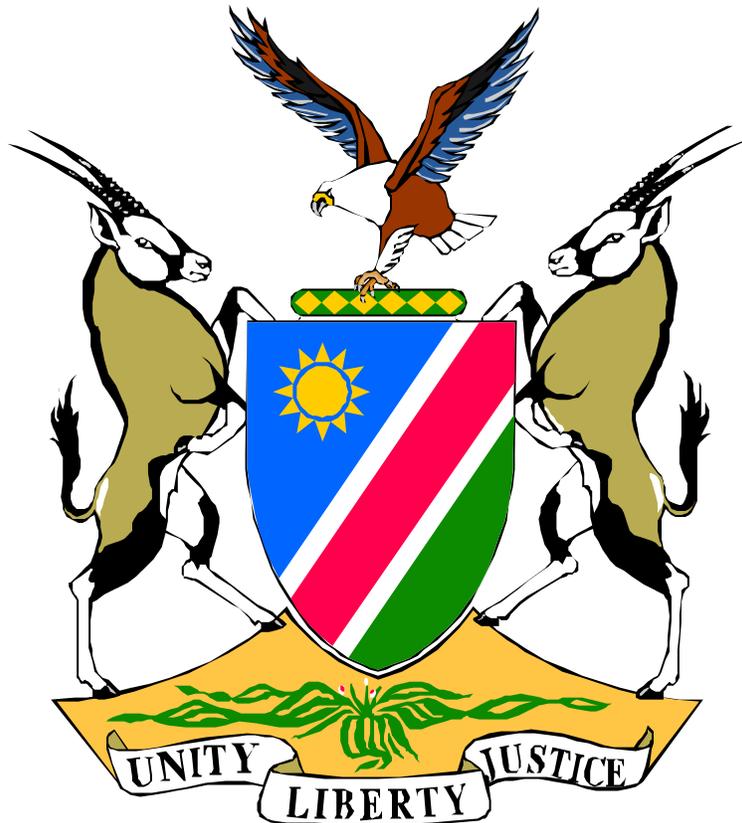


# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF SWEARING IN OF REGIONAL  
GOVERNORS**

**08 FEBRUARY 2011**

**WINDHOEK**  
*Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies**  
**Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula**  
**Honourable Ministers**  
**Honourable Regional Governors**  
**Esteemed Secretary to the Cabinet**  
**Members of the Media**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have invited you, Honourable Regional Governors, to State House this morning to address you and exchange views, following your recent appointment in terms of the Special Advisors and Regional Governors Appointment Amendment Act of 2010.

I am aware that tomorrow you will be attending a workshop covering a wide spectrum of subjects. The workshop, I believe, will provide you with useful information so that you can carry out your national duties more efficiently and effectively.

As you are well aware, in the past, Regional Governors played a dual political role, namely, as Constituency Councillors and also as Governors. This arrangement had inherent weaknesses which undermined the effectiveness of Regional Governors.

It was prone to competing roles as some Regional Governors focused increasingly on the Office of the Governor, whereby the constituency suffered, while others focused on the constituency with the result that the Governorship duties were relegated to the backseat. Against this background, measures were adopted with the view to remedy such undesirable situation.

The Special Advisors and Regional Representatives Appointment Act of 1990 was amended to empower the Head of State to appoint Governors and to determine their Terms and conditions of employment. Some sections of the Regional Authorities Act of 1992 were also repealed to remove references to Regional Governors from the Act. We are confident that the new arrangement will allow Regional Governors to play a more effective role in championing the socio-economic development of their respective Regions.

Regional Governors are entrusted with important national duty. Thus, their roles and responsibilities are critical to the achievement of our nation's social and economic development objectives at regional level.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

The Namibian Nation has given an unequivocal mandate to the SWAPO Party following the Regional and Local Authorities Elections held in November last year. During the Regional and Local Authorities election campaign, the SWAPO Party recommitted itself to continue to develop our regions, towns, settlements, villages and indeed Namibia as a whole. As you are aware, the Party also presented the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto as our blueprint for governance as we build on our achievements recorded over the past years.

We promised that we will not relent in our commitment and dedication towards socio-economic progress of our people and that we will work to expand our track record of success. I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude, to everyone who participated and voted for the SWAPO Party in the recently concluded elections.

Now that the elections are over, it is time to attend to the welfare of our nation. We have to hit the ground running in order to render effective and efficient service delivery to our people. In order to achieve this objective, we decided to reorganize our governance structure in the Regions. Regional Governors have a duty to co-ordinate their activities as well as the developmental activities in their regions as representatives of the central Government. Thus, they must ensure proper co-ordination of such activities with Regional Councils, Local Authorities, Traditional Authorities and indeed all other stakeholders who can contribute to the process of nation building and development.

Regional Governors will work closely and directly with the Regional Councils in their respective regions. They will attend the Meetings of Regional Councils as well as the meetings of Management Committees of Regional Councils. This demands that harmonious working relations be created between the offices of the Regional Governors and Regional Councils. It demands that the Regional Governors and Regional Councils should at all times pull together in the same direction.

