

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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WINDHOEK

All Media

Independence Day Celebrations and dedication to Republican unity

In his speech at the inauguration of the City of Windhoek building on 09 October 2017, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob expressed concern about the increasing culture of littering throughout the country. The President announced that he would be spearheading a national clean-up campaign. President Geingob also used the occasion to challenge the City of Windhoek to reclaim its rightful position as the cleanest city in Africa.

The Presidency shares the genuine concerns of those alarmed at the culture of littering and contamination of our precious environment. Namibians must be rest assured that consultations to finalize the date and details of the clean-up campaign are ongoing. The date for the campaign will be released within the next two weeks, and the Presidency wishes to see all Namibians participate in the designated National Clean-Up Day.

Proposals that a clean-up campaign should take place in lieu of Independence Day celebrations are misplaced. After a protracted and bitter war of liberation for which many sacrificed their lives, Namibia became an independent Republic on 21 March 1990. The spirit of Independence Day is the coming together of Namibians, united in diversity to celebrate independence. Rotating the celebrations across the nation's fourteen regions emphasizes the unity of the Namibian people, while also boosting local economies and small businesses. Independence Day remains a cardinal act of fostering nation building, cohesion and solidarity. The temptation to dilute its meaning is unwarranted.

The Presidency would like to assure the nation that cost-saving measures are being applied to all government expenses. Costs for the celebrations will be kept at reasonable levels in line with Government commitment to eliminate wastage.

President Geingob strongly believes in the inviolability of the Namibian House. Independence Day signifies the foundation for a peaceful, united and solid Namibian House. The President invites Namibians from all walks of life to the independence celebrations in Tsumeb, Oshikoto Region on 21 March 2018.

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