

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMISSIONING
OF VARIOUS NAMIBIAN AMBASSADORS-AND
HIGH COMMISSIONERS-DESIGNATE**

4 SEPTEMBER 2013

**STATE HOUSE,
WINDHOEK**

**Check Against Delivery*

Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Madam First Lady Penhupifo Pohamba,
Honourable Peya Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Ambassador Tuliameni Kalomoh, Special Advisor to the Minister of Foreign
Affairs,
Senior Government Officials,
Your Excellency, Mr. Manuel Alexandre Duarte Rodrigues, Ambassador of the
Republic of Angola and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Esteemed Ambassadors and High Commissioners Designate,
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the Receiving States,
Distinguished Family Members of the Ambassadors- and High Commissioners-
Designate,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking all of you for coming to State House this morning
to witness the commissioning of ten (10) new Heads of Mission who will represent
our country in different countries and organisations around the world.

They are; as you have just witnessed:

1. Dr. Peingeondjabi T. Shipoh, High Commissioner - Designate to the
Federal Republic of Nigeria;
2. Mr Steve V. Katjiuanjo, High Commissioner - Designate to the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
3. Mr Wilbard M Hellao, Ambassador - Designate to the Democratic Republic
of Congo;
4. Ms Balbina Daes Pienaar, Ambassador - Designate to the Republic of
Zimbabwe;
5. Mr Pius Dunaiski, High Commissioner - Designate to India;

6. Mrs Sophia N. Nangombe, Ambassador - Designate to Japan;
7. Dr Jerobeam Shaanika, Ambassador - Designate to the Republic of Cuba;
8. Ms Morina Muuondjo, Ambassador - Designate to the Kingdom of Sweden;
9. Ms Sabine Böhlke-Möller, Ambassador - Designate to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland; and
10. Mr Simon M. Maruta, Ambassador - Designate to the Republic of Austria.

These Namibian men and women are tasked with an important mission of promoting our national interests in the countries, regions and organisations of their accreditation, while at the same time, strengthening and expanding the bilateral relations between Namibia and those countries and organisations.

Namibia is a product of international solidarity, therefore, the promotion of stronger relations with friendly countries and organisations that supported our national liberation struggle remains important.

We know that through the hard work of our envoys, Namibia will reap many benefits, in the form of stronger bilateral co-operation, increased trade and investments, stronger economic co-operation and more people-to-people exchanges between Namibia and our co-operation partners.

One of your important duties as Namibian envoys is to work hard in order to give practical meaning to the principles of our foreign and economic policies through meaningful bilateral co-operation. I call upon you to work towards the implementation of the agreements of co-operation that Namibia has signed with the countries of your accreditation.

In order to carry out your important duties effectively, you should constantly educate and update yourselves about our Government's policy positions in different areas, as well as the important policy interventions such as our National Development Plans and Vision 2030.

In this manner, you will always be ready to eloquently articulate our country's policy positions in your interactions with officials, businesspersons and other actors in your host countries and in other forums.

Director of Ceremonies,

At this time when our country is confronted by high levels of unemployed, poverty and drought, our envoys must work hard to help our country address these challenges. You must, therefore, work hard to attract more investors to Namibia to establish industries that create employment opportunities, add value to our natural resources and facilitate the transfer of technology to accelerate the industrialization of our economy. You should market and promote Namibian products and services in different parts of the world.

Director of Ceremonies,

Our diplomats are mirrors that reflect the image of our country to the outside world. It is, therefore, vital that they must, at all times, promote and live by the values of dignity, hard work and confidence. The guiding light for our diplomats in their daily work is Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution, which sets out the principles of our foreign policy.

Among these are the maintenance of a policy of non-alignment; the promotion of international co-operation, global peace and security, respect for international law and treaty obligations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

We live in a challenging environment, where global peace and security are being threatened by political instability in various regions, while the world is yet to fully recover from the adverse effects of the economic and financial crises.

I, therefore, urge you as Namibian diplomats, to promote these principles as our country's contribution to the maintenance of world peace and security.

In conclusion, I wish to once again congratulate and wish you all the best in your new assignments as Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the Republic of Namibia to the countries and organisations of your accreditation.

I thank you.