



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

**APRIL 2025**

**MAIDEN SPEECH BY HON. INDILENI DANIEL, MINISTER OF  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

**Hon. Speaker Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila  
Hon. Members of Parliament, and  
Fellow Namibians,**

It is with profound gratitude and humility that I stand before this August House today as the newly appointed Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. I am deeply honored by the trust bestowed upon me to lead this vital portfolio, which holds the key to safeguarding and protecting our flora and fauna, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing Namibia's global standing as a premier eco-tourism destination of choice.

I fully recognize the immense responsibility that comes with this position, and I pledge to carry it out with diligence, integrity, and a deep sense of national pride. I also wish to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices made by my predecessor and his team, who have worked tirelessly to pave the way for the important work that I am about to embark upon. As Minister, I pledge to as part of our unwavering commitment to implement all the acts regulations and policies under the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism.

**Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members,**

Namibia's community-based conservation model has earned global acclaim. We will continue to support communal conservancies in protecting wildlife and diversifying income sources, be it through crafts, tourism, or carbon offsets. Borrowing from Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah's words *“Living with wildlife comes at a cost, and the benefits have to outweigh that cost.”* Our fight against poaching and illegal wildlife trade will therefore be fortified with technology and inter-agency collaboration to ensure that communities living alongside wildlife derives benefits from them.

Namibia stands at a crossroads. Our environment faces unique challenges. As opined by her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah in her Inaugural Speech, *“We need to continue to contribute to the international efforts to address global challenges facing humanity today such as environmental degradation and climate change.”*

Our vulnerability to climate change is undeniable, but so is our resilience, and we will continue to work closely with our international partners, regional organizations, and the global community to ensure that Namibia is both a responsible actor and a leader in climate action, contributing to global efforts in mitigation and adaptation.

Our forests are under immense pressure, yet they remain the lifeblood of rural livelihoods and environmental balance. We will enhance monitoring, support community forestry enterprises, and take decisive action against illegal logging. By collaborating with traditional authorities and regional councils, we aim to transform forestry into a source of jobs and harmony, not conflict.

**Hon. Speaker,**  
**Hon. Members,**

I recognize the importance of tourism as one of Namibia's fastest-growing industries, offering a gateway for women and young people as a key economic driver with the potential to uplift local communities, create jobs, and showcase our cultural heritage to the world. Let us be clear: prosperity is unattainable without investing in the most vulnerable people of our society, who are women and the youth.

In this era of economic transition, we are looking beyond traditional jobs, tapping in to opportunities such as green jobs in recycling, eco-construction, renewable energy, and sustainable agro-forestry. These are not mere trends, they are opportunities for women and youth innovation and enterprise.

With that said, allow me to extend my sincere gratitude to the current Minister of Finance, Hon. Erica Shafudah, for her diligent work in preparing and presenting this budget, and to the previous Ministers of Finance, whose contributions have laid the foundation for our nation's fiscal policies. Your efforts have been vital in navigating complex economic challenges while maintaining focus on national priorities.

This budget may not address every challenge that we have, but it reflects our collective will to keep Namibia moving forward. I urge this August House to support it, as we work together to protect, preserve, and prosper.

In conclusion, Hon. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Her Excellency the President, Dr Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah and the people of Namibia for entrusting me with this great responsibility to serve this peace-loving nation at this capacity. I am fully aware of the challenges and the weight of the task ahead, but I am equally inspired by the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. Together, let us continue to build a Namibia where the environment thrives, where our forests and wildlife are safeguarded, and where tourism continue to serve as cornerstone of our National Economy, ensuring that the benefits of our natural heritage are shared equitably while preserving traditional knowledge and protecting our resources for the benefits of all Namibians.

**Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members,** I thank you and look forward to our collective efforts in building a prosperous Namibia for future generations.