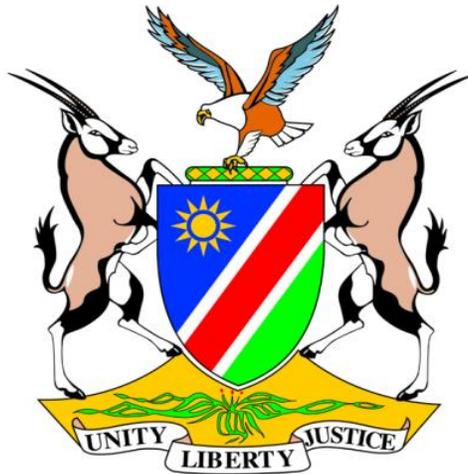


**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**SPEECH  
BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF  
THE NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE NAMIBIA COMMAND  
AND STAFF COLLEGE**

**OKAHANDJA, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

**17 OCTOBER 2019**

*Check against delivery*

**Director of proceedings;**

**Hon. Penda ya Ndakolo, Minister of Defence;**

**Hon. Major General (rtd) Charles Namoloh, Minister of Safety and Security;**

**Hon. Otto Ipinge, Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region;**

**Air Vice Marshal Martin Kambulu Pineas, Acting Chief of Defence;**

**Your Excellency Zhang Yiming, Ambassador of the Peoples' Republic of China;**

**Distinguished Service Chiefs;**

**Members of the diplomatic corps;**

**Hon. Steve Bikko, Councilor of Okahandja Constituency;**

**Your Worship Congo Hindjou, Mayor of Okahandja Town;**

**Senior officers;**

**Student officers;**

**Members of the media;**

**Distinguished guests;**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**It is a great honour and privilege to be here today to officiate at the inauguration of the Namibia Command and Staff College, the highest military training institution in our country.**

**This place reminds me of the historic Augustinium College, which was intended to be an isolated and segregated Church school but blossomed into**

**a Center in which the seeds of nationalism germinated after Ghana's independence in 1957. I arrived at Augustinium in 1958 as a young boy, not knowing that I was going to what turned out to be a Mecca of political activism. It was a harbinger of unity where I met students from all corners of Namibia. They included Moses Garoeb, Ben Gurirab, Trougot Dausab, Titus Shavuta, Ben Amathila, Libertine Amathila, Katuutire Kaura and his wife, Denis Nante, Hidipo Hamutenya, Festus Muundja and his wife, Professor Katjavivi and Dr. Mose Tjitendero. The Augustinium College was ery historic and the best place of its time. As you can see from the list of names I just mentioned, it became instrumental in shaping the future leaders of an independent Namibia. We were molded by capable and amazing teachers which included, Mister Martin Shipanga, Hansen and Martin #Neib to mention but a few.**

**The establishment of the Namibia Command and Training College, a military institution of this magnitude marks another significant milestone in the history of the Namibian Defence Force. This is proof that Government is committed to the development of World Class training institutions in our country.**

**The purpose of this College is to provide full knowledge of tactical and operational warfare both at command and staff level and comprehensive understanding of the military's role within a democratic society.**

**In the military, as in any profession, training is an indispensable component of a successful organization.**

**This idea is captured by one of the great military strategists in human history, Sun Tzu, who said, "Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win." How does one win first, then go to war? You do so by preparing and mastering your profession.**

**Without meticulous preparation, when the day comes for you to be called to action, you will become a defeated warrior who goes to war first and then seeks to win.**

**Therefore, the establishment of Staff Colleges is crucial, as they advance military service education to prepare Officers for command and staff**

**responsibilities to enable them to serve in the Strategic and Operational Headquarters.**

**It is in pursuit of improving the preparedness, adaptability and competency of our military, that we have established this Namibia Command and Staff College, to provide the requisite training and education to our Officers, in order to ensure that they remain on par with their peers at regional, continental and international level.**

**The establishment of this noteworthy institution will enhance our capacity to train our Officers based on the Namibian military doctrine and reduce the backlog of untrained Officers in the Defence Force.**

**As you are aware, in today's world, we have increased traditional and non-traditional challenges facing our military.**

**For this reason, I wish to remind the Commanders and Military Planners, to ensure that Officers have received quality and realistic training to be able to understand the security environment in which they operate. I want Officers and Commanders to note that today's world requires diversified military training in order to respond to immediate and perceived threats.**

**I am informed that the curriculum of the Senior Command Staff Course constitutes components of security studies, which among other issues include leadership, accountability and responsibilities, which are legally implicit to the Officers in the execution of command and staff functions.**

**I was further briefed that the study programme also entails contemporary leadership and management theories that provide the Officers with insight into different leadership styles.**

**Given the comprehensive nature of this curriculum, I am confident that the Commandant and his team will ensure that the Officers passing through these halls are well trained and strategically oriented to achieve a deeper understanding of the security concept in the country and beyond our borders.**

**This College should ensure that the education of Officers is tailored towards providing the Officers with necessary knowledge and skills in order to advance the direction in which we aim to steer the Namibian Defence Force; as a military geared for the protection of a prosperous and united nation.**

**Although the College is still at its infancy stage, I hope that its existence will contribute to cost cutting in terms of training expenditure. Once fully operational, this institution may benefit our sister countries in the region and beyond.**

**In this regard, I wish to express our appreciation for the support from the Governments of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, where NDF officers have received training opportunities over the years. In the same vein, let me express our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa for assisting Namibia during the benchmarking exercise, which informed the establishment of this Namibia Command and Staff College.**

**It would be remiss of me, if I do not express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China, for the generous and invaluable support rendered to the Namibian Government in the construction of this College. Similarly, I thank the architects, consultants and all technical personnel involved in bringing this project to fruition.**

**Finally, I commend the Ministry of Defence for spearheading the vision, which culminated in the establishment of the Namibia Command and Staff College. Let us cherish this institution by treating it with esteem respect it deserves. It must symbolize order, discipline and professionalism expected from our military officers.**

**Warfare is always changing, always evolving, and never constant. Therefore, in order to maintain vigilance and preparedness, our brave men and women must keep up. As the Commander in Chief, I give our military commanders marching orders to ensure that this College will produce the best that Namibia has to offer.**

**It must produce officers that are forward thinking, officers that are innovative and officers whose conduct and skill, will make them the pride of the Land of the Brave.**

**I now have the honour to declare the Namibia Command and Staff College officially open.**

**I thank you.**