

# **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. NANGOLO  
MBUMBA ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DR. HIFIKEPUNYE  
POHAMBAM FREEWAY**

**7 MARCH 2025**

**INTERSECTION OF MR 36 AND MR 44 (WALVIS BAY)  
ERONGO REGION**

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable John Mutorwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport;**
- **Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament present;**
- **Honourable Neville Andre, Governor of Erongo Region;**
- **All Regional Governors present;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councilors present;**
- **Ms. Lily Brandt, Chairperson of the RA Board of Directors;**
- **Dr. Conrad Lutombi, Chief Executive Officer of Roads Authority;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **All our respected Religious, Traditional and Community leaders present;**
- **Captains of Industry;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Members of the community,**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good morning,**

**1. I am proud and honoured to have been invited to this momentous occasion on which we mark the official opening of MR 44, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba Freeway.**

**2. It has been said, "There are many roads to prosperity, but one must be taken." In Namibia we can take pride in the fact that we have taken our road towards prosperity, which is symbolized by today's road opening and the many other road openings we have witnessed since our independence. These events are indicative of a country on the move on the road towards prosperity, thanks to the sound foundation put in place by our triumvirate of exceptional leaders, namely:**

- The late Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Founding Father and Leader of the Namibian Revolution;**
- His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba. Second President of Namibia; and**
- The late Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, Third President of Namibia**

**3. Over the past several weeks and throughout the preceding months, we have heard many statements celebrating and bestowing honour on our two departed iconic leaders, President Nujoma and President Geingob. Today, I want to take this opportunity to talk about the other icon, President Pohamba, whom we are grateful to have still amongst us.**

**4. President Pohamba's heroic exploits in pursuit of the liberation of Namibia and her people are forever etched in the fabric of our democracy. Indeed, the road he took towards freedom remains a great source of inspiration to many of us.**

**5. Furthermore, we commend and thank him for the invaluable role he has played in the independent Namibia. As President, his astuteness and steady-handed leadership consolidated democracy, peace and stability in our nation. Under his able leadership, our nation continued to undergo consistent economic development and transformation. It is therefore fitting that we are naming this modern and very**

**strategic road after such a distinguished Son of the Soil.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**6. The MR 44, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba Freeway, previously referred to as the “road behind Dune 7” stretches 42 kilometers, linking the coastal towns of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. This is a welcome and much needed addition to our national road network.**

**7. Namibia’s road network is a crucial economic enabler, linking us to our neighbours through key transport corridors, such as the Trans-Kalahari Corridor, the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor, the Trans-Cunene Corridor and the Trans-Oranje Corridor. These corridors serve as vital arteries for trade, fostering economic cooperation in the SADC region.**

**8. This road network is in line with our initiative to transform Namibia into a logistics hub for the region. Beyond its strategic benefits, this project has also made meaningful contributions to job creation and economic growth. I am glad to note that a total of 40**

**local suppliers and subcontractors and 11 SME subcontractors participated in this project. N\$200 million was spent on local suppliers (N\$150 million) and SME subcontractors (N\$50 million), and approximately 650 jobs created for local people during the construction.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**9. I am informed that Phase 2 of this project, which extends the dual carriageway from Main Road 44 to the Walvis Bay Traffic Circle, is already underway, with completion expected by mid-2025. Additionally, plans are in place to rehabilitate Main Road 54 (Coastal Road) into a dual carriageway (30 km), with construction set to commence in April 2026.**

**10. We commend the Roads Authority for their diligence in overseeing the project, as well as UNIK/Thohi Joint Venture, the main contractor, and SMEC Namibia, the consulting firm, for their expertise and dedication.**

**11. In conclusion, the completion of the Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba Freeway marks a significant achievement in**

**our pursuit of economic growth and regional integration. As we celebrate this milestone, let us also remember our revered and recently departed Founding Father, President Nujoma, who laid the foundation for Namibia's development. Today we can proudly say that his Vision 2030 remains alive in every kilometre of new roads we build, in every new job we create, and in every business opportunity we unlock for future generations.**

**12. Let us continue working together to build a Namibia that is peaceful, connected and prosperous.**

**13. With that, it is my distinct honour to officially declare the Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba Freeway opened.**

**I thank you.**