



PERSPECTIVES ON PARLIAMENT

Issue No. 22

DEMOCRACY REPORT

MARCH 2023

Parliament in the budget

The legislature's direct share from the budget has increased significantly, while indirect spending related to legislative activities has also gone up

A question that has been dogging the Namibian Parliament for a while now is whether Namibians are getting value for money from what is spent on maintaining the houses of parliament.

This question is asked against the backdrop of decreased legislative output, poor quality of policy debates and engagement among MPs and the exercising of generally weak oversight over the Executive for basically its entire existence to date.

At the same time, there's been a marked increase in what appears to many to be unproductive parliamentary drama and theatrics, especially within the National Assembly chamber.

The committee system at parliament is limping along; there's always talk of creating a Parliamentary Service Commission to fix the staffing and administrative dysfunctions (see Perspectives issue 21); there are persisting governance shortcomings in terms of enforcing the rules of parliament (see Perspectives issue 19).

It is against this backdrop that spending on the Namibian Parliament and activities related to the legislature needs to be viewed.

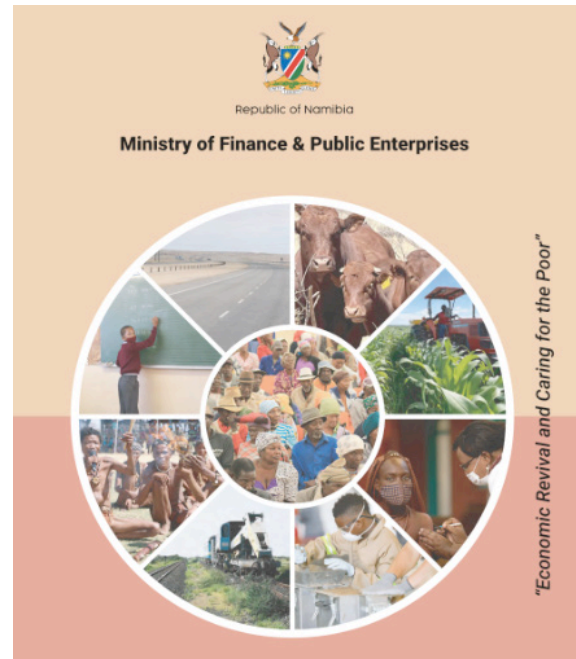
Budget earmarks

According to Appropriation Bill B1-2023, better known as the National Budget, that was tabled by Namibian finance minister Iipumbu Shiimi in the National Assembly on 22 February 2022, the National Assembly is earmarked to receive almost N\$183 million from the public purse.

The National Council is set to receive over N\$120 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

The combined spending on the two houses of parliament will amount to just over N\$300 million in 2023/24.

Factor in the over N\$149 million that has been earmarked



for political parties with representation in parliament, and the amount of public funds going to the legislature and activities and entities connected to the legislature comes to about N\$450 million for the 2023/24 period.

Interestingly, the amount that flows to political parties with representation in parliament represents over 33% of what has been earmarked for legislative and legislature related matters. It's also over N\$30 million more than what gets spent on the National Council.

And let's not forget, these political parties are largely failing or struggling to comply with the Electoral Act of 2014 in terms of appropriately and lawfully accounting for the use of such funds (see Perspectives issue 20).

As an aside, the disbursement of the funds meant for political parties used to be a function of the National Assembly Secretariat, but this function was incorporated into the Ministry of Finance under former finance minister Calle Schletwein in the late 2010s.

The N\$183 million in 2023/24 earmarked for the National Assembly represents the peak of its funding in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). In 2022/23, the National Assembly received just over N\$167 million, and is projected to receive almost N\$179 million in 2024/25 and just over N\$174 million in 2025/26.

In the final analysis, while really not much in the bigger scheme of the National Budget framework, what gets spent on the Namibian Parliament will continue to be accompanied by questions of whether it's really worth it.



