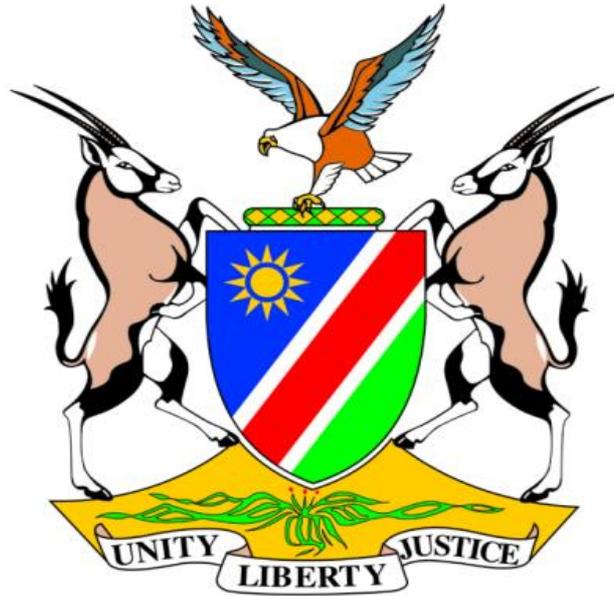


**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR HAGE G. GEINGOB,**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**AT THE NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO THE DIPLOMATIC**

**CORPS**

**STATE HOUSE**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2020**

**WINDHOEK**

*Check against delivery*

- **Director of Proceedings;**
- **Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Right Honorable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Comrade Sam Shaafishuna Nujoma; Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation;**
- **Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, Second President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Pohamba;**
- **Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, & Rtd. Gen. Ndaitwah;**

- **Honorable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Katjavivi;**
- **Honourable Bernard Songa Sibalatani, Chairperson of the National Council;**
- **Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice;**
- **Madame Monica Geingos, First Lady;**
- **Honorable Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers;**
- **Your Excellency, Claurinah Tshenolo Modise, High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana and Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Your Excellencies Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Heads of International and Regional Organizations;**

- **Honorable McHenry Venaani, Leader of the Official Opposition;**
- **Members of Parliament;**
- **Honorable Laura Mcleod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region;**
- **Your Worship Fransina Kahungo, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;**
- **Distinguished Service Chiefs;**
- **Special Invited Guests;**
- **Members of the Media**

**Madam Geingos and I are pleased to welcome you to the State House and in so doing, convey through you, our best wishes to their Majesties, Heads of State and people of your respective countries for the year 2020.**

**We wish to extend a special welcome to the Representative of the Chair of SADC, the High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania, which recently opened a Resident Mission in Windhoek. Karibu sana Balozi!**

**It is customary at this time of the year, for us to meet with members of the diplomatic community, to exchange greetings and offer each other well wishes. This shows that we appreciate the presence of your respective countries in Namibia. It is in this spirit that I wish you and your families' good health, as well as personal and professional success in 2020, the beginning of the new decade.**

**Director of proceedings;**

**In my capacity as Head of State, I have shared my vision of the future Namibia with the citizens. From the commencement of this administration's mandate, this vision has always been to effect tangible and positive change in the livelihoods of all Namibians. Furthermore, in order to inculcate the idea of nationhood and unity, we have introduced the Namibian House concept. This entails a new narrative that espouses unity, transparency and accountability, where all Namibians join hands to fight the scourges of poverty, inequality and corruption, while pursuing the goal of inclusive growth and shared prosperity.**

**Guided by the principles of accountability and transparency, we have developed the concept of assigning various annual themes to set the tone for the Government and country at large. Consequently, we declared 2015 “The Year of Planning”; 2016, “The Year of Implementation”; 2017, “The Year of Rededication”; 2018, “The Year of Reckoning” and 2019, as “The Year of Accountability”.**

**Last year being the year of accountability, we were able to account to the Namibian people, in 2019, through a series of Town Hall meetings in all 14 regions of the country, lasting an average of seven hours each, where we reported on the progress we have made in addressing multiple socio-economic issues and also to point out areas of non-**

