

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY
HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

24 DECEMBER 2007

WINDHOEK

**Check against Delivery*

Good Evening Fellow Namibians,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to convey warm holiday facilitations to our citizens, and indeed, all persons within our borders on this Christmas Eve.

This is a special time of the year when families, friends and communities come together in the spirit of sharing and togetherness. This is indeed the time to rekindle the ties that make our families, communities and the nation stronger. It is a time to reinforce, in a practical manner, the teachings and values of caring and sharing with those members of our communities who find themselves in difficult living conditions.

Here I have in mind the orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly, people suffering from Aids, people with disabilities, as well as those who are bedridden and weak because of other ailments. Now that we have taken off time from our work, let us make time to care for those who are in need of care. Let us show compassion for those who are in pain.

At the same time, let us spare a thought for those who have remained on duty because of the essential nature of their work. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, thousands of police officers, soldiers, doctors, nurses and others who perform essential services are on duty to ensure the safety of our country through law enforcement and the delivery of services to our people. We should also think about and pray for those who keep the wheels of our economy rolling. I am referring to workers in different sectors of the economy who are on duty during the Festive Season. We wish them strength and dedication to their work, with the hope that they too will get the opportunity to rest and be with their families at an appropriate time.

Fellow Namibians,

I wish to use this opportunity to appeal to all road users in Namibia to heed and respect the traffic rules and regulations in order to avoid motor vehicle accidents. It is unfortunate that at this time every year, precious lives are lost and injuries are inflicted in a senseless manner as a result of vehicle accidents. I am aware that several stakeholders have joined Government and law enforcement agencies to promote road safety. It is incumbent upon road users, both drivers and passengers alike, to support the ongoing traffic safety campaign in order to reduce vehicle accidents in our country.

In this manner, families and communities can be spared unnecessary pain and sorrow that accompany the horrific accidents that we have seen on our roads in the past. By obeying traffic regulations, especially speed limitations, road users can arrive at their destinations safely. This should be our collective wish for our country this holiday season. Safety on our roads should be an important priority.

Another important priority is the call to all our people to remain alert so that they do not fall victim to criminals. Criminal elements are known to take advantage of the holiday season to rob, attack and break into houses and businesses. Thus, while we relax and enjoy the holiday season, we must also remain on our full guard and report suspicious behaviour to our law enforcement agencies.

Our law enforcement agencies are under strict order to maintain law and order so that the holiday season is not marred by crime and violence. Units from the Namibian Police and the Namibian Defence Force will carry out patrols and anti-crime operations so that our people can enjoy their holidays with enhanced peace of mind and sense of security.

Fellow Namibians,

I urge you to take advantage of the holiday season to rest and recuperate so that you can start the coming year full of energy and a new drive to succeed. Use this time to think of new ways in which you can improve your respective work environments to become more effective and efficient. Our young people should also rest well in preparation for the new school year. In the meantime, they must assist their parents and family members with chores, such as working at home, farm, mahangu fields and family business. This should form part of the upbringing of our children so that we can teach them strong work ethics as well as the civic duties of serving our country.

For each and every citizen, the passing year presents challenges that had to be overcome in both personal and professional spheres. Naturally, the degrees of success differ from person to person and from institution to institution. In the final analysis, the level of your performance in the passing year should encourage you to work hard in order to achieve your objectives and reach new milestones of success. I urge you to enter the New Year with the belief that through hard work, you will each achieve your objectives.

May this holiday season give each one of you the recuperation that you need so that we can all join hands in the ongoing task of nation building.

I wish you all a Blessed Festive Season and a Happy New Year.

Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

Good Night!