Regional Governors should also ensure proper co-ordination with Offices, Ministries and Agencies as well as with State owned enterprises in order to enhance the effective implementation of the national development agenda. I wish to underscore the importance of such co-ordination between the Offices of Governors and economic ministries.

This must be done to promote economic growth and wealth creation in their respective Regions. It is the only effective manner in which the scourges of poverty and under-development can be successfully tackled. The socio-economic challenges facing our people are many. Thus, they require innovative solutions. They also demand hard work and commitment on the part of the Regional Governors.

As Regional Governors, we expect you to fully implement your mandate with vigor and determination. We expect that your actions should start to bear fruit and bring about positive changes in the lives of our people.

You are expected to use your Offices as Regional Governors, to contribute positively to the Government's efforts to combat unemployment; to improve public service delivery and to achieve all our national development objectives, contained in the National Development Plans and Vision 2030.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

I have appointed these patriots because I believe that they can deliver on their important mandates.

In order to be effective in their work, Regional Governors must adopt a strategic position, with a clear vision of where they want to go and how they want to get there. This requires them to fully understand the development dynamics in their respective Regions.

I call upon the Regional Governors to activate sound working relationships with Regional and Local Authorities in the context of decentralization, as well as with the chairpersons of Regional Councils. They must also cultivate good working relationships with Offices, Ministries and Agencies of the central government.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

Our country faces ongoing challenges in rural areas. While the majority of communities have been provided with basic amenities such as water, electricity, health care and education, more work remains to be done.

Regional Governors are, therefore, expected to do all they can to facilitate the expansion of service delivery to the needy communities in their respective Regions.

Part of your mandate is to ensure that all citizens of Namibia, especially the rural communities, feel that they are part and parcel of our society, and that they can also enjoy the fruits of independence.

In this regard, I call upon the Regional Governors to ensure that the development projects that are earmarked for rural communities are implemented as a matter of priority.

Specific focus should be given to the provision of quality public services such as clean drinking water, housing, electricity and other basic public amenities that can improve the quality of life of more Namibians.

Other areas that need your attention include the provision of ploughing services, the expansion of agriculture extension services and the overall improvement and modernization of our agricultural sector. As Regional Governors, you should, therefore, co-ordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in order to deliver these services to all those who need them.

Our country cannot develop without modern infrastructure. Regional Governors must, therefore, co-ordinate with the Ministry of Works and Transport, the National Planning Commission as well as other relevant authorities in order to accelerate the implementation of our capital projects, including the construction of roads in different parts of the country.

Specific attention must be given to the construction of feeder roads to serve rural communities and improve access for these communities to facilities such as schools, hospitals and health centres as well as to markets.

The implementation of these projects should also be managed so as to create maximum numbers of employment opportunities for our people. Thus, it is important to ensure that, when road construction projects are implemented in rural areas, the labour-based method of construction must always be used.

Projects and Programs contained in the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto is the social contract between us and the Namibian nation. This is the message which made the SWAPO Party victorious at the polls. We are, therefore, determined to deliver what we promised our people during the election campaign. As Regional Governors, you have an important role to play in achieving these objectives.

We must endeavour to create more heroes and heroines whose contribution will be measured in terms of social upliftment of our communities, creation of employment opportunities for our people, improvement of the standards of living of our people and the achievement of our developmental goals and objectives. Today we are facing different enemies. Our enemies are poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance, underdevelopment, racism, tribalism, regionalism, ethnicity and corruption. Let us all become foot soldiers to confront and defeat these enemies under the banner of the SWAPO PARTY Government.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

The primary function of Regional Governors is to serve the Namibian nation. Thus, your mandate is not only restricted to the region where you are based. You have a duty to always act in the national interest. Should the need arise, a Regional Governor may be re-assigned from one region to another.

I urge you to promote peace, unity and stability in your respective Regions. Thereby, you will be contributing to the noble Policy of National Reconciliation. I urge you to act boldly and resolutely as you confront the challenges facing our nation.

I also urge you to establish forums where issues affecting your respective Regions can be discussed. This is vital for citizens and stakeholders to share their views and suggest the ways in which development challenges can be addressed. It is also your duty to help prevent the abuse

of public assets. At this juncture, I would like to assure you that my Office is open for consultation and exchange of views on issues of national interest.

I also wish to emphasise the fact that, although we have Regional Governors, Namibia remains a unitary state in terms of Article 1 of the Namibian Constitution. That unity must be preserved and protected at all times.

You have been appointed to important positions of trust and as such, you are required to take an oath of Office. The oath of Office will be administered to you by the Right Honourable Prime Minister shortly.

I take this opportunity to wish you all success in your national duties and express my confidence that you will carry out your assignments with commitment, dedication, honour and dignity. Once again, I congratulate you on your appointments as Regional Governors. I wish you every success in your future endeavours as we march forward together to serve our Nation.

I thank you.