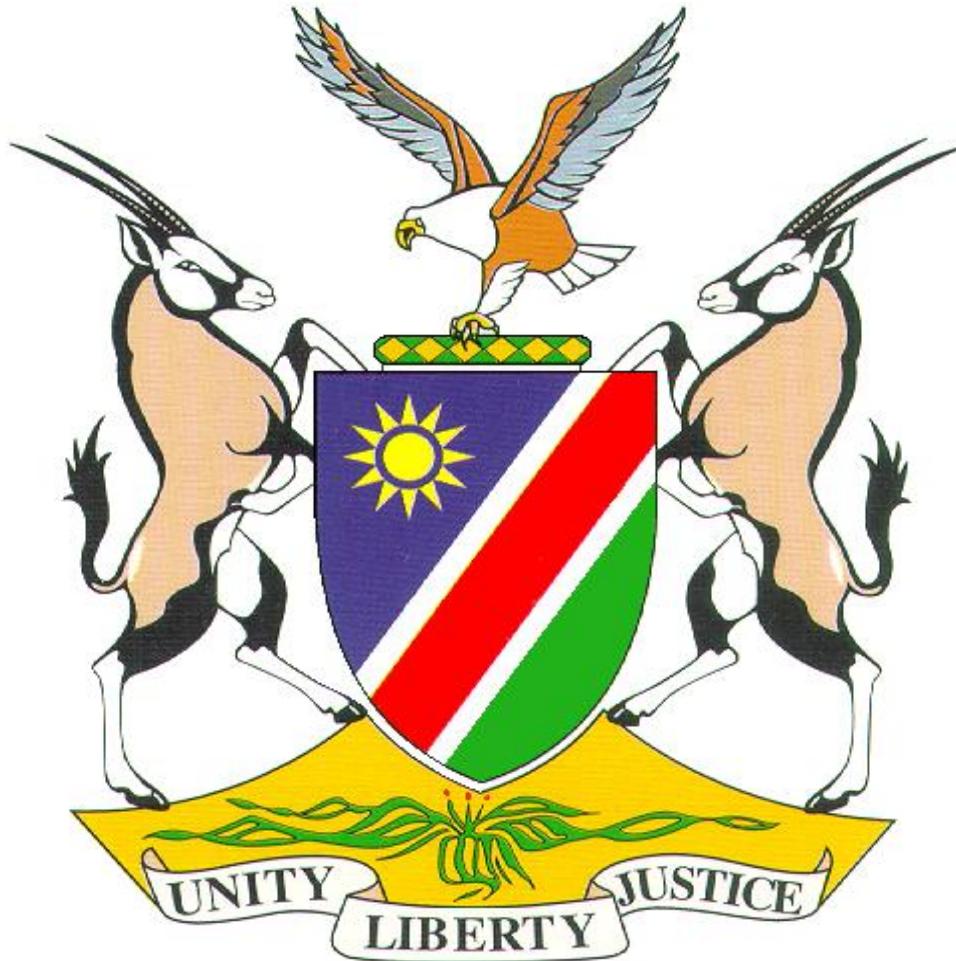


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



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

25 DECEMBER 2013

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

Fellow Namibians,

Tomorrow, we join billions of people around the world in the celebration of Christmas, a celebration which brings families, friends and communities together in a spirit of togetherness and love.

While Christmas is a time of enjoyment, I urge the nation to behave responsibly, to demonstrate care for others. I call upon all our people to refrain from excesses, such as the abuse of alcohol and drugs that may lead to violence and road accidents.

Public office bearers, community leaders, parents and spiritual leaders must continue to instil the values of self-respect, honesty, humility, and commitment to hard work in our people.

Fellow Namibians,

The celebration of Christmas holds a special meaning for children and young people. On this special occasion, I would like to reassure our youth that the Government cares for you.

We are fully aware, and are indeed committed to implement programmes and policies aimed at empowering our youth. We will continue to promote the creation of more employment opportunities and support you to acquire skills and gain access to education and training opportunities. We are also ready to initiate and implement measures to deal with emerging challenges that confront our young people.

I urge you to be ready and willing to do your part in order to improve the success of these initiatives.

We need you, our young people, to prepare yourselves to serve our this country as productive members of society.

I call upon road users to observe traffic rules and regulations all times. Avoid over-speeding and be considerate to others so that all travellers on our roads may arrive safely at their respective destinations.

Too many accidents have already occurred during this Holiday Season. Many lives have been lost and injuries have been sustained as a result of these accidents. This is very regrettable. I, therefore, invite all Namibians to be part of the joint efforts to make our roads safer.

May the values of caring, unity and peace guide our nation during this special time of the year. May this Holiday Season be filled with joy and happiness.

On behalf of the Government, my family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish you alla Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Good Evening, and I thank you.