

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**PRESS STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
DR. HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE APPOINTMENT  
OF MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION**

**21 February 2013**

**STATE HOUSE  
WINDHOEK**

*\*Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies,  
Your Honour the Chief Justice,  
Distinguished Members of the Media,  
Fellow Namibians,**

**Allow me to take this opportunity to, once again, express my appreciation and gratitude to the members of the press for accepting my invitation to State House this morning at such short notice. I am aware that you only received my invitation this morning and yet I can see many of you here, thank you very much for coming.**

**I have invited you to the State House to inform you, and through you, the Namibian nation about the actions I have taken under the powers vested in me by the Namibian Constitution.**

**You will recall that the Congress of the SWAPO PARTY passed a number of resolutions. During my closing address to the Congress, I pointed out that I want to see a speedy implementation of the Congress Resolutions, especially those which are to be adopted by Cabinet as Government programmes and projects.**

**I repeated this call during the first Cabinet meeting of this year, as well as during the opening**

of Parliament. Therefore, service delivery will be at the centre of my Presidency during the remaining term of Office.

The SWAPO Party Congress of 2012 passed Resolution number 5 which refers to “Delivery of quality Education.” This Resolution calls upon the SWAPO Party Government to introduce a number of measures aimed at improving the quality of education in our country from pre-primary level to tertiary level. The Government is also called upon to implement the recommendations of the 2011 Conference on Education.

Given the importance of education to our nations’ prosperity, I pinned my hopes on the late Dr. Abraham Iyambo to deliver in this sector. I had hope that Resolution number 5; recommendations of the Education Conference; the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP) and a number of other education programmes and projects of the Ministry would be implemented to the letter under the leadership of Dr Iyambo.

Although his legacy lives on, unfortunately Dr. Iyambo is no more. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**It is now up to us as a nation to ensure that his legacy does not die. His dream of achieving quality education must be realized. The education sector is too important to be left without a political head for an extended period. There are also legal implications which have to be complied with, for example, in terms of a number of legislation, certain decisions and signing of certain documents can only be done by a person who is duly appointed as a Cabinet Minister.**

**Against the aforementioned background, I had sleepless nights thinking of a replacement. I went through the list of those fellow citizens who closely worked with the late Dr. Iyambo. I am now in a position to inform the nation about the decision that I have taken regarding this matter.**

**In this regard, I have, in terms of Article 32 sub-article (3)(i)(bb) of the Namibian Constitution, decided to appoint Dr. David Namwandi, the current Deputy Minister, as Minister of Education.**

**Dr. Namwandi is not a stranger to you, he closely worked together with the late Dr. Iyambo as a solid team in the sector of Education. Dr. Namwandi knows the programmes and projects of**

**the Ministry of Education which require immediate implementation. He understands the password “deliver, deliver and deliver.”**

**To you Dr. Namwandi, I want to say this as the political head of the Ministry of Education, the education sector is now on your shoulders. I have no doubt you are fully aware that you are stepping in the shoes of a giant.**

**You are replacing a Comrade who earned himself high respect, not only from the appointing authority but also from the Namibian nation and beyond, when it comes to delivery. From this day on, the hopes and aspirations of our nation are placed on your shoulders to deliver quality education, please do not disappoint the appointing authority and the nation. My advice to you is very simple, deliver, deliver and deliver.**

**The Ministry of Education is a huge institution of Government. Therefore, apart from the capabilities of a Minister, the Deputy Minister should also possess certain qualities.**

**I have taken this consideration into account in the appointment of a Deputy Minister. In addition, gender consideration and the policy of**

**inclusiveness have also played a major role in my decision.**

**Before pre-school, it is our mothers who are the critical teachers of our children. Indeed at pre-school, right up to secondary school level, the majority of the teachers are our mothers. I can also state with pride that the majority of those who are enrolled in our schools are girls.**

**Against the aforementioned background, I have in terms of Article 32 sub-article (3)(i)(bb) of the Namibian Constitution, decided to appoint Honourable Silvia Gonaone Makgone as Deputy Minister of Education. Despite her youthful age, Honourable Makgone is well educated and has a wealth of experience in the sector of education. In my capacity as the appointing authority, I expect Honourable Makgone to work as a team with her colleagues just as Dr. Namwandi did before her. In an establishment such as the Ministry of Education, there can be no success without team work and coordination with other institutions.**

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**We can only achieve our objective if we work hard and become an all inclusive Government where every citizen can play a positive role in the affairs of our country. To you Honourable Minister and Honourable Deputy Minister, I can only repeat my directive, DELIVER, DELIVER AND DELIVER for the sake of our nation. This will make Namibia one of the winning nations.**

**In conclusion, allow me also to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Honourable Chief Justice. He is always ready to accept my invitation at short notice. His role of administering the oath of office is highly appreciated. Once again, I thank you all for accepting my invitation.**

**Long live the Republic of Namibia!**

**I thank you.**