

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE
OFFICES OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

9 DECEMBER 2013

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies,
Honourable Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly,
Your Honour Judge Sylvester Mainga,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Honourable Laura Mcleod-Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region,
Your Worship Agnes Kafula, Mayor of the City of Windhoek,
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Esteemed Mr. Musinga Bandora, UN Resident Coordinator,
Esteemed Mr. Paulus Noa, Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission,
Staff Members of the Anti-Corruption Commission,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to join you this morning at this special occasion of the inauguration of the Headquarters of the Anti-Corruption Commission, which coincides with the commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day.

The 9th of December was designated as International Anti-Corruption Day, following the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution Number 58/4 of 31 October 2003. On this day, Namibia joins hands with other members of the international community to recommit ourselves to the ongoing and unrelenting fight against corruption.

Director of Ceremonies,

We have articulated our Government's stance on corruption clearly and forcefully over the years. We view the menace of corruption, in whatever form it manifests itself, in the most serious light. We believe that it is a cancer that deprives our people of the opportunities and the resources needed for development.

It hampers efforts to alleviate poverty, and undermines political stability and economic growth. It corrodes and diminishes opportunities for investments. Therefore, it should not be allowed to fester. We must all fight it and combat it tooth and nail, with all the dedication that we can muster, without fear or favour. The culprits must face justice and be punished for their deeds to serve as a deterrent for anyone contemplating to engage in corrupt practices.

We must not allow the limited resources, which are meant to provide services to our people, especially the poor and vulnerable members of our society to be misappropriated by anyone.

This year, the commemoration of International Anti-Corruption Day is being held under theme “*Zero Corruption, 100% Development*”. This is in line with our own commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. By working for a common objective as a nation, we will achieve the objectives set out in our National Development Plans, Vision 2030, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In keeping with the UN Convention Against Corruption, Namibia has taken concrete steps to criminalize acts of corruption and organized crime. In this connection, we have enacted new laws such as the Anti-Corruption Act of 2003, the Prevention of Organized Crime Act of 2004, the Financial Intelligence Act of 2012 and the Prevention and Combatting of Terrorist Activities Act of 2012.

Director of Ceremonies,

The official opening of the Head-Quarters of the Anti-Corruption Commission is a demonstration of our Government’s commitment to the work of this important institution in the unrelenting efforts to combat corruption at all levels of society in our country.

I, once again, call on all stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors to play an active role in preventing and combating corruption in Namibia.

At the same time, I reiterate my appeal to the Namibian people to report all incidences of bribery, misappropriation of public funds and other related crimes of corruption to the law enforcement agencies. It is the patriotic duty of all our people to report all cases of corruption to the Anti- Corruption Commission or to other law enforcement agencies.

On our part as Government leaders, we will continue to strengthen the capacity of different institutions in our criminal justice system to carry out their duties and responsibilities effectively and efficiently from the investigation to the prosecution of all crimes, including corrupt practices. I would like to commend the Anti-Corruption Commission for its ongoing efforts since its establishment in investigating cases of corrupt practices submitted to it and for bringing several culprits to justice.

I also commend you for raising public awareness and developing educational materials to sensitize our people on the dangers of corruption.

Although notable progress has been made, we must continue to work as a team in order to uproot corruption whenever it manifests itself in our society. I commend our people who have supported the Anti-Corruption Commission in fighting corruption. I encourage anyone who is aware of corrupt practices to report such cases to the ACC or other law enforcement agencies so that they can be investigated and the culprits brought to justice. Let us all do our part and help the Anti-Corruption Commission succeed in carrying out its mandate.

Director of Ceremonies,

I call upon the Commission, together with other law enforcement agencies, to stand firm and continue to investigate all suspected cases of corruption anywhere in the country and to make sure that those responsible for wrong doing are brought to justice.

Once again, congratulations on the completion of your new Head Quarters.

It is now my distinct honour and pleasure to declare the Head Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission officially open.

I thank you.