**delivery, and admit where we have not met our targets.**

**These interactive meetings were a prime example of true grassroots based participatory democracy in action. These meetings were followed by a spirited election campaign, culminating in the November 2019 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections where the people exercised their democratic right and decided to renew the mandate of the SWAPO Party and Yours Truly as the President.**

**I would like to emphasize that we do not take the endorsement from the people of Namibia for granted. There is no room for complacency and no room for a lackadaisical approach to service delivery. It is for this**

**reason that I have termed this year 2020, as the YEAR OF INTROSPECTION. It is a year in which we, including Your Excellencies, must all undergo extensive soul-searching to define our place, purpose and role in the quest for a better life for the citizens of this country.**

**I am pleased by the manner in which the citizens of Namibia conducted themselves during the elections, upholding the principles of unity, peace and the rule of law. We have always placed trust in our processes, systems and institutions. Therefore, when some contestants decided to dispute the election results, as is their right, the Courts, which we entrust to adjudicate gave the final verdict and at the end, the people have spoken. In this instance, it is important that we should**

**accept the verdict of the people and the Court and move on with the process of nation building.**

**Namibia, as a member of the global community, commends all the nations that held free and fair elections in 2019, particularly our SADC family members, namely Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa. The success of these elections is a clear testament of the entrenchment of sound democratic Governance architectures in the SADC region and Africa as a whole.**

**Director of proceedings;**

**It is evident that socio-economic transformation on our continent can only take**

**place through the creation of a single market for goods and services. For this reason, we met in Niger last year, where we ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a flagship project of Agenda 2063, where goods and services will move freely among member states of the African Union (AU), to boost intra-African trade. Indeed this is a significant milestone for our continent.**

**This year we are continuing our advance by launching another Flagship Programme of the AU Agenda 2063, namely, Africa's Vision 2020 - of "Silencing the Guns". Namibia welcomes and supports the initiative to *Silence the Guns* in Africa as a means to end all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, and genocide on our continent.**

**This year, we will also be commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations. As we enter this new decade, we are called upon to reflect on the progress we have made in achieving the noble objectives of the United Nations for world peace and shared global prosperity. In this year of introspection, there is an urgent need for us to re-evaluate our commitment to multilateralism through which we have pledged to work together in unity, to achieve peace and development. Namibia is confident, that despite the past decade being defined by rising nationalism and geo-political rivalries, there still remains an innate desire among many of the world's leaders, to pursue multilateral approaches to solving global problems.**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**Exactly a month from today, the people of Namibia will come together to celebrate three decades of independence. It is our wish that you will be able to celebrate this significant milestone with us and that your countries will be represented at the highest possible level.**

**There are some who are questioning the relevance of celebrating Independence Day. However, when I look at today's distinguished guests, such as our Founding Father, Former President and other former freedom fighters and veterans of the struggle who have graced this occasion, I am reminded of those who lost their lives, fled into exile, endured incarceration and abject**

**poverty, in order to liberate this country. Because of the efforts of these outstanding patriots we can never allow that the significance of our Independence Day is downplayed.**

**As people who engaged in armed struggle to free ourselves from the colonial yoke, we empathize with those who still fight for their freedom. With this in mind, Namibia reaffirms its commitment to support the quest of the people of Western Sahara and Palestine, as they pursue their inalienable right to self-determination.**

**In conclusion, I wish to state that multilateralism and international cooperation can prevail only through diplomacy and dialogue.**

**It is incumbent upon us to work in unison and ensure peace instead of conflict, goodwill instead of acrimony and inclusivity instead of exclusivity.**

**In this year of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, let us hold hands, work together to promote the charter of the United Nations for as it says, “We the people of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..... [hereby pledge]: to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights.....; to promote social progress and better standards of life..; to practice tolerance and to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.....; to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security”**

**I thank you.**

**Please join me in a toast to the continued good health of:**

**Their Majesties, Their Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;**

**Our continued cooperation, friendship; and**

**A rewarding and fulfilling 2020.**