

Public service controls needed

Namibia is doing well in terms of post budget statements after the budget has been approved by Parliament, e.g. the publishing of a Citizens Budget.

However, for increased public service delivery and reducing corruption, an annual pre-budget statement is needed so that citizens know in advance what government is planning to spend on specific activities during the next financial year. This will increase public participation in providing input in drafting the budget and identifying different options for public financing and spending.

Another financial control measure needed is social grants such as the Basic Income Grant (BIG). This grant can increase the living standard of the poor and enable them to engage in alternative employment opportunities such as micro, small and medium business enterprises. Similar social grants have been successful in other countries, e.g. Brazil and Peru.

HOW OUR PUBLIC SERVICE BECAME SO BLOATED

Organisational management controls needed in the public sector are the implementation of organisation and method standards such as work and method studies, procedural, motion, work measurement and time studies. The author was an Organisation and Work Study Officer and an Instructor of the Certificate in Organisation



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and Methods that was accredited by the former Technicon of Pretoria, the current Tswana University of Technology. These standards existed before and after Independence in Namibia.

However, due to political intervention, these standards were abolished with the implication that substantially more people were employed over time that executed less work compared to when the former standards were operationalised. Today, compared to international standards, the Namibian public service is bloated, inefficient and underperforming. Based on recent statistics about public sector employment, we employ more soldiers than teachers in Namibia. This is only one indication of how skewed our priorities are. Such skewness is contributing to an increase in poverty and unemployment, as well as corruption.

• References

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