

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST
ORDINARY CABINET MEETING FOR 2015**

10 FEBRUARY 2015

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

Right Honourable Hage Geingob, Prime Minister and President-Elect,
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,
Secretary General of the SWAPO Party,
Esteemed Secretary to the Cabinet,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all to this First Ordinary Meeting of the Cabinet for the year 2015. I trust that you are recharged to deal with the challenges and opportunities that the New Year presents. This is indeed a momentous year for our country, marked by two significant events in its history.

This year, we are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of democratic governance, freedom and nationhood. We will also witness a peaceful transition of power, when I hand over leadership to our President-Elect, Comrade Hage Geingob, on 21 March 2015. These two events, which the nation will celebrate next month, demonstrate the enduring strength of our democracy and our statehood. They bear testimony that the tree of freedom that we collectively planted as a nation a quarter-of-a-century ago, has grown deep roots. Today, Namibia is counted among the most stable and peaceful nations, not only in Africa, but also around the world.

It is indeed a source of great inspiration that with each passing year, for the past twenty-five years, we have made progress in building a more cohesive and stable society by implementing public policies aimed at improving the living conditions of our people, combating poverty, broadening the provision of public services and social amenities, as well as expanding physical and communication infrastructure in order to make our country a winning nation.

We recognize that there are challenges along the way. We recognise that the task of nation building is an arduous undertaking. It is for this reason that we must always bring our collective wisdom to bear in order to take our nation forward.

I am proud to state that Namibia is a resilient and resourceful nation. I believe that no obstacle is insurmountable if we hold hands and move forward together as a nation. The goals of addressing unemployment and poverty, expanding economic opportunities to all Namibians, and the provision of basic services, such as housing and sanitation, potable water, quality health care and education will be achieved through proper planning and the prudent utilisation of available resources.

In this context, it is incumbent upon the Executive Branch, as the policy making body, and indeed the entire state machinery, to act and serve in the best interest of the nation at all times. This is the spirit that should continue to guide us as we prepare to conclude the business of Government under my Presidency in the next few weeks.

Right Honourable Prime Minister and President-Elect,
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,

The position of Secretary to Cabinet became vacant after the election of Comrade Frans Kapofi onto the SWAPO Party list for Members of Parliament. Comrade Kapofi served as Secretary to Cabinet with distinction for many years. I thank him for his long service and wish him the best for the future. I also wish to congratulate Advocate Nangula Mbako, whom I appointed as Secretary to Cabinet until 20 March 2015. I am confident that you will carry out this national task with dedication and commitment during this time of transition.

Right Honourable Prime Minister and President-Elect,
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,

The Presidential and National Assembly Elections in November last year marked yet another milestone in our history. Our people went to the polls with great enthusiasm and gave the SWAPO Party and our Presidential Candidate an overwhelming mandate, with the SWAPO Party receiving 80 percent of the vote and Dr. Hage Geingob receiving an unprecedented 87 percent of the vote.

I take this opportunity to thank the Namibian electorate for voting for SWAPO Party and our Presidential Candidate. I also wish to wholeheartedly congratulate you, once again, Comrade Geingob for this outstanding performance.

As the SWAPO Party, we made an under taking to the Namibian people that the legacy of service delivery will continue. Starting with first Government of an independent Namibia in 1990, the SWAPO Party has proven its ability to govern, to maintain peace and stability and to deliver services. We look forward to continued progress and development in the coming years.

I am pleased to say that the process of transition is now in full swing. In line with established traditions, we want to ensure a smooth, peaceful and orderly transfer of power. Thus, all those who are entrusted with tasks during this process must carry them out without fail. All preparations should be carried out meticulously. Nothing must be left to chance.

I urge the National Preparatory Committee to ensure that our young people, especially the school children, take part in the celebrations. This will increase the awareness and instil pride in our young people about the rich history of our nation. In the same vein, I urge the Committee to facilitate the active involvement of our different communities in the Silver Jubilee Celebration in order to further promote national unity, peace, national reconciliation and national pride.

Right Honourable Prime Minister and President-Elect,
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,

Once again, I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy and Prosperous 2015. It is now my honour to declare the First Ordinary Session of Cabinet for the Year 2015 officially open.

Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.