Know your committees

How many people know who sits on which committee in the National Assembly? It's never too late to find out

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEES 2020-2025			
COMMITTEES	MP'S	CHAIRPERSON/DEPUTY CHAIR	SECRETARIAT
ECONOMICS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	Hon. Apus !Auchab Hon. Josef Kauandenge Hon. Maria Kamutali Hon. Hamunyeru Hambyuka Hon. Dr. Tobie Aupindi Hon. Fennie Nanyeni Hon. Gotthard Kasuto Hon. Pieter Mostert Hon. Elizabeth Celeste Becker Hon. Nico Smit Hon. McHenry Venaani Hon. Timotheus Sydnet Shihumbu Hon. Henny Hendly Seibeb Hon. Patience Masua Hon. Hilaria Mukapuli Hon. Modestus Amutse Hon. Johanna Kandjimi Hon. Sebastiaan Karupu Hon. Jan Mukwiilongo	Hon. Natangue Ithete (Chairperson) Hon. Mathias Mbundu (Deputy Chairperson)	Mr. Willem Isaak Ms. Agnes Mukono Mr. Ivan Skrywer Ms. Theresia Dimba Ms. Briget Fikunawa
HUMAN RESOURCES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Hon. Maria Kamutali Hon. Kleutus Karondo Hon. Bertha Dinyando Hon. Tjekero Tweya Hon. Sebastiaan Karupu Hon. Sophia Shaningwa Hon. Agnes Kafula Hon. Annaketha Sikerete Hon. Herlinde Tjiveze Hon. Johannes Martin Hon. Esmeralda !Aibes Hon. Diedrick Vries Hon. Johannes Martin Hon. Edson Edmund Isaaks Hon. Longinus lipumbu Hon. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo Hon. Johanna Kandjimi	Hon. Nono Katjingsua (Chairperson) Hon. Elifas Dingara (Deputy Chairperson)	Ms. Maria Mombola Ms. Frankhilde Endjala Mr. Andreas Shivute Ms. Dorothy Alawi Ms. Briget Fikunawa Mr. JJF Brits
GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY AFFAIRS	Hon. Josef Kauandenge Hon. Erastus Shuumbwa Hon. Juliet Kavetuna Hon. Johanna Kandjimi Hon. Lucia Witbooi Hon. Annakletha Sikerete Hon. Bertha Dinyando Hon. Nono Katjingsiua Hon. Maria Elago Hon. Herlinde Tjiveze Hon. Philipus Wido Katamelo Hon. Esmeralda Aibes Hon. Jennifer Van Den Heewer Hon. Elma Dienda Hon. Winnie Moongo Hon. Utaara Mootu Hon. Jan Mukwiilongo Hon. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo	Hon. Gotthard Kasuto (Chairperson) Hon. Emilia Nuyoma-Amupewa (Deputy Chairperson)	Ms. Maria Mombola Ms. Frankhilde Endjala Mr. Andreas Shivute Ms. Dorothy Alawi Ms. Briget Fikunawa Ms. Carol-Ann Esterhuizen

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**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEES
2020-2025**

