

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**CHARGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
INTO CLAIMS OF ANCESTRAL LAND RIGHTS AND RESTITUTION**

**BANQUET HALL, STATE HOUSE**

**WINDHOEK**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

*Check against delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;**

**Right Honorable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;**

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

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

**Honorable Utoni Nujoma, Minister of Land Reform;**

**Honourable Ministers present;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**I am honoured to welcome you all to this landmark occasion. You may recall that during my New Year's Message, I informed the nation that one of the main priorities of 2019 will be to commence with the implementation of the resolutions taken at the Second National Land Conference which took place last year.**

**In this regard, given the complexity of ancestral land claims and in the interest of maintaining peace and stability in Namibia by ensuring that the fundamental rights and freedoms contained in our Constitution are not infringed upon, I am appointing this Commission of Inquiry into the Claims of Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution, under the powers vested in me by section 1 of the Commissions Act, 1947 (Act No. 8 of 1947). Thus, the appointment of this Commission is in fulfillment of one of the resolutions of the Second Land Conference.**

**Distinguished citizens, as you familiarize yourselves with your terms of reference, I ask that you be mindful of the fact that the work you are expected to carry out should be evidence based and enriched by national, regional and**

**international experience, while never losing sight of the unique characteristics of Namibia's past experience of colonialism and Apartheid occupation. I expect you to be impartial in the execution of your responsibilities as members of this Commission. Your experience and expertise is being called upon to interrogate these matters extensively in order to identify statutory and policy reforms that will help buttress our efforts to build a united Namibian House. Commissioners, by accepting this responsibility, you have made a public commitment to uphold the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia in pursuit of a long-lasting solution to this complex and emotive issue.**

**In appointing you as members of the Commission of Inquiry into claims of Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution, I express my absolute confidence and trust in your abilities to execute the monumental task which lies before you.**

**You are expected to fulfill your responsibilities in an accountable and transparent manner. I am confident that given your credentials, expertise and wealth of knowledge, you will carry out your responsibilities with distinction.**

**I congratulate you on your appointments and wish you success in the execution of your duties.**