

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



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All Media

The Head of State, Dr. Hage G. Geingob concludes historic State Visit to China with address to the China-Namibia Business Forum, consultation with Shanghai's top political leader, Mr Li Qiang, and meeting with China's wealthiest man, Mr. Jack Ma

Following the successful conclusion of bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping, a state banquet held in his honour at the Great Hall of the People, including the elevation of the Namibia-China relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Cooperation on 29 April 2018, President Geingob arrived in Shanghai on 1 April. While in Beijing, President Hage G. Geingob, on his first State Visit to China, also held on 30 April separate meetings with the Premier of China, Mr. Li Keqiang, including the Chairman of the Communist Party of China Standing Committee, Mr. Li Zhanshu. En route to Shanghai, President Geingob had a stopover in Nanjing on 31 March, visited several manufacturers, met with Jiangsu provincial leaders, and visited the Suzhou Industrial Park, a joint venture between China and Singapore on 1 April.

Today, 2 April 2018, ahead of his address to the China-Namibia Business Forum, President Hage G. Geingob met with China's wealthiest man and founder of the Alibaba Group, Mr. Jack Ma. President Geingob informed Mr. Ma that he followed his entrepreneurial activities, and further expressed appreciation for his visit to Namibia in 2017. The Head of State, Dr. Geingob informed Mr. Ma that he would like to encourage his involvement in Namibia through the provision of training opportunities, internships and mentoring of young Namibians involved in business and Information Communication Technologies. President Geingob also urged Mr. Ma to explore Namibia's tourism sector since it held great potential.

During the courtesy call on President Geingob, Mr. Ma congratulated the Head of State on "the great trip" that he had followed on television, and informed that he found Namibia to be well managed and clean, and his visit to Namibia last year was one of the few he had undertaken to Africa. Mr. Ma indicated that he was ready to invest in

Namibia, and businesses in the country would be encouraged to join his e-commerce platform to sell their products. In addition to setting up an award for African entrepreneurship, including the creation of opportunities to promote Namibia through the electronic world trade and tourism platform providing access to the largest online travel companies, Mr. Ma emphasized that if e-commerce could work in China, it could work in Africa. Mr. Ma informed that through his work in conservation Paradise International Foundation focused on wildlife conservation, he gave awards to 50 rangers annually and he would consider hosting the event in Namibia.

Addressing the China-Namibia Business Forum, which attracted around 300 business leaders, President Hage Geingob emphasized the transformational potential of business in development, the fight against poverty and inequality. President Hage G. Geingob welcomed and encouraged Chinese businesses to invest in Namibia as a hub for the regional and African market. The country, President Geingob argued, had a favourable climate as a peaceful country, respecting the rule of law, good physical infrastructure, and with a government that had passed business enabling legislation, including the Public-Private Partnership Law and Framework, the Namibia Investment Protection Act and Business Intellectual Property Authority Act to mention but a few.

Mr. Wang Zhixiong, Vice Chairman of the All China Chamber of Business and President of the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce, including Mr He Liehui, Chairman of Touchroad International Holdings Group, also addressed the Business Forum.

To conclude his State Visit, President Geingob met with the Party Secretary of Shanghai and member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China, Mr. Li Qiang. President Geingob informed that Shanghai was a great city, steeped in history and held excellent opportunities for business-business relations with Namibia, and remained one of his favorite cities. The President informed that it was important to ensure that what had been agreed on between the two countries would be

implemented. Mr. Li informed that Shanghai was a mega-city, the largest commercial hub in China, consumed 700 000 tons of food daily and connected to major shipping centers. The most senior politician, Mr. Li emphasized that he was ready to deepen business ties with Namibia in order to give concrete expression to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Cooperation as directed by President Xi Jinping.

The Head of State, Dr. Hage G. Geingob concludes his successful State Visit this evening, 2 April, and will return to Namibia the same evening at midnight.

/End

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