

Welcome to the BIG Coalition Presentation!!!

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Where it all started

- President Pohamba's own appointed Namibian Tax Consortium (NAMTAX) in 2002:
 - To maximise tax collection.
 - To look at poverty reduction measures.
- Pohamba didn't like the universal BIG idea by NAMTAX:
 - "People will become lazy."
 - Work till your sweat turns to blood.



Civil Society Gets Involved

- Formed a BIG Coalition of Namibia (lobby group) to advocate for the implementation of a universal BIG.
- The Coalition is by voluntary association.
- Campaign headed by the Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia during Bishop Kameeta's reign.
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Desk for Social Development headed the campaign but handed over secretariat role to Economic & Social Justice Trust in 2020.



Universal BIG Pilot Study

- Pohamba-led government was playing hard to get.
- Coalition carried out a pilot study with which to convince government.
- Otjivero/Omitara Dam settlement ideal spot with 100 residence/former farm workers.
- Coalition fundraised for pilot study.
- All residents below 60 years received N\$100 BIG ppm, no conditions attached.
- Pilot study carried out 2008-2009 first of its kind in the world.











UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME GRANT (BIG)

is supported by

ELCRN Desk for Social Development
Breaking the Wall of Silence (BWS)
Association Emblem Namibia
Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN)
#Naosan /Aes (Movement of Landless People
Southern Africa Refugee Protection

















































Coalition Set-up

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Content Creators	Campaign Ambassadors	Social Media Champions	Task Managers

NUST BIG SOCIETY	TRIAMPHUNT BIG SOCIETY	UNAM BIG SOCIETY

WhatsApp Group	Coalition Meetings when needed
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Role of Coalition

- On behalf of the Coalition, ESJT to carry out advocacy activities that create more awareness & gain grassroots support e.g.,
 - 1. Lobby politicians (meetings e.g., LPM, PDM).
 - 2. Public meetings in various towns (Coast, South, East Northern regions remaining).
 - 3. Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter).
 - 4. Media relations: BIG Coalition is a thought leader (27 newspaper articles, 27 radio mentions, 8 television).
 - 5. Protest art exhibitions BIG art exhibition at Frans Nambinga Art School.
 - 6. Events e.g., Int'l BIG Week, Int'l Day of Social Justice etc.
 - 7. Petition both online and hardcopy.



Fast forward

- Government continue to ignore the universal BIG Pilot Study results.
- Fast forward:
 - President Geingob supported pilot study by donating money (± N\$4,000).
 - Became president in 2015 declared 'war on poverty' & "Nobody in this house must be left out."
 - Established a Poverty Eradication Ministry headed by BIG Coalition chairperson – Bishop Kameeta.
 - Heard Bishop say BIG would be implanted in 2019 at a church gathering in Germany. Nothing happened.



Relaunch #NoOneIsLeftOut Campaign

- Promises were not kept and the Coalition relaunched the campaign in 2020.
- Carried out various activities to continue exerting pressure on government.
- In 2020, Harambee Foodbank and marginalized people feeding programmes were converted into N\$500/month/household (only for those in receipt of the above-mentioned programmes – 50,000 (2% of the population).
- President Geingob:
 - "How can rich people also get BIG?"
 - "Government has no money."



Challenges

- More members needed.
- More support needed but many CSOs limited capacity to mobilise grassroots support.
- Not widely accepted/understood by policy makers lack of political will and support (promotes laziness and irresponsibility).
- Not widely known and understood by general public resistance.
- Need more petition signatures.



Thank You!



Contact Economic & Social Justice Trust on behalf of BIG Coalition of Namibia +264 (0)81 561 5191 contact@bignam.org | campaign@bignam.org | www.bignam.org @basicincomegrantnamibia



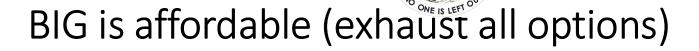
Results continue...

- Child malnutrition reduced from 42% of to 10% in 6 months.
- Half of school-going children didn't attend school regularly. Nonattendance dropped by 42%.
- Drop-out rates fell from almost 40% to nearly 0% in a year.
- Residents visited health clinic regularly:
 - Clinic income increased fivefold from N\$250/month to about N\$1,300.
- Crime reduced as reported by the local police station fell by 42% while stock theft fell by 43% and other theft by 20%.
- BIG freed women from the pressure to engage in transactional sex to some extent.



Otjivero Pilot Study Results...

- Effects of pilot project were scientifically evaluated.
- An international team of experts guided and evaluated the research throughout.
- Household poverty dropped from 76% to 37% within one year.
- Economic activity/self-employment increased from 44% to 55%.
- This finding contradicts critics' claiming BIG leads to laziness and dependency.



- Bolivia, Mongolia and Zambia are financing universal old-age pensions, child benefits and other schemes from taxes on mining and gas.
- Eliminate illicit financial flows which makes us lose N\$10 billion annually by cracking down on tax evasions.
- Costa Rica and Thailand reallocated military expenditures for universal health.
- Algeria, Mauritius, Panama among others have complemented social security revenues with high taxes on tobacco.



Affordability continues...

- Egypt created an Economic Justice Unit in the Ministry of Finance to review expenditure priorities (curb wastage and corruption – N\$10 billion lost to #Fishrot).
- Government will recover part of BIG expenditure almost immediately through VAT - recipients will use the money to purchase goods/services on which VAT is levied.
- An investment in human development which will improve the Namibian society at large in terms of reduction of costs in other government programmes e.g., health, justice system etc.



Affordability continues...

- Managing debt.
- Increase tax revenues: Namibia has no capital gains tax, estate duty, inheritance tax or donation tax (tool for addressing inequality).
- Use SACU revenue: dedicate a portion of SACU revenues to finance BIG = compensation for the higher prices that all Namibians pay because of customs duties on imports.

