

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE GOTTFRIED GEINGOB,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW POLICE  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**AUSSPANNPLATZ, WINDHOEK, KHOMAS REGION**

**11 OCTOBER 2019**

*Check against delivery*

- **Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;**
- **Comrade Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Honourable Nahas Angula, Former Prime Minister;**
- **Honourable Major General (Rtd) Charles Namoloh, Minister of Safety and Security, and other Ministers present,**
- **Honourable Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of SWAPO Party;**
- **Your Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute;**
- **Honourable Fillemon Malima, Director-General Namibia Central Intelligence Service**
- **Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region;**
- **Honourable McHenry Venaani, Leader of the Official Opposition in the National Assembly;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Your Worship Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;**
- **Honourable Rachel Jacob - Chairperson Regional Council**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament present;**

- **Honourable Deputy Ministers;**
- **Advocate Martha Imalwa, Prosecutor-General of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Air Vice Marshal Martin Pinehas, Acting Chief of the Namibian Defence Force;**
- **Lieutenant General Sebastian Ndeitunga, Inspector-General of the Namibian Police Force;**
- **Commissioner General Dan Munyuza, Inspector-General of the Rwanda National Police;**
- **Distinguished Service Chiefs;**
- **Deputy Commissioner T. P. Gabolekwe, representing the Commissioner of the Botswana Police Service;**
- **Commissioner General Raphael Tuhafeni Hamunyela, Commissioner-General of the Namibian Correctional Service;**
- **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 media houses;**
- **Director of Proceedings;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Today is a historic day for the Namibian Police Force. It is a day in which we express collectively our commitment to the preservation of peace, and the maintenance of law and order. I am honoured to join you at this landmark occasion of the inauguration of the new National Headquarters of the Namibian Police Force.**

**It is not an understatement when we say that, over the past 29 years, the Namibian Police Force has grown in leaps and bounds, in personnel, infrastructure and capability. Prior to independence, the country lacked appropriate facilities to accommodate a police force with a mandate to secure internal security and to protect citizens and visitors in Namibia.**

**The South African colonial apartheid administration, did not construct appropriate facilities to enable the police force to execute its mandate. It is appropriate, at this watershed moment, to express appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, the Inspector General of the Police, his predecessors and management, for the sterling job they have done in promoting the improvement of police infrastructure around the country.**

**Director of proceedings,**

**We pride ourselves as a Republic founded on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. Today, we have established a country with a robust Governance architecture, characterised by sound processes, systems and institutions. It is safe to say that these fruits of independence cannot be maintained without the existence of an able, well-trained and equipped national police force. You - The Namibian Police Force - is a primary role player in maintenance of peace, stability and security. It plays a pivotal role in law enforcement in our communities. Policing is no mean feat because police officers are always up against the odds and resources are never enough. Your work is not easy.**

**As a Force, you should mitigate against scarcity of resources through improved dedication, training and commitment to your noble profession as law enforcement officers. With the Fourth Industrial Revolution in motion, the world is becoming more sophisticated and technologically savvy. These technologies are not only used for the good of society. Criminals also exploit them to undermine the safety and stability of our nation. To effectively serve the law-abiding citizens of Namibia, you must ensure that you are technologically savvy, engage in pre-emptive crime prevention, as opposed to a reactive approach to fighting crime.**

**As the Namibian Police Force, and the bastion of Law and Order, we depend on you to safeguard the quality of life and human dignity of all persons in society and therefore, I express my confidence in your ability to do so.**

**Director of proceedings,**

**The Government of the Republic of Namibia will spare no efforts to embark on projects aimed at enhancing the working conditions of our police force. Funds, where possible, will be availed to the Ministry of Safety and Security, to provide adequate human resources and technical means to ensure that you have the required capacity to prevent and combat crime in the country, in conformity with your core mandate. The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, guarantees the Human Rights and Freedoms of all citizens. However, we are aware that there are those elements in our society, whose actions infringe on the rights and freedoms of others. Criminals pose a threat to the liberties, lives and livelihoods of Namibians.**

**By hampering our ability to attract investment and create a conducive environment for business and leisure, criminals pose a threat to our national security and this puts at risk our developmental objectives.**

**In this regard, the Namibian Police Force should ensure that there is appropriate training of members of the force to deal with an array of crimes, most notably the scourge of gender-based violence and other contact crimes, which are adversely impacting our communities. All members of the force at police stations countrywide should be able to immediately attend to reports of gender-based violence cases in their respective areas of jurisdiction, instead of solely relying on the unit specialised in the subject.**

**Together with the spate of GBV incidences, another situation that is causing national distress is the unabated carnage on our roads across the country. The rate of motor vehicle accidents and the gruesome results are unacceptable. Something has to be done. I call on the Namibian Police, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, such as the Road Safety Council and other domestic and external institutions of knowledge, to research and identify innovative methods and appropriate technologies that can be used for the purpose of reducing incidents of death and carnage on our national roads.**

**Director of proceedings,**

**As a nation governed by the Rule of Law, we take the war on crime seriously. We are aware that the war on poverty and the war on crime are inextricably linked.**

**You cannot fight poverty without fighting crime, and vice versa. In this regard, Government has sought to intensify its fight against crime by launching joint anti-crime operations between the Namibian Police Force and Namibian Defence Force.**

**These operations are taking place with strict adherence to maintaining the rights and freedoms of our citizens.**

**However, as with all complex operations, misunderstandings can occur, resulting in fatalities. We will ensure that all incidents in which laws have not been adhered to are investigated and prosecuted.**

**At this juncture, let me express the importance of community policing, as a means to fight crime in modern times. We come from an apartheid past, where animosity and distrust between the police and the public was commonplace. In an independent Namibia, it is crucial that we foster a culture of trust, camaraderie and collaboration between the citizens and the police, in order to present a robust and resolute front against crime.**

**With this in mind, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the continued outstanding commitment and cooperation displayed by members of various community groups across the country and their involvement in the fight against crime, such as the Police Reservists, Women and Men Network against Crime,**

**Neighbourhood Watches and others. I encourage you to continue with this spirit of pulling in the same direction, together with the Namibian Police Force, for the common good of the members of your respective communities and our country as a whole. Let us pull in one direction towards the eradication of crime from our society.**

**In the same vein, I would like to appeal to all residents not to harbour criminals, even if they are your relatives. Instead, discourage them from committing criminal activities and other social ills, so that they become law-abiding and productive citizens of our Namibian House.**

**Director of proceedings,**

**As I conclude, let me stress that the establishment of modern and state-of-the-art police facilities alone does not translate into success against crime - unless supported by competent police officers whose conduct is beyond reproach and who are fully devoted to their vocation. Officers must be disciplined, loyal and patriotic.**

**They must consider their profession as a calling, not just a job opportunity. They must be officers who never lose focus of their obligation. They must commit to safeguard core functions**

**conferred on them by the Supreme Law of the Land of the Brave. These are the officers that should walk the corridors of this sprawling building and all other police facilities across the country. I have been emphasizing that we should do more with less. You now have a world-class facility that should permit the force to execute tasks on a similar scale.**

**With this new facility, I am informed that a saving of over 3.5 Million Namibian Dollars on rental fees will be realized. It makes this facility, where various departments are now housed under one roof a worthy investment.**

**Therefore, it is now my distinct honour to proceed with the inauguration of the new Namibian Police Force National Headquarters.**

**I thank you.**