COMMITTEES	MP'S	CHAIRPERSON/DEPUTY CHAIR	SECRETARIAT
CONSTITUTIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS	Hon. Apius IAuchab Hon. Josef Kauandenge Hon. Erastus Shuumbwa Hon. Juliet Kavetuna Hon. Philipus Katamelo Hon. Emilia Nuyoma-Amupewa Hon. Tjekero Tweya Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele Hon. Modestus Amutse Hon. Vincent Mareka Hon. Herlinde Tjiveze Hon. Eliphas Dingara Hon. Timotheus Sydney Shihumbu Hon. Diedrick Vries Hon. Vipuakuje Muharukua Hon. Koviao Hengari Hon. Edson Edmund Isaaks Hon. Patience Masua Hon. Longinus lipumbu	Hon. Kletus Karondo (Chairperson) Hon. Paula Kooper (Deputy Chair)	Mr. Willem Isaak Ms. Agnes Mukono Ms. Ivan Skrywer Ms. Theresia Dimba Ms. Belinda Karuaera
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY	Hon. Dr Tangeni Iijambo Hon. Dudu Murorua Hon. Josef Kauandenge Hon. Gothard Kandume Hon. Erastus Shuumbwa Hon. Hamunyera Hambyukua Hon. Agnes Kafula Hon. Jerry Ekandjo Hon. Vincent Mareka Hon. Philipus Katamelo Hon. Natangwe Ithete Hon. Dr Tobie Aupindi Hon. Paula kooper Hon. Mathias Mbundu Hon. Eliphas Dingara Hon. Vipuakuje Muharukua Hon. Kazeongere Tjeundo Hon. Koviao Hengari Hon. Johannes Martin Hon. Henny Hendly Seibeb Hon. Patience Masua Hon. Jan Mukwiilongo	Hon. Leevi Katoma (Chairperson) Hon. Lucia Witbooi (Deputy Chairperson)	Mr. Albius Mutonga Ms. Annalisa Meroro Ms. Namasiku Lizazi Ms. Belinda Karuaera Mr. JJF Brits
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION	Hon. Dudu Murorua Hon. Josef Kauandenge Hon. Erastus Shuumbwa Hon. Annakletha Sikerete Hon. Bertha Dinyando Hon. Nono Katjingisua Hon. Leevi Katoma Hon. Sebastiaan Karupu Hon. Kletus Karondo Hon. Natangwe Ithete Hon. Mathias Mbundu Hon. Winnie Moongo Hon. Celeste Becker Hon. Pieter Mostert Hon. Jennifer Van Den Heever Hon. Utaara Mootu Hon. Longinus lipumbu	Hon. Modestus Amutse (Chairperson) Hon. Maria Elago (Deputy Chairperson)	Mr. Protasius Nghileendele Ms. Theresa Philemon Mr. Geoffrey Muhinda Mr. Johan Frederik Mr. Vincent Sinalumbu Mr. JJF Brits

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2020-2025**

COMMITTEES	MP'S	CHAIRPERSON/DEPUTY CHAIR	SECRETARIAT
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE	Hon. Apius IAuchab Hon. Dr. Tangeni Iijambo Hon. Maria Kamutali Hon. Gotthard Kandume Hon. Sebastiaan Karupu Hon. Lucia Witbooi Hon. Natangwe Ithete Hon. Johanna Kandjimi Hon. Kletus Karondo Hon. Maria Elago Hon. Vincent Mareka Hon. Fennie Nanyeni Hon. Paula Kooper Hon. Gotthard Kasuto Hon. Herlinde Tjiveze Hon. Geoffrey Mwilima Hon. Jan Van Wyk Hon. Kazeongere Tjeundo Hon. Diedrick Vries Hon. Thimotuis Shihumbu Hon. Bernadus Swartbooi Hon. Jan Mukwilongo	Hon. Tjekero Tweya (Chairperson) Hon. Agnes M. Kafula (Deputy Chairperson)	Mr. Albius Mutonga Ms. Annalisa Meroro Ms. Namasiku Lizazi Ms. Belinda Karuaera Ms. Carol-Ann Esterhuizen
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	Hon. Gotthard Kandume Hon. Maria Kamutali Hon. Modestus Amutse Hon. Juliet Kavetuna Hon. Annakletha Sikerete Hon. Hamunyera Hambyuka Hon. Jerry Ekandjo Hon. Vincent Mareka Hon. Leevi Katoma Hon. Emilia Nuyoma-Amupewa Hon. Mathias Mbundu Hon. Dr Tangeni Iijambo Hon. Nico Smit Hon. Pieter Mostert Hon. Jan Van Wyk Hon. Elma Dienda Hon. Bernadus Swartbooi Hon. Longinus lipumbu	Hon. Hon. Dudu Murorua (Chairperson) Hon. Hon. Hilaria Mukapuli (Deputy Chairperson)	Mr. Protasius Nghileendele Ms. Theresa Philemon Mr. Geoffrey Muhinda Mr. Johan Frederik Mr. Vincent Sinalumbu Ms. Carolann Esterhuizen