

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR HAGE GEINGOB, PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE OFFICIAL TALKS WITH H.E. EMMERSON  
MNANGAGWA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ZIMBABWE,**

**STATE HOUSE**

**25 JULY 2019**

**Your Excellency, Comrade Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe;**

**Honourable Ministers;**

**Senior Government Officials from Namibia and Zimbabwe;**

**Ambassadors of Zimbabwe and Namibia;**

**Comrades and Friends;**

**Members of the Media.**

**It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia, to welcome Your Excellency and your delegation to Namibia. Your visit is a further affirmation of the determination of our governments to continue strengthening the strong bonds of friendship between our people, which are anchored in a shared history, and based on principles of mutual respect and African solidarity.**

**Your Excellency**

**Since Namibia's independence in 1990, our governments ventured on avenues aimed at identifying areas of mutual cooperation, with a view to strengthening and consolidating bilateral ties. To this end, we established the Namibia-Zimbabwe Joint Commission of Cooperation in 1992. This**

**important Commission has met regularly and laid the basis for our cooperation.**

**Our Senior Officials and Ministers met earlier this week at the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of our Joint Commission of Cooperation which concluded yesterday. While noting the good progress made, we should place emphasis on our joint efforts to promote economic growth and sustainable development. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that agreements between our countries are timeously implemented.**

**Your Excellency,**

**Namibia has benefited immensely from the development assistance rendered by the Government of Zimbabwe, in a variety of fields and disciplines. The government and fraternal people of Zimbabwe, despite the many difficult challenges you are facing, continues to enrich the human resources capacity of Namibia, thereby supplementing our development efforts. For this, Your Excellency, we remain grateful.**

**We have also been closely cooperating in the establishment of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, which**

**holds great potential for the advancement of regional tourism, sustainable management of shared resources, and community empowerment.**

**Our countries further cooperate in the field of information dissemination. We have jointly established a newspaper, The Southern Times, with the objective of providing alternative print media with balanced news reports from an African perspective. We look forward to realizing a regional paper to tell our good story from our perspective.**

**In pursuing our common objectives, I am confident that Namibia and Zimbabwe will continue to work together, in facing the daunting challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, poverty and underdevelopment, which negatively affect the economic and social conditions of our people.**

**The SADC region will be faced with a power crisis if we do not re-double and harmonize joint efforts aimed at averting this ominous situation. It is therefore gratifying to note that our power utilities are engaged in negotiations to extend the additional power supply.**

**We duly recognise that the private sector is the engine of economic growth and it is for this reason that we felt the need to speedily adjust the Preferential Trade Agreement between our countries. In the same vein, we are delighted that our countries will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises, a move that will positively boost trade and commerce between our people.**

**Your Excellency,**

**In the context of international relations, I am happy to state that Namibia and Zimbabwe remain active members of the African Union, the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and other international organizations. Both our countries hold a common position on the need to reform the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, in order to ensure equity and fairness.**

**As members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Namibia and Zimbabwe are committed to the process of regional economic integration, which is crucial in our common efforts towards sustainable economic and social development.**

**Your Excellency**

**Before I conclude, I wish to state that I have no doubt that we can look at the bilateral interaction between our countries over the years with considerable satisfaction. I am pleased to note that our ensuing deliberations will be rewarded by the signing of seven Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, a clear testimony of our commitment to further consolidate the strong and warm relations that so exist between our countries.**

**I thank you.**