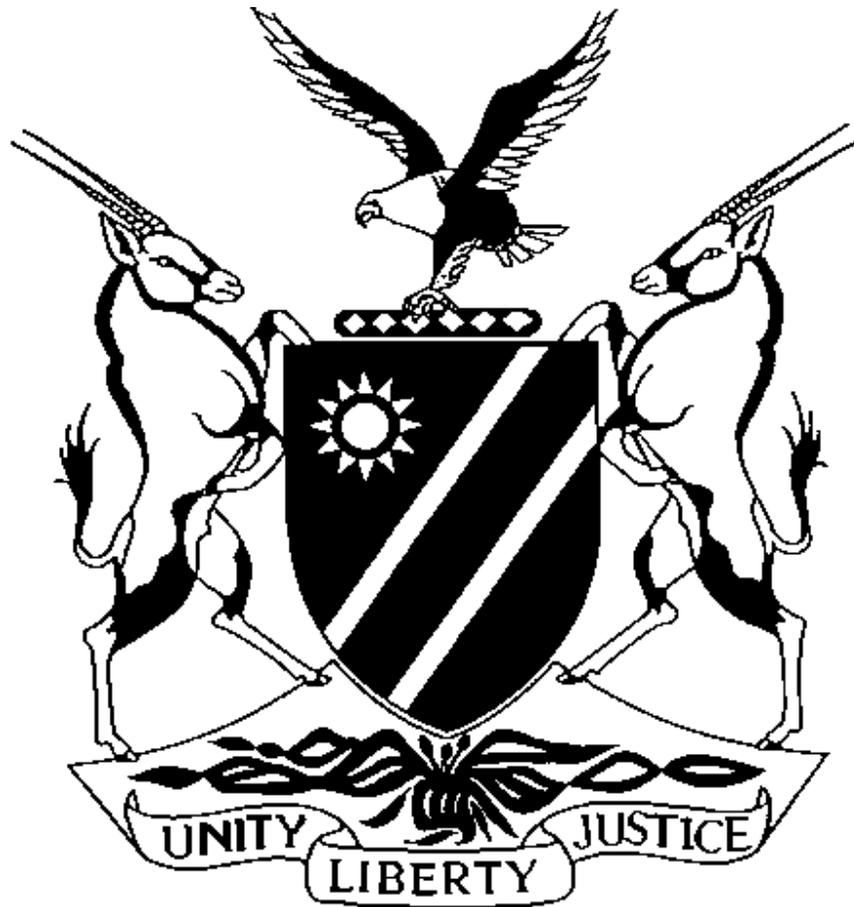


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBAMBA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE
OCCASION OF OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 9TH
SAFAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8TH NOVEMBER 2011,

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic
Corps,
Esteemed Chairperson of the African Union
Advisory Board on Preventing and Combating
Corruption, Mrs Jolie Nwariaku,
Esteemed Chairperson of the Southern African
Forum against Corruption, Dr Edward Hoseah,
President of the East African Association of Anti-
Corruption Authorities, Dr Tito Rutaremara,
Distinguished Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies
and your delegations,
Distinguished Representatives from the National
Bureau of Corruption Prevention of China,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**On behalf of the Government and people of the
Republic of Namibia, I welcome all of you dear
delegates to our country for the 9th Southern
African Forum Against Corruption (SAFAC). We
are honoured to host this important conference.**

**Our Government is making the necessary efforts
to prevent and combat corruption at home. We
also fully support regional, continental and
international anti-corruption initiatives within
SADC, the African continent and beyond.**

It is for this reason that Namibia has signed and ratified the regional, continental and international legal instruments on the fight against corruption. These include *the Southern African Development Community Protocol against Corruption; the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.*

In my view, these instruments form laudable building blocks in the fight against corruption. Their common objectives are to promote and strengthen the development of mechanisms relating to the prevention, detection, punishment and eradication of corruption and to further promote, facilitate and regulate cooperation among Member States in the fight against corruption, and the promotion of ethical values.

The supreme law of our country, the Namibian Constitution, is very clear on the importance of promoting accountability and transparency in all statutory and administrative bodies. Our long-term National Development Programme, Vision 2030, identifies good governance as a cross-cutting value that Namibia upholds as a nation.

