

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT FOR H. E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,  
AT THE STATE BANQUET ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
STATE VISIT BY H. E. JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES  
LOURENÇO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**MAY 3, 2018**

**WINDHOEK**

Check against delivery

**Your Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola;**

**RT Honorable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;**

**Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;**

**Your Excellency Mr. Manuel Domingos Augusto, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola;**

**The First Ladies of Angola and Namibia;**

**Honourable Ministers of the Governments of Angola and Namibia**

**Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice;**

**Honourable Margaret Mensah, Chairperson of the National Council;**

**Honourable Members of Parliament;**

**Honourable Laura McLeod Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region and other Governors present;**

**Governors from Angola, Provinces of Huila, Cunene and Cuando Cubango;**

**Distinguished Service Chiefs;**

**Distinguished Spiritual Leaders;**

**Your Excellency Ms. Grace Ndakaleka Ushona, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to the Republic of Angola;**

**Your Excellency Mr. Manuel Alexandre Duarte Rodriques, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the Republic of Namibia,**

**Comrade Elliot Mbako, SWAPO PARTY  
Regional Coordinator of Khomas Region**

**Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic  
Corps;**

**I also want to recognize the presence of;**

**Hon Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Former Speaker of  
the National Assembly and Madame Guriras;**

**Hon Nahas Angula, Former Prime Minister;**

**Hon Dr. Libertine Amadhila, Former Deputy  
Prime Minister and other former office  
bearers;**

**Distinguished invited guests;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Madam Monica and I are pleased to welcome our esteemed guests to this State Banquet hosted in honour of His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of The Republic of Angola and Madame Lourenço.**

**I wish to thank Your Excellency and Dear Brother for accepting my invitation to pay a State Visit to the Republic of Namibia. I had the privilege to attend your inauguration ceremony in Luanda in September last year and am delighted to welcome Your Excellency and your delegation, to our capital Windhoek.**

**Namibia and Angola are countries bound by the fraternal bonds. Our history predates the era of colonialism.**

**The people of Angola and Namibia have shared territory, resources and culture, resulting in an intertwined destiny, solidified through shared experience in a long and bitter struggle against Portuguese colonialism and later together we fought the South African Apartheid Regime.**

**On 11 November 1975 the people of Angola, spurred by a spirit of fraternity and bitter struggle against Portugal, took a selfless decision, which altered the course of the history of Angola which culminated in Independence. President Dr. Agostino Neto**

**perfectly captures the revolutionary spirit of Angola's people at the time with the following words, "Angola shall be on its own will, a revolutionary trench in Africa to Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa in the continuation of our Struggle".**

**Through their own will, the people of Angola became the revolutionary trench for our struggle, and today the people of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia share in the glory of hard won independence, thanks to the heroic sacrifices of the valiant brothers and sisters of Angola, who fought and died alongside our fighters.**

**Your Excellency,**

**Our gathering this evening is therefore an opportunity to recall this glorious history and our ideal of shared prosperity.**

**The colonial boundaries and the two rivers defining our common border cannot break our sisterly and brotherly relations. The political relations between our countries remain strong. Our historical and political ties have laid a strong foundation for a common vision for our region.**

**As a symbol of recognition for Angola's pivotal role in our struggle, we have extended the Snyman Circle and renamed it the "Dr. Agostino Neto Square." This is in continued recognition of this revolutionary and visionary son of Angola, who had the foresight and**

**courage to support the total liberation of Southern Africa.**

**This is our humble way of saying to the government and people of Angola, thank you, for the assistance rendered and for continuing to prioritize our bilateral relations and cooperation.**

**Your Excellency,**

**This visit to Namibia provides our nations an opportunity to take stock of our bilateral relations and to deepen areas of cooperation. The construction of historical monuments at Cassinga and Xetequela, to honour and preserve the memory of the heroes and heroines massacred by the South African**

**Apartheid Defence Force in May 1978 will proceed.**

**Namibia fully appreciates the act of solidarity extended by the people of Angola with the Namibian people by approving construction of two Memorial Sites. Your financial commitment towards the project further demonstrates the level of cohesion with the Namibian nation.**

**Your Excellency.**

**Tomorrow, marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Cassinga Day, a tragic day in our collective histories. We are pleased that you will join us as we remember the heroes and heroines of**

**Angola, Cuba and Namibia, who paid the ultimate price for the freedom and independence we enjoy today.**

**We enjoy peace and stability in our two countries. As leaders, we should continue to make the necessary investments in a peaceful region.**

**Your Excellency,**

**Just as our countries' political destinies were intertwined during the years of the struggle for independence so our economic destinies are common in the second phase of the struggle, where we are striving for shared prosperity for our people. Within the SADC community, our common development**

**agendas, allow us to pursue the same goals, thereby supporting regional integration, which I believe we are committed to.**

**Development within SADC must be people-centered and always bear in mind the triple challenges of poverty eradication, job creation and inclusive growth.**

**In this regard I urge our line Ministers and Government officials to work together and initiate projects that would be mutually beneficial and by so doing support our objective of bringing shared prosperity to our people.**

**May I now ask you all to rise and join me in proposing a toast to:**

- **His Excellency, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of The Republic of Angola**
- **The continued solidarity, friendship and cooperation between Angola and Namibia; and**
- **To international peace and security.**
- **Long live the nations of Angola and Namibia!**

**Muito Obrigado!!!**

**Thank you very much.**