

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF A FAREWELL BANQUET**

20 MARCH 2015

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies;
Your Majesties;
Your Excellencies Heads of State and
Government;
Right Honourable Dr. Hage Geingob, Prime
Minister of the Republic of Namibia, and
President-Elect;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Your Excellencies, Members of the
Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Members of the Business
Community;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**It gives me great pleasure to officially welcome
you all to Namibia on the eve of Namibia's 25th
Independence Anniversary and the Inauguration
of our third President.**

The Government and the people of Namibia are indeed honoured that you have accepted the invitation to join us for this special and historic two-fold celebration.

Your presence is a strong testimony to the enduring bonds of friendship, solidarity and co-operation that so happily exist between the countries and organizations that you represent. Let me, therefore, say: Thank you dear friends for joining us. Thank you very much for coming to witness and share in this joyous occasion with the Namibian people.

At the same time, as we celebrate these milestones, we remember and give honour to Namibia's gallant heroes and heroines, those fearless and patriotic sons and daughters of the Land of the Brave, the young and the old alike, who put their lives on the line and resisted colonialism and apartheid.

Many sacrificed their precious lives and thousands were tortured, maimed and imprisoned for the sake of the freedom and independence that we enjoy today. We salute them and we honour them for their selfless deeds.

**Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies,**

It has been a singular honour and privilege for me to serve our nation as President over the past ten years. The task was indeed challenging and demanding. However, with the support of a dedicated team, we moved full steam ahead to fulfill the mandate of Governance that the Namibian voters gave to the SWAPO Party at the ballot box, both in 2004 and again in 2009.

As a priority, we made concerted efforts to promote the maintenance of peace and stability in the country and to implement policies and programmes aimed at developing our country and improving the living conditions of our people.

Another important priority area has been the further consolidation of bilateral co-operation between Namibia and other countries as well as the strengthening of our country's role in regional, continental and international fora. The number of Namibian Diplomatic Missions abroad has increased significantly over the past few years, while our role within regional and continental organizations has also grown. For example, Namibia had the honour and privilege to serve as Chair of SADC in 2010 and the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security from 2013 to 2014.

At the African Union, Namibia has served on various AU Committees, including the Committee of Ten on the Reform of the United Nations. Namibia has consistently championed the idea of the mobilization of domestic resources to finance AU programmes. We also stand firm in our commitment to deepen Pan Africanism and a collective African identity, underpinned by our shared values.

In this regard, the African Union Flag is hoisted and flown alongside the Namibian flag and the AU anthem is sung together with the Namibian National anthem at schools and during all public functions. In addition, Namibia has designated Africa Day, 25 May as a public holiday.

On behalf of the Government and people of Namibia, I say: thank you very much for the support and co-operation that Namibia has received from your respective countries and organizations as we work together to promote global peace and security.

**Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies,**

Indeed, the promotion of peace and security around the world has become more urgent, especially in the face of the threats posed by the enemies of peace who carry out indiscriminate atrocities targeting innocent civilians. Such acts of violence must be strongly denounced and measures must be put in place to combat them.

The recent outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease must galvanize African countries into action to work together and strengthen our health systems.

This must go hand-in-hand with the expansion and improvement of programmes and infrastructure to deliver basic services particularly health care, education, potable water, as well as housing and sanitation. I believe that the future of Namibia is bright. I believe that the future of our continent is bright. By working together in the best interest of our people, we shall propel this continent towards economic prosperity and social progress.

Once again, allow me to thank Your Majesties and Your Excellencies for coming to celebrate with us the 25th Independence Anniversary of our country and to witness the inauguration of our next President, Dr. Hage Geingob. I wish you all an enjoyable stay in our country.

I thank you.