporter who has given us freedom of the press. It is the veteran, not the poet who has given us freedom of speech. It is the veteran, not the campus organizer who has given us freedom to assemble. It is the veteran, not the lawyer who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the veteran, not the politician who has given us the right to vote. It is the veteran who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag and whose coffin is draped**

by the flag. If you love your freedom, thank the veteran.

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

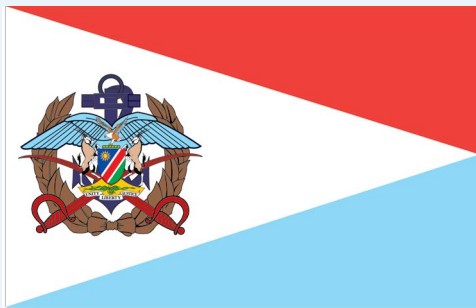
11. I am, therefore, requesting Hon. Members of this August house to support and approve the allocation of **Eight Hundred and Forty-Seven Million Six Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$847,654,000)** to fund the programme of the Department of Veterans affairs under the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

I thank you!









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