

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**FAREWELL STATEMENT  
BY H.E HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,  
TO THE AFRICAN UNION ASSEMBLY OF HEADS  
OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT.**

**30 JANUARY 2015**

**ADDIS ABABA**

*\*Check Against Delivery*

**Your Excellency, the Chairperson of the African Union;**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;**

**Your Excellency, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission;**

**Esteemed African Union Commissioners;**

**Distinguished Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;**

**Esteemed Representatives of Regional and International Organizations here present;**

**Distinguished delegates;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**Ten years ago, I addressed this august Assembly for the first time as the second President of the Republic of Namibia. Today, I bid farewell to Your Excellencies.**

**During the 4<sup>th</sup> General Elections held in November last year, Dr. Hage Geingob was elected the third president of Namibia. I now take this opportunity to invite you to witness his inauguration on 21 March 2015. I also request Your Excellencies to extend to him the same courtesies and support you accorded to me.**

**Your Excellencies,**

**My interaction with the African Union dates back to the days of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. I pay tribute to the visionary founders of the OAU and reiterate our honour to its historic role and commitment to the liberation of our continent from colonial bondage.**

**I bid farewell to this Assembly with fond memories of friendship and solidarity. I am firmly convinced that AU programmes aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development of our continent will bear the desired results.**

**It is also my conviction that in order to achieve our continent's development goals and objectives, African leaders must act boldly and in unity, to further consolidate peace and security; defeat terrorism; eradicate poverty; expand infrastructure development; improve food security; and modernize our education and health systems.**

**Your Excellencies,**

**It will be recalled that, in order to popularize the African Union and instill a sense of Pan Africanism among our people, the last Summit of the OAU in Lusaka in 2001, unanimously adopted a Decision that all our countries shall hoist the OAU flag on all public buildings alongside our national flags, and sing the OAU anthem in public schools and at official functions. However, to date only Namibia has fully implemented the decision.**

**During this Summit, we will adopt Agenda 2063; Africa's roadmap for development. I trust that, once the Calendar of Implementation for Agenda 2063 is adopted, it will be implemented without fail. Unless we commit ourselves to its full implementation, it will remain an unfulfilled dream.**

**In this context, we must mobilize domestic resources, to reduce dependency on external financing of our AU programmes. Equally, we must ensure the full and equal participation and empowerment of women at all levels, in line with the theme of this year.**

**The Namibian National Assembly to be inaugurated in March 2015 will have 48 percent women MPs.**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Although Africa is endowed with abundant resources, too many Africans live in dire poverty, forcing them to risk their lives by crossing oceans in the hope of better opportunities on other continents.**

**Armed conflicts and terrorist attacks constitute grave threats to the stability and socio-economic development on the continent. Therefore, all acts of terrorism must be condemned and concerted effort should be made to deal with them.**

**Your Excellencies,**

**It is incomprehensible that the Kingdom of Morocco continues to occupy the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic. This renders the total liberation of Africa incomplete. I, therefore, urge Your Excellencies to remain united in support for the realization of the right to self-determination by the Saharawi people.**

**In the same vein, our support for the people of Palestine in their legitimate struggle for self-determination and independence should remain consistent. We condemn the construction of illegal settlements in occupied Palestinian territories by Israel.**

**May Your Excellencies continue to lead our continent with renewed determination and wisdom towards economic development and prosperity for the African people.**

**Long live Africa.**

**Long live the African Union.**

**I thank you.**