Our aim is to ensure that we incorporate this value in all our anti-corruption policies and action plans.

Furthermore, in keeping with our commitments to promote ethical behavior in all sectors of our society, our Parliament enacted pieces of legislation that complement each other to effectively prevent and combat corruption. I would like to point to the Anti-Corruption Act No 8 of 2003, which establishes the Anti-Corruption Commission of Namibia as an impartial and independent body, and the Prevention of Organized Crime Act No. 29 of 2004 which provides for measures to combat organized crime. This law empowers authorities to seize assets and proceeds (of crime of those) persons suspected of having committed related crimes or acquired such assets in a criminal or illicit manner or through corrupt practices. This includes those who have acquired wealth through corrupt practices.

Our Parliament has enacted the Financial Intelligence Act No. 3 of 2007 which provides for the combating of money laundering. By virtue of this law, the Financial Intelligence Centre within the Bank of Namibia is empowered to collect, assess and analyze financial intelligence data which may lead or relate to money laundering.

Director of Ceremonies

Corruption is a global insidious disease that affects all nations. It is not confined to one country, neither to one region nor to one continent. It is a practice that manifests itself within the public sector, the private sector and the civil society. Therefore, all sectors of society need to actively work together to tackle corruption.

As officials who are seized with the task of prevention, detection and combating corruption on a daily basis, you are aware that it is a cross-border crime. Hence, regional cooperation in combating corruption is vital. There is a growing need for SADC authorities to work together in our common efforts to gain momentum in fighting corruption and the promotion of good governance. I wish to emphasise that the need for co-operation is not only regional, but also global.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption makes it mandatory that State Parties should share experiences and strengthen international cooperation. Through interaction and cooperation, nations can share information on the legal systems applicable within their respective jurisdictions and they may find ways of harmonizing such legal systems for the sake of mutual legal assistance.

I am pleased that delegates to this Annual General Meeting have come from different parts of the world, representing states and international organizations, as well as from anti-corruption authorities in the SADC region. I urge you to learn from one another about the best practices and experiences in order to strengthen cooperation in carrying out the responsibility placed on your shoulders.

Just as corruption knows no borders, it also knows no economic distinctions. Corruption is the primary enemy of national development. It raises the costs of doing business, and it undermines the possibilities for sustainable foreign direct investment. It retards competition and efficiency and it exacerbates poverty and inequality.

Director of Ceremonies,

Since the founding of SADC, our region has recognized the corrosive effects of corruption and we have clearly stated our determination to fight both the effects and the causes of corruption. The objective is to ensure that corruption does not derail our regional developmental agenda. In the SADC Region, we commit ourselves to the principles of good governance where democratic institutions are not compromised, and ethical values are not undermined.

At present, the main agenda of SADC is Regional Economic Integration, with the view towards accelerating economic growth, eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development through regional cooperation and integration. This noble objective will not be realized if the evil of corruption continues to undermine our collective efforts.

In recognition of this concern, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol Against Corruption was adopted by Heads of State and Government of SADC in Blantyre, Malawi, on the 14th of August 2001. The Protocol entered into force on 6th July 2005. It aims to bring together Authorities in the SADC region in fighting corruption by strengthening the mechanisms needed to prevent, detect and eradicate corruption. It further seeks to facilitate and regulate cooperation among Member States to ensure effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, and fostering development and harmonization of anti-corruption policies and legislation. It is significant that SADC Member States have moved beyond the mere adoption of the Protocol and have passed domestic anti-corruption. Legislation. Article II of the Protocol provides for the establishment of the Committee consisting of representatives from Member States to oversee the implementation of the Protocol.

The establishment of the Committee is a critical step towards the full implementation of the Protocol.

It is no secret that political commitment, aggressive law enforcement and the forging of strategic partnerships between key stakeholders in society are the prerequisites for the successful fight against corruption. I am delighted that the African Development Bank has recognized this fact and continues to actively support anti-corruption initiatives on the continent. Such generous support will no doubt contribute to the prevention and defeat of corruption in Africa.

I take this opportunity to wish you successful deliberations and a pleasant stay in Namibia. Please feel at home.

It is now my honour to declare the 9th SAFAC Annual General Meeting officially opened.

I thank you.