

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SIGNING OF THE NAMIBIA-BOTSWANA
BOUNDARY TREATY**

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

STATE HOUSE

WINDHOEK

Directors of Ceremonies,

Your Excellency Lieutenant General

Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama,

President of the Republic of

Botswana,

Honourable Ministers from Namibia

and Botswana,

Honourable Members of Parliament

from Namibia and Botswana,

Senior Government Officials,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to be here today to mark this historic occasion of the signing of the Boundary Treaty between Namibia and Botswana. Let me, therefore, express my appreciation to Your Excellency the President for demonstrating strong leadership in ensuring the realisation of the signing of the Boundary Treaty between our two countries.

We are cognizant of the fact that the current borders across Africa are legacies of colonial occupation. However, the Organization of African Unity (Now African Union), wisely decided that all countries should respect the inherited boundaries. The delimitation and demarcation of these boundaries should be seen as an administrative convenience and should be done in a brotherly fashion.

After all, across our different borders exist brothers and sisters who have been separated by arbitrary delimitations. I am happy to acknowledge that Namibia and Botswana demonstrated, throughout this exercise, the utmost brotherly/sisterly cooperation, hence the timely conclusion of this exercise.

Your Excellency,

This Treaty reaffirms the boundary between the Republic of Botswana and the Republic of Namibia. In addition to defining the boundaries between Namibia and Botswana, it makes provisions for efficient and effective border management.

Comprehensive and well-functioning border management structures, are essential in ensuring both security and facilitation of legitimate cross-border flows of people and goods.

There is an increasing understanding in Africa that borders should act as bridges rather than barriers. This is why Governments are investing significantly in border management reform.

Namibia identifies with the view of our leaders in Africa that efforts should be made to transcend the borders as barriers and promoting them as bridges linking one state to another.

This is very necessary as a first step towards ongoing efforts to integrate the continent, strengthen its unity and promote peace, security and stability.

As Namibia and Botswana are Member States of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), the protection of the resources that are in this area is our shared responsibility.

The Boundary Treaty is, therefore, another framework through which our resources should be preserved.

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I must mention that this Boundary Treaty is not intended to impede the existing cultural ties and social interactions among Namibians and Batswana. The ties between our two countries are permanent.

This Treaty is rather aimed at, among others, managing our common border effectively, facilitating the movement of persons living in the two countries especially those who live in the border areas.

Furthermore, this Treaty is also aimed at promoting cultural activities and existing social interactions.

You will recall that the Government of Botswana, through the Botswana Vaccine Institute, supplied vaccines for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) to Namibia during the outbreak of FMD in the northern parts of our country in 2015. The livestock industry and the entire Namibian economy were consequently safeguarded. This Boundary Treaty will thus serve as a mechanism through which transboundary diseases will be controlled.

I wish to impress upon the two governments to continue cooperating in this area.

I am pleased that the construction of the Dobe Border Post, which is a new border post, is at an advanced stage. This new border post will increase the entry and exit options for our people and tourists visiting the two countries.

The onus is on our Governments to speed up processes that would lead to the creation of a One-Stop Border Post not only at Trans Kalahari/Mamono Border Post, but also at other border posts.

Finally, I wish to thank all the stakeholders that were involved in the deliberations that culminated in the drafting of the Boundary Treaty between Namibia and Botswana.

PULA.