

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE STATE
BANQUET ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE VISIT BY THE
MOST HONOURABLE ANDREW MICHAEL HOLNESS, PRIME
MINISTER OF JAMAICA**

JULY 23, 2018

STATE HOUSE

WINDHOEK

Check against delivery

The Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica;

Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Susitjie Mbumba;

The Father of the Namibian Revolution and First President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Dr. Sam Shaafishuna Nujoma;

The Second President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba;

The Right Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and Mr. Amadhila;

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Prof. Peter Katjavivi; and Madam Jane Katjavivi

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Lieutenant General (Rtd) Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah;

His Lordship, Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Madam Judge Shivute;

Honourable Olivia Garange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport of Jamaica and other members of the esteemed delegation from Jamaica;

Let me recognize the presence of Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community;

Honourable Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps and spouses;

Dr. George Simataa, Secretary to Cabinet and Madam Simataa;

Distinguished Service Chiefs and spouses;

Your Worship Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek and Madam Kazapua;

Distinguished guests,

Members of the Media;

Ladies and gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me, on behalf of the Government and people of Namibia to welcome you my Dear Brother, the Most Honorable Andrew Michael Holness and your delegation.

The great Marcus Garvey once said, "Africa for Africans...at home and abroad." Prime Minister, in the spirit of this icon, let me say to you and your delegation, "Welcome home, from abroad."

It seems like you are accompanied by more women in your delegation. In Namibia, we believe in 50/50 but your delegation is definitely not 50/50.

Our relations with the great Jamaican people are longstanding. They date back to the time when the Namibian people bore harsh aggression of the South African apartheid regime. The people of Jamaica stood firm, with us, and contributed immensely to our emancipation in many ways. You opened your doors and embraced us as brothers and

sisters. We shall forever remember and be grateful as you have truly enriched our nationhood beyond measure.

In memory of those Jamaican sons and daughters, most of who are dearly departed, those who deemed it necessary at that time to support our noble quest for freedom and justice, and in remembrance of many Namibian comrades who walked down the streets of Kingston and other Jamaican cities and towns, in search for better education, the City of Windhoek has the honor to re-name one of its oldest streets after a gallant son of the Jamaican soil Dr. Marcus Garvey, the first Jamaican hero, father of Pan Africanism and indeed an African liberation icon.

I firmly believe that Namibia should remain Jamaica's partner of choice because of our shared values entrenched in democratic principles; - the idea that power flows from the people - the rule of law; - the idea that no-one, however powerful, is higher than the universal rules as espoused by the UN Charter, and the idea that the dignity of every individual must be respected. Here we are considering our brothers and sisters in Western Sahara and Palestine. Their voices remain unheard as they remain stripped-of their dignity on their way to freedom and self-determination. Their plight is our mission!

An open stable society supports an open stable economy, and an open economy is what underpins lasting prosperity. These

values help in building societies where technology, innovation and creativity can flourish, where investors can take risks, where fortunes are made by coming up with new ways to fulfil people's needs and aspirations.

Jamaica and Namibia must hold hands and stand up for these values, shoulder to shoulder and stand up for a universal rule-based international system. We must stand together within the framework of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries. Let me reiterate that it is only through the unity of Group members that we will be able to attain mutual benefit for all African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

So I say, let us do this together; - invest together, grow together, support peaceful co-existence and development together and tackle climate change together. If we do this now – as I passionately believe that we should, – then we can rest assured that our partnership will continue to flourish, for years to come.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you my dear brother once more, for visiting Namibia. I am confident that we will continue to work closely together for the benefit of our countries and peoples. I wish you a pleasant stay in Namibia as we continue to appreciate your visit to your African home!

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

- **The Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica;**
- **The continued solidarity, friendship and cooperation between Jamaica and Namibia; and**
- **To international peace and security.**
- **Long live the nations of Jamaica and Namibia!**

I thank you