

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



THE PRESIDENCY

**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY, DR. NETUMBO
NANDI-NDAITWAH, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF
THE OPENING OF FIRST CABINET MEETING OF
THE 8TH ADMINISTRATION
25 MARCH 2025
WINDHOEK**

Comrade Vice President, Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi;

Right Honorable Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;

Honorable Natangwe Ithete, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy of the Republic of Namibia;

Comrade Sophia Nahango Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;

Honorable Members of the Cabinet and the Executive;

Senior Government Officials;

Members of the Media.

I welcome you all to the 1'st Cabinet Meeting of the 8th Administration of the Republic of Namibia. We are meeting for the first time since our momentous celebration of the 35TH Independence Anniversary and my inauguration as the 5th Head of State of the Republic of Namibia.

It was on 27 November 2024 when Namibians went to the polls to elect members of the National Assembly and the President of Namibia. Subsequently, on the 3rd of December, 2024, the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia has declared that the SWAPO Party and its presidential candidate have gained the majority vote and declared Ndemupelila Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah duly elected as the President of Namibia.

On Friday, 21 March 2025, in the presence of our immediate former President Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, I took the oath of office as President of Namibia. That means, the people of Namibia have given me the mandate to speak and take decisions on their behalf and to lead the National Development Agenda.

As it is not possible to do all the work alone, I have therefore identified individual Namibians

whom I believe are among the many Namibians who have the capacity and willingness to unreservedly work with me in meeting the commitments SWAPO Party has made during the 2024 elections campaign.

Therefore, your respective appointments three days ago, means you have accepted to work with me. I must remind you that our people have high expectations. Hence, by accepting your appointments, you have made commitments to serve our people under this administration.

At this stage, and in the presence of Comrade Shophia Nahango Shaningwa, the Secretary General of SWAPO Party, I thank SWAPO Party for having presented me to the nation as their presidential candidate and eventually the people of Namibia elected me to the office.

I also thank all of you for having accepted the important national responsibilities that I have assigned to you. By forming part of the Cabinet and the Executive, you have all agreed to be part of a process that involves excellence, team-work and collective decision-making.

You must at all times be guided by the Cabinet Handbook, which will form as a critical guideline when you carry out your Ministerial and national responsibilities. Your conduct must be ethical and beyond reproach. You must be exemplary and hard-working servants of the Namibian people.

Today marks the beginning of the first steps in an important but long five years journey that we must walk together as a team and it is my wish that we finish this journey together with all the required success. We must be guided at all times by the trust placed on us by the Namibian people who voted for me as their fifth President, and

gave the SWAPO Party mandate to govern this country for the next five years.

The Namibian people have spoken through their votes. In doing so, they are calling on us to efficiently deliver services based on the promises we made in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto for the years 2025-2030.

The SWAPO Party Election Manifesto is the pledge we made to the people of Namibia and the commitments contained in it are now the binding contract we have signed with our citizens. Thus, it is the responsibility of the Cabinet, the Executive and the Government as a whole to fulfill the promises we made to improve the wellbeing of our people.

As the Vice President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers, Director Generals and Deputy Ministers, your work is very clear. That is

to join me to work hard to meet the inspirations of our people. Our people want improvement in their living standards.

For those of you who may not yet be aware of our commitments, you must apprise and acquaint yourselves with the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and its Implementation Plan which will serve as your key reference materials in the next five years.

The SWAPO Party Election Manifesto must be implemented at all cost as that is the contract between me and the people of Namibia and I have no reason to divert from it.

You have all received your terms of references, which I have assigned to you and can be amended as situation demands. There will be a dashboard where I will monitor progress of every project under implementation. Also be mindful

that your performances will be evaluated regularly starting with the next three months on the basis of the key performance indicators in your terms of references.

We must bear in mind that Namibians need access to improved services in the social and economic clusters. The Namibian people, especially our youth including young women need employment opportunities; they need housing and our small and medium enterprises need assistance to become competitive, to be able to grow the economy and to create more jobs. The private sector needs an environment that will enable it to grow.

