

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL RECEPTION
FOR THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

17 JUNE 2013

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies,
Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Chairperson of the National
Council,
Honourable Leaders of Parties represented in
our Parliament,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The First Lady and I welcome you, Honourable
Members of Parliament, most whole heartedly
to this Annual Reception. We are indeed
delighted to host you, and it is our sincere hope
that you will have an enjoyable and relaxing
time here at the State House this morning.**

**At the outset, I would like to commend and
congratulate our Parliamentary Leaders for
steering the work of our legislature in debating
and discussing issues of national interest. I
would also like to commend our lawmakers for
adopting a new framework that facilitates the
speedy adoption of the Appropriation Bill.**

This made it possible for the 2013/2014 Appropriation Bill to be passed in a relatively shorter period of time, compared to previous years.

This is indeed a significant development, given the urgent imperative of implementing our national development priorities. It is vital that budgetary resources are released timely so that development programmes and other activities can be carried out. In this manner, we can meet our national development targets and improve service delivery to our people.

Considering the enormity of the task of nation building and the challenges facing our nation, we must proceed at a deliberate pace and encourage our civil service and other stakeholders to implement Government policies without delay.

As we interact in this informal setting, we should also keep in mind the numerous challenges facing our nation. These include the devastating drought that has affected many parts of the country.

I believe that in our interactions with communities, our national leaders, including our Members of Parliament should emphasize the importance of the efficient and effective utilization of the public resources that have been allocated towards drought relief efforts.

More specifically, it is important that leaders at all levels, including Traditional Authorities play an oversight role to ensure that drought relief supplies are distributed according to plan and they reach the identified vulnerable households and communities. It is our duty to take care of our citizens who are hardest hit by this natural disaster and to prevent suffering and the loss of human lives, resulting from food shortages.

Director of Ceremonies,

I take this opportunity to encourage you, our lawmakers, to continue working hard in carrying out your legislative function with dedication and commitment. The nation looks up to you to table and thoroughly discuss issues that affect their daily lives.

As citizens, the Namibian people expect you to pass laws that can be translated into practical policies and programmes to foster accelerated social and economic development in all parts of the country.

We cherish the peace and stability that our country has enjoyed since independence 23 years ago. In order to maintain and further deepen this stability, our people must embrace the Policy of National Reconciliation and the values of mutual respect and tolerance.

This is the bedrock upon which we can secure a brighter future for our country. One of the roles of Parliament in this process is the enactment of laws that promote equitable distribution of resources so that all our people can enjoy the fruits of independence.

Once again, may I say that the First Lady and I, wish you an enjoyable morning here at State House. We wish you all renewed strength in your duties and service to the nation.

I thank you.