

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**WINDHOEK**

**All Media**

**Topic: Namibia at CHOGM 2018**

## **President Hage G. Geingob meets Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, delivers statement at the Malaria London Summit, participates in Opening and Executive Sessions at the 2018 Commonwealth Summit in London**

At the invitation of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob held discussions with Prince William at Kensington Palace on 18 April 2018. The discussion, occurring on the margins of the Commonwealth Summit focused on the role of education in transforming communities and creating sustainable societies, the value and future of the Commonwealth, including what leaders could do to make the body work better for member states.

President Geingob informed the Duke of Cambridge that Brexit is changing the political economy of the European Union. Additionally, the President mentioned that Namibia was ready to see a post-Brexit Britain as an opportunity to enhance trade and investment with the United Kingdom. “Namibia is locating itself as a logistics hub and gateway to Southern Africa through its ports, and would encourage UK business to set up operations in the country”, President Geingob said. Moreover, the two leaders discussed climate change; conservation and the challenges faced by Namibia as a semi-arid country such as recurring droughts. The President emphasized the importance of land reform as a means to empower previously disadvantaged Namibians. The two leaders discussed Namibia as a tourism destination, with the sector opening up tremendous opportunities for job creation and economic growth. The Duke of Cambridge informed that he would visit Namibia in the near future. President Geingob described the talks as “constructive and positive for the future of Namibia-UK bilateral cooperation”.

In the second part of the day, the President, His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob joined as host nation of the Malaria Elimination 8 other world leaders at the Malaria Summit London, convening under the theme “Ready to Beat Malaria”. In his statement, President Geingob outlined efforts undertaken by the Namibian

Government since Independence in the area of prevention and a malaria-free country. The President informed the audience that Namibia had over the past 28 years invested resources in combating malaria, reducing malaria-related cases by 90%.

Thanking the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for extraordinary work in the field of malaria, President Geingob encouraged business leaders in Namibia to emulate the example of Bill Gates to share with the most vulnerable sectors in the community. President Geingob rallied fellow world leaders saying: *“The time is now, the opportunity is here. Namibia joins hands with the rest of the world to commit to the goal of ending Malaria by 2023.”* Leaders in attendance included Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique, Nana Akufo-Ado of Ghana, Prince Charles, Prince Andrew, Bill Gates, and several Heads of State and Government from small-island nations in the Caribbean Islands and the Pacific.

In the morning of 19 April, President Geingob took part in the formal opening at Buckingham Palace hosted by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and the official welcoming ceremony hosted by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Right Honorable Theresa May and the Right Honorable Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth. President Geingob also participated in the Executive Session at Lancaster House where discussions focused on the Secretary General’s Biennial Report, a presentation of the Commonwealth Small States Ministerial Meeting and the Report of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting convening under the theme “Towards a Common Future” and several sub-themes, including climate change, the blue ocean charter, a fair trading system, good governance, youth unemployment, cyber-security and poverty reduction. These issues are central to Namibia’s interest and national development plans.

The Meeting has attracted 46 Heads of State and Government out of a membership of 53 nations, and other constituencies such as

civil society, business and youth.

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