



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Official/Opening Address

By

Hon. Bishop (*Emeritus*) Zephania Kameeta: MP

Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare

At

THE MINISTERIAL ANNUAL STRATEGIC REVIEW AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

25-29 MARCH 2019

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Ms. Esther Lusepani, Executive Director of the Ministry
of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
The Management Team of the Ministry,
Dear Staff Members of the Ministry here present,
Mr. Steve-Worried Njembo, Workshop Facilitator and
other colleagues from the Office of the Prime Minister,
Members of the Media,
All protocol observed,
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all;

I welcome you all wholeheartedly to the Ministerial
Annual Planning and Review Workshop. We are
assembled here today to review our activities of the
current financial year and to strategically plan our
undertakings in the upcoming financial year, the year
of accountability.

This five day workshop will guide us towards the
realisation of our vision, to have a caring and inclusive
society that ensures coordinated access to basic social
services and promotes dignity for all Namibians.

Strategic planning and review processes are crucial components of the Government's Performance Management System and should help each staff member to understand and recognize his/her contribution to the strategic intent of the Ministry, thus enhancing the performance of the Ministry as per the aspirations of Namibia's Vision 2030, National Development Plan (NDP5), The Harambee Prosperity Plan and most importantly the Ministerial Blueprint on wealth-redistribution and poverty eradication.

The Ministry has since its inception in 2015 engaged in various processes to ensure the execution of the mandate of the Ministry, which is to initiate, implement and coordinate national programmes to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. These include *inter alia*, the development of the Blueprint and its implementation plan, which in turn guided the development of the Ministerial five years Strategic Plan.

The Ministerial Strategic Plan was developed to guide the actions and priorities of the Ministry over a five year period, from the years 2017/2018 – 2021/2022 and as alluded to earlier, it has been aligned to key Government short and long term development plans.

We are cognisant of the cross-cutting nature of poverty and the need for a multi-sectoral approach for its eradication. Therefore, all our plans and strategies have been designed to incorporate the coordinating role of the Ministry. We have a Directorate of Poverty Eradication and Programme Coordination as an example, this Directorate should ensure that all Government poverty eradication programmes and initiatives are being implemented effectively and efficiently to ensure a poverty free Namibia by the year 2025. There should be a clear realisation that we cannot eradicate poverty if we continue to work in silos.

Furthermore, we are mindful that we are developing action plans against a backdrop of global and local economic hardships, therefore it is crucial that the plans are designed in such a way that we do more with less. It is times like these where prioritisation becomes indispensable and where strategic planning becomes key in allocating resources effectively. As we review the activities of the previous year, let us identify areas of low impact in order to minimise wastages and to drive our efforts and resources to the activities that will improve the living conditions of our people.

There is just a little bit more than five years before we reach the target set by His Excellency the President Dr. Hage G. Geingob, for a poverty free Namibia by the year 2025. We therefore need to develop innovative and implementable plans. Let us be creative when crafting our programmes and activities. We have been called upon to explore wealth-redistributive strategies to arrest poverty, it is therefore important for the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to have strategies and advocate for mechanisms that will ensure that the endowments of this country filters to the poorest of the poor.

I am informed that by the end of this workshop each and every staff member will have a performance agreement. This is indeed commendable and it is my hope that our performances will be measured against the direct impact our activities will have in the improvement of the standard of living of our people. I am therefore pleased that our colleagues from the Office of the Prime Minister are present here to guide this process.

As I conclude, I want to bring once again to the fore that we are fighting a war and we therefore have to be urgent in all our operations. We should be forgiven if in some instances we overlook the writings in the book. Who will punish you if you provide a meal to a person who is about to faint in your office? Will you in turn be regarded as a hero/heroine if you let the person faint or die because you were checking him/her against your criteria for issuing food?

Let us therefore uphold one of the key core values of the Ministry, which is **Empathy**. Ask yourself at the end of this workshop whether what you have set yourself to do will impact the life of the poorest of the poor in this country; and whether collectively we are going to ensure that through planning, our people are freed from abject poverty.

With these remarks, I now declare this Ministerial Annual Review and Planning Workshop officially open; and wish all of us successful deliberations.

I thank you.