

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



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President Hage G. Geingob wishes success to top Namibian NASA engineer Dr. Japie van Zyl with NASA mission launch of InSight on 5 May 2018

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Hage G. Geingob yesterday exchanged telephonically with Dr. Japie van Zyl, the Namibian engineer at NASA about the launch of InSight Mission to Mars on Saturday, 5 May 2018 at 13h05. Dr. van Zyl, born in Outjo, and now Director of the Solar System Exploration at NASA informed that the Mars InSight launching from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California was more than a mission to Mars, but will be the “first thorough check-up since the planet formed 4.5 billion years ago.”

President Geingob wished Dr. van Zyl and the NASA team success with the important Insight mission that will enhance scientific knowledge of space, including how the Earth and the Moon formed. The President emphasized that the presence of Dr. van Zyl at NASA should not be seen as a brain drain, but positively as a brain gain, including for Namibia with Dr. van Zyl contributing to the advancement of science and knowledge for the benefit of mankind. Dr. Van Zyl’s continued involvement through talks with schools in Namibia about the launch attests to his passion for the country of his birth, Namibia.

Saying that Namibia was in capable hands, Dr. van Zyl thanked President Geingob for the kind phone call, and wished the President continued success in leading Namibia.

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