

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF A
DINNER HOSTED BY THE BUSINESS
COMMUNITY ON THE EVE OF THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE 23rd
ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE**

20 MARCH 2013

**ONGWEDIVA,
OSHANA REGION**

**Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies,
Your Excellency, Comrade Sam Nujoma,
Founding President and Father of the
Nation,
Right Honourable Dr. Hage Geingob, Prime
Minister of the Republic of Namibia,
Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker
of the National Assembly,
Your Honour Peter Shivute, Chief Justice,
Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairperson of
the National Council,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Honourable Governor of Oshana Region,
Honourable Governors,
Honourable Chairpersons of Regional
Councils,
Your Worship the Mayor of Oshakati,
Your Excellencies, Members of the
Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to welcome you here this evening on the eve of our 23rd Independence Anniversary. May I, express my appreciation to the Governor of Oshana Region and the members of the business community, under the umbrella of the Northern Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry for making it possible for to come together this evening.

We view the private sector as a critical partner in the social and economic development of our country. It is for this reason that we continue to put measures in place to create a favourable environment for the business sector to grow and to invest in our economy.

This is being done through public investment in physical and communication infrastructure. Hence, we have constructed roads, bridges and railways to serve as catalysts for trade and commercial activities throughout the country.

It is also being done through other policy measures such as the improvement of business registration procedures, tax relief for businesses, the review of the Foreign Investment Act of 1990, the review of the public tendering regulations and the introduction of a National Industrialization Policy.

These policy measures are focused on making sure that our country becomes more productive and more competitive. Productivity is vital for the better performance of our economy and the profitability of business enterprises. This will in turn allow businesses to grow and create more jobs for our people and thereby combat unemployment and poverty.

Two weeks ago, I inaugurated the Fresh Produce Hub here at Ongwediva. The construction of the Facility was funded by the Government at a cost of more than N\$100 million.

It is intended to provide a ready market for the producers of vegetables, meat and fish. A similar facility was also inaugurated recently at the Town of Rundu. I urge our farmers to make full use of this facility and contribute to our aim of reducing the importation of fruits and vegetables from other countries.

Director of Ceremonies,

Success requires proper planning and hard work. Our business community must, therefore, plan and work hard, with an eye to a better future. That is the way to take Namibia towards the realization of our national development priorities and Vision 2030.

At this juncture, I would like to commend the business community for the positive role that you continue to play in our society.

I know that many of you are supporting worthy causes and provide support to the vulnerable members of our society. We recognize and acknowledge this important role. Keep up the good work. I trust that you will all have an enjoyable and memorable 23rd Independence Anniversary.

Bon Appetite.

I thank you.