

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE 24TH POLICE DAY**

20th FEBRUARY 2015

OSHAKATI

**Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies,
Right Honourable Hage Geingob, Prime
Minister and President-Elect,
Honourable Immanuel Ngatjizeko, Minister of
Safety and Security,
Honourable Cabinet Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Honourable Clemence Kashuupulwa, Governor
of Oshana Region,
Your Worship, the of Mayor of Oshakati,
Honourable Regional and Local Authority
Councillors,
Esteemed Chairperson of the Council of
Traditional Leaders,
Lieutenant-General Sebastian Ndeitunga,
Inspector-General of the Namibian Police,
Esteemed Service Chiefs,
Distinguished Traditional, Religious and
Community Leaders,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic
Corps,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to join you here this morning for the 24th Commemoration of the Namibian Police Day and the Passing Out Graduation Ceremony of new Police Officers, who underwent the Basic Police Training Course. As part of our commemoration this year, I will also launch the Interpol “Turn Back Crime” Global Campaign Initiative, aimed at combating crime around the world.

A total number of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Two (1,842), Police Officers are graduating here today. This is a welcome addition to the human resource complement of the Namibian Police. In terms of numbers, the Namibian Police has grown from eight hundred (800) Police Officers, to slightly over Sixteen Thousand and Five Hundred (16,500) men and women in uniform today.

I call upon the graduates to serve the nation with integrity and dedication and to carry out their duties without fear or favour.

The oath you have taken here today, in front of all these witnesses, must serve as the compass to guide you in all your actions from today and in the coming years. I urge you to work hard so that you can grow professionally through the ranks of the Namibian Police Force. Please join me in applauding the new Police Officers who have completed their training and are graduating today.

Director of Ceremonies,

Namibia is proud of our Police Officers, the men and women who put their lives on the line every day and every night to combat crime in our society. I, therefore, wish to request the parade to rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of Police Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty since the commemoration of the last Police Day. (I thank you.)

Director of Ceremonies,

The maintenance of peace, security and safety of our citizens is one of the top national priorities of our Government. Our Police Force is an integral part of the criminal justice system and the law enforcement mechanisms in the country. I commend the Force for the good work it has done to promote safety and the rule of law in our country.

Our Government will continue to mobilize and allocate the necessary resources in order to enhance the effectiveness of the operations of our Police Force. Already, funds have been availed to improve the mobility of the Force through the procurement of vehicles of different classes, helicopters and patrol boats.

Similarly, funds have been and will continue to be made available in order to renovate, construct and improve Police accommodation and other facilities nationwide.

Our goal is to ensure that the Namibian Police is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to enable them to effectively carry out their duties and to maintain safety and security of all our people. I urge the Inspector-General of the Namibian Police and his team to ensure that the resources and other equipment availed to the Police are utilised prudently and optimally at all times.

I also urge the Inspector-General and his team to ensure a high level of discipline and professionalism in the Force. Our country is a constitutional democracy, founded on the basic of respect for the fundamental rights of our people.

As such, in carrying out their duties, the Police Force must at all times be attuned to the importance of protecting and safeguarding the rights of our people. In order to succeed in fighting crime, the Police Force must work together with communities.

The Police must be seen as friends of communities, working together with the people to combat crime.

Community participation and co-operation with the Police is particularly important in detecting and solving crimes such as poaching of wild animals, which has become a source of serious concern in our country. In this context, I call upon all law-abiding citizens to play their part in reporting criminal offenses and rendering assistance to the police, thereby assuring the safety and security of our families and our communities.

One of the gruesome/cruel forms of crime in our society is the ugly phenomenon of Gender Based Violence, which has resulted in the brutal and senseless killing of innocent women and children.

I, once again, call upon Namibian men to cease and desist from despicable behaviour.

In many cases, domestic violence and other serious crimes are perpetrated with unlicensed firearms. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons in our country should, therefore, be addressed. The review of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1996 (Act No.7 of 1996), must be finalised urgently in order to enhance control and prevent the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in our society.

I commend the good work undertaken by the Namibian Police over the years in the clearing of unexploded ordinances. Such explosives have caused loss of life and injuries to many of our people. The presence of the explosives has also had the effect of delaying the implementation of important national capital projects, such as the construction of roads, railways, schools, hospitals, clinics, houses and other important national infrastructure.

Director of Ceremonies,

Namibia takes pride in our membership of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation (SARPCCO). Through these Organisations, our country is able to contribute to the maintenance of safety and security around the globe.

Please join me in congratulating the Inspector-General of the Namibian Police, Luitenant-General Sebastian Ndeitunga, on his election as Interpol Vice-President for Africa.

In keeping with our international obligations, under the United Nations (UN) and the African Union Charters, our Government has over the years contributed police contingents to participate in peace-keeping missions in countries such as East Timor, Dafur, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan.

Individual Police Officers were also seconded to the UN Headquarters in New York, the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone and Interpol Regional bureau in Harare.

I am happy that Namibia was privileged to serve as Chair of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation (SARPCCO) and the SADC Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee (CPSC) of the Interstate Defense and Security Committee.

Director of Ceremonies,

Today, Namibia joins other members of Interpol with the launch of the “Turn Back Crime” Global Campaign. This Interpol campaign highlights the dangers of organized crime and its negative effects on our societies. For this reason, there is an urgent need to combat this crime. I would like to use this opportunity to reiterate Namibia’s full support to the initiatives of Interpol to combat crime.

While I congratulate the Police Officers who graduated today, I also take this opportunity to declare the Interpol “Turn Back Crime Global Campaign” officially launched. I believe that by working together, this commendable initiative will be successful.

It is now my honour to declare the 24th Commemoration of Police Day officially open.

I thank you.