



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**THE PRESIDENCY**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**H.E. DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**AT THE**

**OCCASION OF THE**

**16<sup>TH</sup> INTAKE OF NATIONAL SERVICE**

**TRAINING PASS-OUT PARADE**

**RIETFONTEIN TRAINING CENTRE**

**OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

**12 DECEMBER 2025**

- **Director of Ceremonies,**
- **Right Honourable Dr. Elijah Tjitunga Ngurare, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Lieutenant General (Rtd) Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah, First Gentleman of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Honourable Dr. Sanet Steenkamp, Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture and all other Cabinet Ministers Present;**
- **Hon. John //Khamuseb, Governor of Otjozondjupa Region and all Governors present;**
- **Service Chiefs Present;**
- **All Executive Directors in attendance;**
- **Major General Reuben Mwewa: Deputy Zambia National Service Commander and Chief of Staff;**
- **Mr. Nicolas Tembwe, NYS Board Chairperson and all Board members present;**
- **Mr. Teofilus Alweendo, Acting Chief Regional Officer of Otjozondjupa Region;**
- **Mr. Samuel Fluksman, Chairperson of the Public Enterprise CEO'S Forum and all other Captains of Industries present;**
- **Dr. Felix Musukubili, Commissioner of NYS and all NYS Executives and staff members present;**
- **Dear Recruits, families and friends;**
- **Members of the Media;**

**It is with a high sense of national responsibility that I am closing my public activities for the year 2025 by engaging the graduates of the National Youth Service (NYS). The NYS is a fundamental institution that moulds our young people to consolidate our democracy, foster unity and cohesion, promote patriotism and love of the country and its people, and ensure quality service delivery and shared prosperity for all. I therefore thank the center's leadership for the invitation extended to me and for strategically choosing this day.**

**Across the globe, nations rise or fall on the strength of their youth. That simply means that youth is the fallback strategy of every country. Today, Namibia stands tall because each of you here has answered the call of NYS, which some did not respond. Your presence on this parade ground is therefore not accidental. It is a deliberate choice. It is purposeful. It is the living promise of a nation expressed through its young people who are ready to serve, prepared to learn, and ready to lead.**

**Standing before you, I see more than a Pass-Out Parade. I see the future architects of our country. You are the young men and women who have embraced discipline,**

**unity and sacrifice at a time when our country needs you the most. You remind us that the spirit of one Namibia, one nation, is alive, and that the next chapter of our nation's story is in safe and capable hands.**

**This 16<sup>th</sup> Intake brings together one thousand and thirty (1,030) recruits from Henties Bay and Rietfontein, National Youth Service Centers. I am informed that for this intake, more than eleven thousand (11,000) young Namibians applied. That overwhelming response reveals a generation eager to serve, eager to grow, and keen to contribute to building a better Namibia for all.**

**We have, with great appreciation, acknowledged the visionary leadership of our Founding President, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, who initiated the NYS in the early years of our independence. He did so because he understood that a disciplined, patriotic youth forms the backbone of any prosperous nation. His vision remains relevant today and in the future. Therefore, as a Government, we are duty-bound to continue this programme so that more young Namibians can receive transformative training.**

**At full capacity, the NYS centers can train four thousand recruits. However, due to resource constraints, we can only take a fraction at a time. Nevertheless, over time and within our limited resources, more young people will be admitted to the centers, enabling NYS to reach its full potential.**

**The long-term strategy of introducing this training is also to bring together young people from diverse backgrounds and mould them into disciplined, committed, and patriotic citizens. Throughout your training, you have learned unity, resilience, physical endurance, and the meaning of duty. You have lived the spirit of One Namibia, One Nation. You have shown that discipline is not a slogan but a way of life.**

**Those who completed this programme before you have already demonstrated exceptional discipline and commitment in various Offices, Ministries and Agencies. They serve with a sense of duty and pride. That is the standard we expect of all public servants and of all Namibians who aspire to lead and uplift their communities.**

**To appreciate the NYS training, I call on all Government institutions, including Regional Councils and State-Owned Enterprises, to open voluntary service opportunities for these graduates starting in February 2026. Host institutions are to make adequate budgetary provision for upkeep allowances. Work-Integrated Learning is not a favour; it is a national duty.**

**The NYS Act provides that graduates receive preference for recruitment into the Defence Force, Police and Correctional Service. I have been informed that six hundred (600) graduates from this intake will proceed directly to the Namibian Defence Force. I thank the Ministry of Defense for taking up those graduates.**

**The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security should also consider the remaining four hundred and thirty (430) recruits in their next cycle of recruitment. I am aware that this is one ministry that has also taken in NYS graduates. I am also asking all government institutions, including state-owned enterprises, the private sector and individuals to make use of the graduates of NYS. You are unlikely to regret your actions if you take them into your operations.**

**In order to ensure a coherent and disciplined security sector, moving forward, future recruitment into the military, police, and correctional services would only be drawn from the NYS database. Furthermore, the Cabinet has directed that all government institutions must prioritise NYS graduates for entry-level appointments.**

**The government is studying a proposal brought to our attention by the public for all new government employees to undergo a one-month NYS Orientation during their probation. The movers believe that such orientation will help cultivate a public service culture rooted in integrity, professionalism and excellence. Namibia needs public servants who see their work not merely as employment but as a calling.**

**Dear graduates,**

**For six months, you have chosen discipline over comfort, and service over convenience. You have grown. You have been transformed. You are not the same individuals who arrived here in May this year. You stand here as trained, focused and capable young citizens ready to contribute to the development of Namibia.**

**The experience you have acquired in different trades is good enough for you to be able to stand on your own feet as artisans. As you may be aware, agriculture is at the top of the Government's priorities. I am therefore delighted that amongst you, there are those who excelled in agriculture. Go and feed the nation.**

**I must also inform all of you, as graduates and specialists in various trades, that the Government has established the National Youth Development Fund to support youth enterprises. I encourage you to take advantage of this golden opportunity provided by your caring Government. Your skills are needed. Work on your business plan and submit your application.**

**Carry the values you learned here wherever you go. Be the example in your families, your communities and your workplaces. When people look at you, let them see a young person who listens, who leads, who solves problems, and who serves with humility.**

**Never stop learning. Learning did not end at Rietfontein or Henties Bay. It is called lifelong learning for a reason.**

**When you know better, you must do better. Use your knowledge, your character and your discipline to build a better Namibia for all.**

**What you have achieved from training was the efforts of your Government in collaboration with other Governments. The Zambian National Service provided instructors for this intake and trained eleven (11) of our cadet officers. We are very grateful to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for that support. I equally thank the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for engaging with the NYS to strengthen training collaboration. These partnerships reflect the enduring solidarity between our nations, which is rooted in the liberation struggle and carried forward through shared development.**

**To the parents, families and friends of graduates, thank you for your support. These young men and women stand tall today because you believed in them.**

**Equally, I thank the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Sports, Youth, Art and Culture for continuing to guide the work of the NYS.**

**As I conclude, I congratulate the graduates of the 16th Intake. You have made the Land of the Brave proud. You have demonstrated courage, discipline and commitment.**

**May we adhere to the road safety measures festive season and enjoy spending time with our families and work. Mary Christmas to you all.**

**I now declare the 16<sup>th</sup> Intake of the National Service Training Programme officially closed.**

**I thank you.**