

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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All Media

Presidency clarifies statement made by President Hage G. Geingob to the SWAPO Party Central Committee meeting of 5 May 2018 regarding a “cabinet” of the SWAPO Party

The Presidency wishes to highlight, and correct the erroneous, if not hurried interpretation of President Geingob’s opening remarks as President of the SWAPO Party to the 5 May 2018 meeting of the Central Committee, its first in 2018. In his opening statement, President Geingob provided an explanation about the existing relationship and strategic interaction between Government on the one hand, and the SWAPO Party on the other, the latter as initiator of the Party Manifesto, consequently translated into a Government Program of Action by the first. In the current iteration, the SWAPO Party Manifesto of 2014 has been morphed and articulated through the Harambee Prosperity Plan. The context informing the explanation by President Geingob about the strategic interaction, it should be emphasized, was the election of a new Secretariat for the Ruling Party on that occasion of 5 May 2018.

The President informed the Central Committee that the convention of inviting the Secretary General of the Ruling Party to the national Cabinet is aimed at ensuring policy coherence and convergence between Cabinet and its decisions, in which the President’s Executive Authority vests in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, and the SWAPO Party Secretariat as one of the custodians of the Party Manifesto, to which the President referred generically as a “cabinet”.

The functional work and activities of the Secretariat falls under the authority of the Secretary General of the SWAPO Party. President Geingob rightly stressed that the new Secretariat had the obligation to proactively communicate and timeously discuss Government policy and decisions as part of its activities, including with the rank and file of the Ruling Party. In so doing, the Secretariat would be giving through its activities concrete expression to the credo of “No one should feel left out”. At no point in his statement and remarks did President Geingob refer

to the creation of a new body, but merely illustrated the ideal functioning and inclusive strategic interaction that ought to exist between national Cabinet and the Party Secretariat.

It is regrettable to observe that the generic and colloquial use of the word “cabinet” in the context of the work of the Secretariat created the hasty impression on the part of the media and commentators, that the President was proposing duplication of national Cabinet activities at the Party level.

As one of the drafters of the Namibian Constitution, Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly, Prime Minister, and long-standing senior SWAPO Party leader, President Geingob possesses a scholarly, and functionally, an itemized and panoramic view of the functioning and interaction of government and political institutions, including national processes.

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