

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND COMMANDER-IN- CHIEF OF THE NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE DURING THE PASS OUT PARADE AND COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE 9TH INTAKE OF REGULAR COMMISSIONING COURSE

DECEMBER 4, 2019

OKAHANDJA

OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

Check against delivery

- 1. Brigadier General Kashindi Ausebius Kashindi; the Commandant of the Military School,**
- 2. Honourable Penda Ya Ndakolo, the Minister of Defence, and other Ministers present;**
- 3. Air Vice Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas; the Acting Chief of the Namibian Defence Force,**
- 4. Honourable Otto Iipinga, the Governor of Otjozondjupa Region;**
- 5. Your Worship the Mayor of Okahandja Town, Honourable Johannes Congo Hindjou;**
- 6. Rear Admiral Peter Hafeni Vilho, Executive Director of the Ministry of Defence;**
- 7. Mr. Phillips Heita, Special Advisor to the Minister of Defence;**
- 8. Distinguished Service Chiefs;**

**9. Service Commanders and General Officers
here present;**

**10. Defence Attaches/Advisors accredited to the
Republic of Namibia**

**11. Honourable Councilors of Okahandja and
Omatako Constituencies;**

12. Officers here present;

13. Graduants and your families present;

14. Distinguished Invited Guests;

15. Members of the Media;

16. Ladies and Gentlemen

**It gives me immense pleasure to stand before
this parade, to officiate at this commissioning
ceremony of 40 young officers, who will be
commissioned into the rank and file of the
Namibian Defence Force. In military**

terminology, an officer is a member of the armed forces or uniformed service, who holds a position of authority, while commissioning refers to the act of conferring rank and authority to an officer to command and control.

Therefore, I have come here today to commission you into the officers' corps of the Namibian Defence Force and I congratulate you for this outstanding achievement, in pursuit of advancing your military careers. It is not an easy job to become an officer in the military, because the requirements are stringent and opportunities to join the officers' corps are rare. That is why you should cherish this opportunity and use it as a platform to push forward and excel in overcoming any challenge that you may face as officers.

As you pass out from here today, you will commence your professional careers, whereby you are required to demonstrate quality leadership, a high standard of discipline, patriotism and integrity. These are prerequisites that will enable you to lead the men and women who will be placed under your command. With the honour bestowed upon you as officers, you are required to serve your country with the loyalty and love it deserves.

I was informed that during your 17 months here, you have been under intensive training, and through that process, you were introduced to the modules of command, leadership, management of resources, as well as conventional and non-conventional warfare.

I am sure you have received the best training and am therefore confident that you are ready to take up the challenge that lies ahead of you. In this regard, I want to emphasize that training is a continuous process. The regular commissioning course that you have passed through, was just a beginning of your professional military career. Hence, you have to prepare yourself for further advanced military training.

I am pleased that, the knowledge and skills imparted to you during your training, have taught you the values of an officer, which is a prerequisite for you to uphold the primary mission of the Namibian Defence Force, which is to defend the territorial integrity of our motherland Namibia, the only country we can call home. This enormous responsibility

requires officers with high level of discipline. Therefore, as Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, I want to state that officers who serve in our military should adhere to the Military Discipline Code, as well as upholding the principles of leadership. Officers should behave themselves in a professional manner at all times. An officer without discipline does not only tarnish the reputation our Defence Force, but places his/her peers and the nation in danger.

Let me remind you as young officers that upon being commissioned here, you have entered into a life contract with the Defence Force, hence, you should be a law abiding citizen as prescribed in the Namibian Constitution, Military Discipline Code, General Regulations as well as other applicable laws. There is a

common phrase which says “discipline is a mother of unity and success in the military” and I agree with this statement that any military force with stellar disciplinary records, is geared to excel on the battle field. Therefore, as young officers, you must act within the confinement of the laws governing the Defence Force.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to congratulate the recipients of the best student achievements, who during the training, excelled in their course work. Congratulations for your outstanding performance and keep up the good work.

Finally, as Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force by virtue of the Constitution of Republic of Namibia, Chapter 5,

**Article 27 (1), I am proud to commission 40
new officers into the Namibia Defence.**

I thank you.