Our education system must be tailor-made for purpose in order to empower our young people. Our development has to be supported by evidence research outcomes. Our health sector must be responsive to the growing needs of our

citizens and every Namibian deserves the best available health service where ever they are in this country.

Our agricultural sector must be strengthened in order to ensure food production for food security. The mining sector must be transformed to serve as a catalyst for our natural resource beneficiation and employment creation. Our economy must be properly planned to serve our people better.

I do not need to remind you that I have appointed you to your respective sectors with a clear conscience and trust in your professional capabilities to help me to carry out national assignments with a sense of purpose and urgency.

Each of you have been chosen because I believe that you have the skills, the experience, and the

commitment to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our people.

I have confidence that, together, we can achieve the bold goals and objectives set out in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. This is not a time for complacency and procrastination. Decisions taken must be implemented without any delay. Delays in implementation of decision taken will not be accepted. I have to tell you that I do not like the word “work in progress” as in most cases it is used to mean nothing is done.

I made it very clear after my election as President in November 2024 that it is not going to be “business as usual” in the 8th Administration. I am repeating and underlining it here that, “THERE WILL BE NO BUSINESS AS USUAL”.

We have an urgent duty to execute on the mandate, which was given to us by the Namibian people. I urge you to act with clarity, integrity, honesty and to serve the Namibian people without fail and to the best of your ability.

I also urge you to carry out your responsibilities with boldness, with transparency, and within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. There is no room for favouritism, or any undue influence, be it from the investors, citizens or external forces in exchange for service delivery. Your duty is to serve the citizens, investors and visitors timeously and equally.

I know that there may be challenges in the pursuit of service excellence. But we must confront them head-on, and not shy away from them. We must act decisively and with focus, to deliver tangible and lasting change in the socio-economic status of our people.

Namibians do not expect anything less from us. They want tangible improvements in their material conditions and we made a promise to improve their lives. I shall maintain my position that “we are too few to be poor”. We have a responsibility to deliver on our promises.

We must hit the ground running to fulfill the mandate the people have bestowed on us. We are not setting up the government, we are entering offices that have been running for years. We should therefore build on those foundations we found there. I do not want to hear that you arrived at your Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMA’s) and found nothing. Let us get on with the work in unison to bring about the social progress and prosperity that our people deserve.

Let us all make sure that all public servants in our Offices, Ministries and Agencies maintain, at all

times, high ethical standards. OMA's must provide the best possible services timeously without favouritism. We must be determined to effectively and efficiently fight and root out corruption in all its manifestations from our society.

As I have underscored in my inaugural speech, let me emphasize the fact that the attainment of sustainable socio-economic development in Namibia can only be realized through an accountable and efficient administration. Therefore, let us go out and promote a predictable rules-based system that instils confidence in our Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

As Heads of Offices and Ministries, you must have overall responsibility over the staff members in your Ministries and Offices. Should there be any law or instruments that made it difficult for

Ministers to assist officials to execute their duties as expected, I direct the Prime Minister to be assisted by the Minister of Justice and AG to amend those laws and instruments by the end of May this year.

I have also to inform you that there are some laws identified in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto which must be attended to within the same period mentioned above. Everything we do must be in the best interest of our people, for the public good and development of Namibia.

As members of the Cabinet and the Executive, you have a responsibility to transparently communicate the policies and activities of the Executive to the Legislature.

You must remain available to deal with queries and to work with the private sector, communities, the public, other stakeholders,

including the media, which is an important stakeholder in communicating policies and activities of Government.

In my own words, I call the media as the “fourth arm of state” as such they are expected to perform their responsibility objectively and contribute to the development of our country.

At all times, we must be guided by the principle of “One Heart and One Mind”, and above all service to the public. We must work together and consult one another to execute as one Government at all times. We must avoid working in isolation. Thus, each decision we make, every law and policy we implement, must be in line with the needs and aspirations of the Namibian people.

I am confident that together, we will make the difference that the people of Namibia expect of

us. With these remarks, I now have the honour to officially declare the work of the 8th Administration officially open.

The program of our Cabinet will be every Tuesday from 09:00, to be chaired by the President of the Republic of Namibia or any member of Cabinet as delegated by the President in case she is absent for one reason or the other.

I thank you