

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**CHARGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
TO THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON THE NAMIBIAN ECONOMY**

BANQUET HALL, STATE HOUSE

WINDHOEK

APRIL 4, 2019

Check against delivery

Director of the Programme;

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

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

Honourable Ministers;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and gentlemen,

**I am pleased to welcome you to State House
for this special event. You will recall that
during the opening of 2018 Cabinet Year, as
well as in my 2018 State of the Nation
Address, I expressed my intent to reconstitute
the Presidential Economic Advisory Council
(PEAC) into a High Level Panel on the
Economy.**

Today, I am pleased to announce that this commitment has been fulfilled.

Upon Independence, Namibia inherited a skewed economy, as a direct consequence of our pre-independence political legacy. Although our democracy has established sound Governance and Macro-Economic architectures, underpinned by a solid foundation of, Peace, Stability, Unity and the Rule of Law, deficits persist within our Socio-Economic landscape.

In order to strengthen the tripartite collaboration between Government, Labour and the Private Sector, the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) was formed as a voluntary platform to strengthen

the social compact between these three key actors.

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Article 32 3 (i) (hh) of the Namibian Constitution, I have appointed the members of the High Level Panel on the Namibian Economy (HLPNE). To ensure we are more proactive, resilient and innovative in our developmental approaches, I have broadened the panel to tap into local, regional and global intellectual capacities.

In the wake of contemporary challenges and opportunities, there is need for continuous dialogue on our shared obligations to objectively assess and propose alternative approaches. In light of the current economic

state, in which numerous exogenous shocks have negatively impacted our developmental trajectory, PEAC has been reconstituted into a HLPNE, with key deliverables stipulated in the Terms of Reference.

Some have questioned the need to establish a High Level Panel on the Economy. The single-minded intent for reconstituting this Panel, is to solicit evidence-based recommendations, strategies and interventions that will prove effective in reviving and accelerating inclusive economic growth and employment creation through private-sector-led investment.

In proposing future approaches, I urge you to consider the impact of technological advancements on the Future of Work.

Contrary to widespread perception, the Fourth Industrial Revolution also has potential to unleash job creation opportunities. To this end, policy responses should directly give incentives to job creation as a primary target, rather than a by-product of economic policy. The quest for human centered development must remain the foundation for the future work.

Distinguished members of this High Level Panel; your terms of reference are clear. Today I charge you, to swiftly commence with the task at hand, as you have a very limited time frame in which to deliver. Familiarize yourself with all Government Economic policies, since your work should be aimed at buttressing Government's developmental

agenda. I expect that you will work together in the spirit of Harambee and remain impartial in the execution of your responsibilities. Your experience and expertise are being called upon to deliver on your mandate.

Distinguished Panelists, in appointing you, I express my absolute confidence and trust in your abilities to execute the demanding task before you.

I congratulate you on your appointments and appreciate your willingness to volunteer your skills and knowledge, as patriots and friends, towards a “United, Inclusive and Prosperous Namibian House”.

Thank You for your attention.