

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. NANGOLO
MBUMBA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 35TH INDEPENDENCE DAY
ANNIVERSARY**

BEYOND 35: FOR A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

STATE HOUSE, WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

MARCH 21, 2025

Check against delivery

- **Directors of Proceedings, Hon. Frans Kapofi and Hon. Christine //Hoebes;**
- **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and our Guest of Honour;**
- **Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;**
- **Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice President and President-Elect of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Your Excellencies Former Heads of State and Government;**
- **Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Speaker of the National Assembly;**
- **Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, Former Speaker of the National Assembly;**

- **Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, Chairperson of the National Council;**
- **Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice;**
- **Honourable John Mutorwa, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport;**
- **Madam Mbumba, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Hon. Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;**
- **All Leaders of Political Parties;**
- **Hon. Members of Parliament;**
- **Your Excellency Ms. Jovelina Costa, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Hon. Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region and all other regional governors present;**
- **Your Worship, Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja,**

Mayor of Windhoek and other mayors present;

- **Distinguished Service Chiefs;**
- **Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;**
- **Gaob Immanuel !Gaseb, Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders and all Leaders of Traditional Authorities present;**
- **Bishop Rev. Dr. Patrick Djuulume and all Religious Leaders present;**
- **Senior Government Officials**
- **Captains of Industry present;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Fellow Namibians,

- 1. Today, we celebrate a monumental day in the history of our Republic. It is the day on which we commemorate our 35th Independence Anniversary and it is also the day on which we will witness one of Namibia's foremost daughters, breaking through the glass ceiling.**
- 2. It has been a long time coming, it has been a long journey filled with trials and tribulations but just as our struggle for independence, spearheaded by the gallant sons and daughters of Namibia, has paid dividends, likewise, the struggle for gender justice, spearheaded by the brave women of Namibia and their allies across the international community, is paying dividends, as we await to swear-in**

our first female President of the Republic of Namibia.

- 3. What we are celebrating today, would not be possible without the invaluable sacrifices that were made by brave Namibian men and women who selflessly paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that freedom and independence become a reality for all Namibians. Their blood waters the foundations of our democracy and it waters the pillars of Unity, Liberty and Justice.**

- 4. At this juncture, it would be remiss of me not to mention the extraordinary personality whose formidable leadership is primarily responsible for ensuring that Namibia is today a paragon of unity,**

peace and stability. I speak of no other person than His Excellency Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Founding President of Namibia and Leader of the Namibian Revolution.

5. In the same vein, let me also laud the magnificent leadership of His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, second President of the Republic of Namibia and my late brother, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, third President of the Republic of Namibia.

6. This triumvirate of revolutionary leaders has played a significant role in shaping Namibia and the destiny of its people.

Distinguished guests,

- 7. Today marks the final occasion on which I will say goodbye to you, the beautiful Namibian People, as President. I have already said my goodbyes to the Cabinet, Parliament, my staff and all civil servants.**

- 8. To say that my tenure has been eventful would be an understatement. From my first day in office, to this very moment, it feels like I never had a chance to catch my breath. Nevertheless, I would like to state that being President of the Republic of Namibia has been the greatest honour ever bestowed upon me.**

- 9. I thank God for his protection, love and grace throughout my tenure. I thank my loving wife, Madam Sustjie Nashili**

Mbumba, my rock, my number one supporter, my soulmate. Thank you for being with me, every step of the way, even when I was overcome by the weight of the situation and I felt these legs could not take me any further. Thank you to my children and grandchildren. Thank you to my extended family.

10. Thank you to my predecessors, the late President Sam Nujoma, President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the late President Dr. Hage G. Geingob. Thank you to my successor, Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Secretary General of the SWAPO Party and the entire rank and file of the SWAPO Party, as well as leaders of all political parties for your support and your conduct as Namibian citizens.

11. Thank you to our Guest of Honour, our sister Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Thank you to Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government and former Heads of State and Government. Thank you for your support through a very difficult chapter in our history, losing two iconic leaders.

12. Thank you to all the uniformed services, the men and women whose daily task it is to keep our country and people safe and secure both from external and internal threats. It was an honor to be your Commander-in-Chief.

13. Lastly, to the Namibian people, the ultimate Sovereigns, our bosses. Thank you for your support and understanding. Wherever, I travelled across the country I was greeted with cheers, smiles and gestures of goodwill. I am humbled and proud at the same time to have been your President. I take my hat off to all of you. Now, as we turn the last page of this final chapter, we look forward to the beginning of a new chapter, a chapter of hope, promise and prosperity. The Chapter of Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Let us all support her and wish her good-health, strength and wisdom!

- **HAPPY 35TH INDEPENDENCE DAY
NAMIBIA!**

- **MAY GOD BLESS THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.**
- **LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.**