



---

Founding Members: Hon. Ben Amathila Hon. Dr. Kaire Mbuende Prof. Peter Katjavivi

**THE NAMIBIAN ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH UNIT**

Postal: P. O. Box 40710, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek, Namibia

Street: Cnr Louis Raymond & Grant Webster, Windhoek, Namibia

Tel.: +264 61 277500 Fax: +264 61 277501

eMail: nepru@nepru.org.na Web Site: www.nepru.org.na

---

Acting Director: Klaus Schade

5 December 2008

## Press statement

### NEPRU's Quarterly Economic Review – September 2008

#### Review of the BIG Assessment Report

NEPRU publishes among other publications a Quarterly Economic Review (QER). The purpose of the QER is to highlight relevant economic events that occurred during the quarter under review. Events include, amongst others, the publication of reports that are of interest to the broader Namibian public. In this regard, NEPRU undertook a brief review of the first Assessment Report of the pilot BIG project published by the BIG Coalition.

NEPRU recognises that the average expenditure figures provided in the Assessment Report are neither suitable for determining the income poverty level at the settlement, nor are they suitable for an analysis of changes in expenditure patterns, because of existing income disparities. NEPRU acknowledges that information provided in a newspaper report concerning alleged crime in the vicinity of the settlement was not verified with official information from the area. However, accusations levelled at NEPRU based on its review of the Assessment Report, such as being 'biased favouring the rich and powerful' or aligning 'itself with the vested interests of some white farmers in the area' are baseless and unfounded.

NEPRU is an independent and impartial research institute that has a long history of contributing to Government policies aimed at reducing poverty and income inequality, such as the Labour-Based Work Policy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, National Development Plans and Vision2030. NEPRU will continue with its constructive inputs into Government policies in order to support Government in achieving the main national development objectives of alleviating poverty, reducing income inequality, sustaining economic growth and creating employment.

---

**Board of Trustees:**

Dr Zedekia Josef Ngavirue (Chairperson) Hon. Ben Amathila Mr Mocks Shivute (National Planning Commission Secretariat) Ms Erica Shafudah (Ministry of Finance) Hon. Dr. Kaire Mbuende Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Mr Paul Hartmann (Bank of Namibia)