

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE OSHIKOTO
POLICE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND
OMUTHIYA POLICE STATION**

JUNE 15, 2018

**OMUTHIYA
OSHIKOTO REGION**

Check against delivery

- Director of Ceremonies;
- Honourable Major General (Rtd.) Charles D. N. P. Namoloh - Minister of Safety and Security;
- Lieutenant-General Sebastian Haitota Ndeitunga - Inspector-General of the Namibian Police Force;
- Honourable Henock Kankoshi, Governor of Oshikoto Region;
- Lieutenant General John Mutwa - Chief of the Namibian Defence Force;
- Lieutenant General (Rtd) Lukas P. Hangula;
- Prosecutor General of the Republic of Namibia - Martha Himalwa;
- Commissioner General Raphael Tuhafeni Hamunyela, Commissioner-General of the Namibian Correctional Service;
- Commissioner Armas Kasita Shivute - Oshikoto Police Regional Commander;
- Your Worship Katrina Uusiku, Mayor of Omuthiya Town;
- Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;
- Senior officers of the Namibian Defence Force, Namibian Police Force and Namibian Correctional Service;
- Distinguished traditional and religious leaders;
- Distinguished invited guests;
- Representatives of the news media houses;
- Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here today to officiate at this inauguration of the Oshikoto Police Regional Headquarters and the Omuthiya Police Station. Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights states that, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". Through the construction of facilities such as these, we are not only guaranteeing the life, liberty and security of the residents of Omuthiya and Oshikoto Region at large, but also of all Namibians, including our visitors from abroad.

Without law enforcement, the rule of law would have no meaning in our society. It is a bulwark against social disorder and collapse. It acts as a guarantor of the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Namibian Constitution, making it a vital component of our Governance Architecture.

As our population grows and our society becomes ever more advanced and competitive, the need for effective law enforcement mechanisms are further amplified. It is now universally accepted that police forces are a necessary component of any modern society. As a result, the purpose of constructing these structures is to ensure that effective administration of law enforcement is available nationwide.

Although this is the first police facility to be inaugurated this year, more is to come, among them, the new edifice of the Police National Headquarters in Windhoek, whose construction is nearing completion. Thus, our resolve to improve our policing infrastructure remains as steadfast as ever.

Director of Ceremonies;

Studies have suggested that deficiencies in safety, security and justice contribute towards entrenching poverty and underdevelopment within societies. Conversely, the presence of safety, security and justice are believed to contribute positively towards the pursuit of developmental aspirations.

Given this reality, the maintenance of a peaceful, safe and secure environment within Namibia is, and will always remain a key priority for Government. We view the equitable provision of safety, security and justice to our citizens as an indispensable component of our developmental aspirations.

The continued improvement of our police infrastructure is also geared towards ensuring that our policemen and women have access to a decent and conducive working environment. Modern infrastructure plays a role in availing facilities that enhance job satisfaction, and this contributes to improved performance. By providing our police officers with new and improved infrastructure we are enabling them to be more efficient and effective in carrying out their duties.

At this juncture, let me stress the importance of taking pride in our public buildings and facilities. These are symbols of national development and progress, thus their integrity should be guarded and protected. I, urge you to preserve them, so that future generations will also use them.

Director of Ceremonies;

As we are all aware, the Namibian Police Force has an onerous duty in carrying out its mandate as outlined in the Namibian Constitution and the Police Act. However, Police can only carry out their functions when they are properly equipped with pertinent infrastructure, and when personnel have the relevant knowledge and skills required by their profession.

In this regard, I would like to commend the Ministry of Safety and Security, especially the Namibian Police Force, for conceiving, planning and budgeting for capital projects like the one we are inaugurating today.

The Oshikoto Police Regional Headquarters and the Omuthiya Police Station will aid in relieving the burden from other police facilities within the region, by providing accommodation and care for suspected offenders and perpetrators from this area.

It is important for me to stress that the existence of this police station in Omuthiya will be ineffective against combating crime if it is not occupied by police officers whose conduct is beyond reproach. Such officers must be disciplined, loyal and patriotic and consider their profession as a calling, not just a job opportunity. I am certain that police officers are aware that their duty is to apprehend criminals; not to be criminals themselves.

It is deplorable when we learn about some police officers collaborating with criminals and, in some instances, even assisting them to escape, after they have been apprehended for the crimes they committed.

These negative practices should be brought to an immediate end. Hence, the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security and the Inspector-General of the Namibian Police Force are under orders to ensure that such dishonest members are identified and relieved of their duties, in conformity with the relevant laws.

While Government is playing its part, by providing the requisite infrastructure and human resources, it is incumbent upon all Namibians to play a role in the maintenance of peace and stability, by participating in special policing programmes aimed at enhancing safety and security in their respective communities. These initiatives include neighbourhood watches, youth against crime and police reservists, which form part of the community policing philosophy. This kind of participation will ensure that communities play an active role in safeguarding the lives and properties of citizens, through their cooperation with the police. In turn, citizens will have an opportunity to report criminals and criminal activities, and by so doing, assist in preventing and combating crime.

In this context, I would like to appeal to the residents of Oshikoto Region not to harbour criminals, even though they may be your brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. Instead, discourage them from all kinds of criminal activities and social evils, so that they may be part of the law-abiding citizens of our country.

While we are on the subject of community participation in maintaining law and order, let me implore all members of our society, to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of our women, children and elderly citizens. Last week, I had the honour to receive, on behalf of Namibia, the Africa Gender Award 2017, in recognition of Namibia's success as a top performing country in Africa by the African Gender Forum, within the context of the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC).

Our international acclaim with regards to our promotion of Gender Equality is testament to the continued growth, education and sophistication of our society. However, the emergence of Gender Based Violence and the dangers it poses, is a threat to the social cohesion upon which our peace and security rest. That being the case, I task our police and our entire security forces to redouble their efforts in rooting out this scourge from within our society and leaving no stone unturned in apprehending the perpetrators of these grievous practices.

I have witnessed a disturbing phenomenon within our society, in which men seem to be regressing spiritually, socially and academically.

Men are starting to fall behind. When I attend church services on Sundays, I notice that only a small number of men form part of the congregation. I have officiated at several graduations and noticed that a large percentage of graduates are women.

In our ever changing society, women are becoming more educated and independent and this poses a threat to the misplaced manhood which most of our men espouse. These men feel emasculated and threatened by the realities of our modern society in which they are often outsmarted by women who are more educated. For these men, the only solution to their predicament is to kill. This is a mentality we must do away with immediately.

Boys and men must be encouraged to assume their responsibilities within society by attending church, uplifting their communities and pursuing their crafts or studies.

Manhood is not proved by brutalizing women. It is proved through fighting crime, pursuing science, workmanship, innovation and entrepreneurship. Let all men commit themselves to these pursuits, and by so doing, create a society in which we will hold hands as men and women, unhindered by division and empowered through unity.

Director of Ceremonies;

There is a Kenyan proverb which says, "Peace is costly, but it's worth the expense."

These facilities are an illustration of the price that we are willing to pay in order to maintain peace in Namibia. They speak to our commitment to democracy, our commitment to unity, our commitment to peace and our commitment to the rule of law.

To maintain these noble ideals and goals explained above, I am pleased to declare the Oshikoto Police Regional Headquarters and the Omuthiya Police Station, officially inaugurated.

I thank you.